
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

THE SENATE

Monday, March 21, 1988

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings at 10.10 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Senator the Hon. Sir James Tudor, K.C.M.G., (Minister of Foreign Affairs) (Leader of the Senate);

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

Senator A. Morrison, (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office);

Senator N. W. Boxill;

Senator D. A. Comissiong;

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

Senator G. L. Eastmond;

Senator A. J. N. Phillips;

Senator T. A. Prescod;

Senator 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 P. Y. Forde;

Senator J. S. Goddard;

Senator Dr. L. L. Shorey;

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Dr. L. A. Crawford.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I am commanded to lay the following:

A Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the months ended 30th November and 31st December, 1987.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1988.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 45(1) and (2) for the remainder of this sitting.

Apart from the Appropriation Bill, we also have to consider, I think, the Telephone Amendment Bill.

I have consulted with the Opposition Leader, and it seems as if it would be convenient for us to break at 1.00 o'clock, whoever is speaking at that moment, and return at 2.00. We shall go out for a short refreshment break, probably at half past four or a quarter to five, as the case may be, just for 15 minutes, come back in and then complete this section of the session perhaps about 7.00 o'clock or as near to that as possible.

Then, of course, we should meet tomorrow morning with virtually the same arrangements for tomorrow.

The question that the Standing Orders be so suspended was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I wish formally to notify the Senate that I propose that the Senate should deal with these two Bills during this session.

After consultation with the Leader of the Opposition it seems convenient, and perhaps just as likely, that we might be able to take the lunch break earlier, say, about half past twelve, or as near around that time as possible. Then we will go out from half past twelve until half past one, in which case, when we return, she will then be able to make her presentation.

I think this would also be a convenient moment for us to make the arrangements for pressing into service, if necessary, of an acting Chairman.

I formally beg to move that Senator Wickham be appointed Chairman for the remainder of this sitting.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There being no dissenting voices, Senator Wickham will be Chairman during the remainder of this sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

APPROPRIATION ACT 1988

Order No. 1 was called — To move the second reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1989.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that Senator Clarke take charge of this item.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1988, I shall show that the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1988-89 have been so crafted as to create a just, equitable and humane society. This is evidence by the resources allocated to such social programmes as Education and Health. And this has also been accomplished in the face of such constraints as the mandatory allocations for personal emoluments and for debt service and amortisation.

10.20 a.m.

However, before I get ahead of myself, I think it is appropriate that we should put the Estimates in

perspective. Somehow we tend to perceive the Estimates as an end in themselves rather than a means towards an end. As my point of departure. I shall deal with the Estimates in terms of their goals and objectives.

In the first place, there are three major policy instruments available for achieving the following: (1) economic growth and development — full employment or a reduction in unemployment, (2) price stability — equilibrium in the balance of payments, (3) an equitable redistribution of income.

Of these three, we have monetary policy. This is primarily dealt with by the Central Bank and banking authorities, and they tend to operate on these variables through the quantity of money in circulation and the rate of interest. We have the management of the public debt, which presupposes public debt, and forges the gap between fiscal policy, which I shall deal with later, and monetary policy, by operating through the rate of interest primarily, which will augment monetary policy, and also through borrowing, amortisation of debt and rescheduling of debt, which will supplement fiscal policy.

We now come to fiscal policy. But this, too, is divided into two main elements. We have, on the one hand, expenditure, and, on the other, revenue. Today we shall primarily concern ourselves with the raising of expenditures and having a clear look at these expenditures to see how they impact on the objectives which I outlined earlier — that is, on economic growth and development.

But what do we mean by economic growth? We are talking here about an increase primarily in the Gross Domestic Product over the coming year. The components of Gross Domestic Product are: (1) consumption by individuals, (2) the level of investment which takes place within the economy, (3) the difference between Government expenditures and revenues, and (4) the net position between the export sector, that is the difference between our imports and exports. So, all other things being equal, if we should increase exports, holding all other things constant, then we will expect an increase in the Gross Domestic Product, which in turn, will be reflected in the growth within the economy. On the other hand, if taxations or Government revenues should exceed expenditures, then we will expect this to be contractionary.

In terms of economic development, more often than not, this concept is confused with economic growth. It is a completely different arrangement. What economic development requires is structural changes taking place within the economy. Growth may be a necessary condition, but it is not sufficient condition for economic development to take place. What it requires include new ways of doing things; that is, a new combination of the factors of production. An example might be the sugar

industry, as we move from the myth of manual labour and machinery to more machinery, or more capital, and less labour. This will be a change. It also is reflected in terms of the new products which come on the market. Until we have these changes brought about, of course, we cannot talk about economic development.

How do we plan through the Estimates as budgeted for next year, 1988 — 1989, to bring about economic development? In the past we have been importing many goods and services which could be produced locally. We have already started to ensure that certain items are made locally instead of being imported, especially things such as uniforms, which will enhance and support the sewing industry.

An increase in employment — again, through directing our expenditures to specific sectors within the economy. We have just cited the case of garments — by directing attention to the local sewing industry we could increase employment in that area. Now we must bear in mind that the garment industry underwent a severe beating after 1982 — 1983 while we had the imposition, first of all, of the licencing requirements in Trinidad followed then by the ECO, or currency restriction, forms. We hope that as a first step we could revitalise this industry by ensuring that we channel the resources, limited resources though they are, into these areas to augment and enhance a rebirth of the dying garment industry.

A redistribution of income. Staying with this one example, if we channel such things as the making of uniforms to the local sector, at least the value added will be increased, and a group of people who normally would not have found employment would be employed.

We should move off of this into the composition of expenditures. In the estimates we have Current Expenditures, and these are based on our perceived and anticipated needs for 1988 — 1989, and the expenditures are broken out in terms of Current and Capital. The Current expenditures are designed to cover a unique period, that is one year, while the Capital will extend over a much longer period and must be perceived as part of a larger planning period. The revenues, on the other hand, are based on the level of taxes and on the Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statements as developed in the current financial year 1987 — 1988.

If we look at the Estimates as supplied to us, we observe the gap between Current Expenditures and Current Revenues, to which we add the Capital Expenditures, and we talk about the deficit. I maintain that the deficit does not occur until the end of the financial year, because we are right now looking at one part of the

total package of the total fiscal policy, the expenditure section. We cannot fully estimate the size of the gap until we have had the Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement presented to us. The projections now, as appearing in the Estimates, are predicated upon the 1987-88, the current year's, Estimates, and not on 1988-89. This is something we need to bear in mind as we talk about the deficit, the gap between revenues and expenditures.

10.30 a.m.

A gap there is. What are the alternatives available to us for closing the gap between our revenues and expenditures? One, we have taxation which may be either direct or indirect, and certainly we cannot pre-empt what will be used, or how it will be used, if anything at all. Then we have borrowing.

Should we elect to borrow to bridge the gap, the question is whether we borrow locally or we borrow internationally. If we borrow locally, then, of course, we have to weigh the consequences of the demand for other loanable funds from other companies which might be interested in investing. We also have to look on the distribution of income, who will get the dividends and interest payments, and also how will the borrowed funds be used to further achieve the objectives which I outlined earlier.

To the extent that the funds are borrowed locally, of course, there is no particular problem for us. They are borrowed in Barbadian dollars, we can pay them in Barbadian dollars, and to the extent that we are now forcing people out of the market for loanable funds, then, of course, we are putting what would normally be idle resources to work to generate employment locally.

To the extent, however, that we have to borrow externally, it is a new kettle of fish. It means that for each dollar of foreign exchange we earn, we must first use part of it to service the debt. And to the extent that we have an outstanding foreign obligation, it means that it is, in common parlance, the mortgaging of our children's future, because before they can retain the full dollar of exports earned, they must first service the foreign segment of the debt.

But this is not only in terms of mortgaging our children's future. The other part is when we fail to maintain the capital which has been passed on to us — and here I think in terms of plant, equipment and roads. To the extent that we allow these to go into disrepair and make no provision at all for them, sooner or later it means that we will be passing on to future generations less capital formation than we have inherited.

I think that as we go through these Estimates, we will find that provision has been, not adequate, but we have looked at maintaining our existing plant and equipment.

Another means of acquiring funds to bridge the gap — we have looked at taxation, we have looked at borrowing, we have compared borrowing between foreign and local — is by money creation. Contrary to popular belief, it does not necessarily mean going to the mint and having dollar bills printed or coins made. Rather, it is nothing more than simply the Central Government borrowing from the Central Bank of Barbados, and this could be achieved.

There is the feeling that if you borrow this way, you are debasing your currency. But there need not be anything wrong with this, given your level of employment, and the most that will happen, in the first instance, will be a rise in prices. We have over the past year been able to keep inflation within manageable levels, well below, I think, 4 per cent.

These are the alternatives available to the Central Government to close the gap at this point, if it decides it needs closing, between Current Expenditure and Current Revenue.

Let us spend some time on debt management, because I think it is critical. No developing or developed country could possibly hope to achieve the major objectives I have outlined — economic growth and development, full employment, equilibrium in the balance of payments — unless there was a National Debt. We could not hope to manage our economy without it. It is absolutely necessary. The reason is that it allows us to mobilise. Without it we could not mobilise idle resources, idle funds. In addition, it can be used to influence the rate of interest. It can also be used to move funds from one group within the society to another group; that is, you can issue bonds and borrow from one sector of the economy and use it to create employment, which means you will pay out funds to another group within the economy.

It did not always start out this way, but certainly now it has become one of the major and critical instruments in managing our economy. And as I said earlier, it is now the bridge between fiscal policy and monetary policy, and the three of them working together seek to achieve the objectives I outlined earlier.

There is another problem that we have in dealing with the Estimates; that is, we tend to see the Estimates of Expenditure in a given year as an end in and of themselves, standing alone frozen in time. While the exercise itself will take place within a discreet period, the process is ongoing; that is, funds voted in 1987-88, although committed, might not be paid for. The accounting system is one of cash and not accrual, and when we project for the Estimates of Expenditure, we must perceive these expenditures within a longer time period and not just within a year, but also forming part of

our Capital expenditures. The two of them are used to reinforce one another.

You have a Capital plan set out over a five-year period and you make refined adjustments. But once you have set yourself on the path and created the Capital projects, most of which will not be completed within a year, you must use your Current Estimates to make any fine tuning within that period of time.

Another peculiarity of the Budget is that we assume that because the Government of the day has the responsibility to develop the Budget, it has full range in deciding what it will spend and where. All Governments coming to power come in and find government as an ongoing business. Things are committed, things are in place and you have a Civil Service manned by people — they are in the service industry, Government is for the greater part a service industry — which consume about 54 per cent of all funds available in the Budget. Coupled with this, you have the second largest component, the servicing of the public debt, amortisation and interest charges, and the two of these account for about 75 per cent of the Budget in any one given year.

10.40 a.m.

What this actually means is that the discretionary spending available is no more than 25 per cent. And if out of this 25 per cent you were to take things like utilities, repairs to desks and furniture, things which are necessary to ensure that the people whom you are supporting have somewhere to work and things to do, you will find that the discretionary powers are much less than they appear to be. Yet, within those limited powers, with less than 25 per cent, the onus is still on the Government of the day to achieve the objectives which have been outlined at a much earlier period.

Perhaps it is timely at this point to see against the background of these constraints how the Government has so far been able to assist various sectors of the economy. In our main foreign exchange earner, the tourist sector, Government has been to date able to assist that industry through a reduction in property taxes, corporate income taxes, and although it does not benefit the hotels directly, the users of the services, that is, the tourists, benefit from the reduction of the Hotel Sales Tax from 8 per cent to 5 per cent.

We might want to look to see how these reductions in taxes benefit this sector. By reducing property taxes and corporate taxes — both of which are expenses to the hotel — these two provide greater retained earnings for the hotel sector which could be used for further expansion and reinvestment in this sector. The reduction in the sales tax allows the tourists to get more mileage for the dollar that he has on his vacation and reduces the cost of vacationing in Barbados.

The manufacturing sector has been under seige from about 1982 — 1983. I spoke earlier of the virtual disappearance of the CARICOM market, coupled with the flight of our enclave enterprises, in part due to the downturn in the world economy. We have still been able to grant, again a reduction in corporate income taxes and, almost daily, rebates for companies engaged in manufacture. The rebates tend to do two things: (1) reduce the need for cash flow, and (2), reduce the expenses of the company, which should in turn generate increased profits, which, if used judiciously, will be transferred to retained earnings for future investment and development.

We have also prepared and offered training grants and assistance in the export market.

Agriculture. We talked about structural changes before, and recognising the plight of sugar, agricultural diversification is becoming a matter of urgency. In this sector tax free concessions on fertilisers and equipment have been granted. Since I have been in this Chamber, we have guaranteed some bonds for the sugar industry. Through the BMC we have been assisting the agricultural sector to find markets for their produce. We have granted farmers technical assistance with their produce diversification programme. There is a training programme for entrepreneurs and provision has been made for on-lending of funds, especially to dairy farmers.

Individuals have over the period benefited because of the reduction in Income Tax and the greater allowances available to them. This means that they have had greater disposable income. This disposable income was available to them either to consume and/or to save. An instrument was made available to them in the Tax Refund Certificates. This was not taken up, but I hope that if it remains in force next time around, hopefully they will recognise the benefits to be derived from saving part of their income. The interest rates were attractive and it would give them an opportunity to diversify their own individual portfolios.

Mr. Deputy President, against that background, I would like to read some figures in terms of the fiscal summary. Current Revenue anticipated for the year, based on the 1987-88 Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement, \$753 377 969; Current Expenditure, \$801 971 345. The Current Account gap — and notice I prefer to refer to it as a gap at this point rather than a deficit — is \$48 593 376. Capital Expenditure has been estimated at \$179 231 314, with an overall fiscal gap of \$227 824 619. The Annexed Estimates, that is Post Office, for 1988-89: Revenue is estimated at \$11 000 982, Expenditure \$11 884 820, for a gap of \$883 838.

The Government will be seeking an appropriation of \$568 015 105 from the Consolidated Fund to finance its

Non-statutory Expenditure. The sum of \$389 662 405 will be applied to Current and Annexed Expenditure, while the remaining \$178 352 700 will be appropriated for Capital Expenditure.

As we look at this, the natural response, with things as they are, will be to interpret this as an expansionary budget. This is necessary if we must improve our employment creation. We recognise that the goals which we have outlined — full employment, stability of the balance of payments, price stability — are not always compatible, and somehow we will have to use our energies to ensure that the most pressing needs are resolved.
10.50 a.m.

In my opening statement, I said that these are fair and humane Estimates, and I think we should single out expenditures allocated for Education, which is the largest, I believe, of \$169 910 950, and Health, \$127 225 906.

We recognise that if we want agricultural productivity within the workplace, welfare and better education are necessary requirements to achieve this objective. In addition, the better educated the workforce, the less social problems we are likely to encounter. Finally, greater expenditures on education tend to lead to social mobility within the society.

Having said all of this, perhaps, the question is, where do we expect to be given one part of the fiscal process which we have just outlined? We have only looked and discussed for the fiscal year 1988-89 the expenditure section of fiscal policy. We have said nothing, and this is not the place to say it, about revenues for that period.

Projections in terms of revenue are those of what happened last year. Hopefully, assuming that there are no changes, as a worst possible situation, we would hope that in the coming year we should, at least, achieve economic growth of between 2 per cent and 4 per cent minimum.

We shall press on with our economic development through structural changes, especially within the agricultural sector. There can be no question that in that sector we must find new ways to produce our agricultural products if we expect to reduce our food bill.

Sugar, an earner of foreign exchange, cannot hope to persist with the antiquated methods of harvesting, in the first place, neither can the industry hope to treat the workers as they have been treated in the past. It strikes me as being extraordinary strange that in an industry where the sugar worker is key to the operation, his wages and conditions of work are not as attractive as others working within the industry.

I think in the discipline of Economics there are additional wages called "equalisation wages" to draw forth additional labour to those industries which are considered dirty so that there is no shortage of labour for them. In some societies, I know you find that in order to ensure that there is sufficient labour in the industry, you would pay twice or three times the rate. In New York City, for instance, the garbage collector will make more than a high school teacher, and there is no shortage of labour in the industry. So whenever there is a shortage of labour within an industry and that industry is viewed as an unpleasant one, of course, the wage rate must reflect the unpleasantness to ensure that you draw forth sufficient people to participate in that industry.

I think that at this point I had better spend some time on unemployment. Unemployment is really an elusive variable, that is, if jobs are...

(Aside: Senator L. R. TULL: What does that mean?)

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Senator Tull, if you will bear with me, I will try to explain it for you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Unemployment. We have the problem in Barbados where there is a shortage of labour. Jobs are being created, and yet we have bottlenecks within the sectors. As you drive around you see, "Masons Wanted, Carpenters Wanted." You look into the Press and you find that people are needed to work in the sugar industry. I highlighted, a while ago, some of the reasons why people might not be attracted to working in the fields at this time, but I still do not understand why more people are not being drawn to these other areas, in spite of our Skills Training Programme.

Another point about unemployment: if there are no jobs around, there are many people who will withdraw from actively seeking work and, of course, the workforce will decline and the numbers of people seeking work would fall, and the unemployment rate would appear to remain constant. Then you go out and start creating jobs, people recognise that there are jobs available and they re-enter the workforce, and while more people would be employed, the unemployment rate remains the same. I am not trying to minimise the problem — I think that jobs should be available for every man and woman who wants to work at the job available — but we should also look at this group of people which moves in and out of the labour force, and we should consider the new jobs created within a period in addition to looking at the level of unemployment.

In addition, it has been felt that unemployment will never get to zero, unless you have such things as structural unemployment, that is, people moving from one job to another, people withdrawing from the labour force to raise families and re-entering when it is convenient for them, and at some time, there will always be people with skills who will be out of the labour force. So we must realistically look at our society and determine what we consider to be that level at which we can find employment for every man and woman who is seeking work at that time.

We said that we hoped that economic growth would be achieved between the rate of 2 per cent and 4 per cent during the coming year. We are seeking to bring about structural changes within the agricultural sector, and we described this structural change as a different combination between the factors of production, labour, and capital, as one, and a second one in terms of new products through the agricultural diversification programme, with greater mechanisation within the agricultural sector.

11.00 a.m.

We will strive to maintain the low rate of inflation. The balance of payments, which have been presenting a problem to us, will have to be addressed. There are three ways of addressing this, by increasing exports and holding imports steady, or by not allowing imports to grow as fast as exports, if these can be generated, or if very little can be done to stimulate exports, the alternative course of action would be to reduce the level of imports. But we must on Current Account seek to improve the balance of payments, the balance of trade, so that our foreign reserves on hand will be sufficient to cover at least two to three months of imports for the country.

Those are the targets which we have set ourselves in the coming year.

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

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Miller.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I was not expecting to rise at this time, but I am pleased to have the opportunity.

I was hoping, Mr. Deputy President, that Senator Clarke might have used the two hours allocated to him and to myself, but I realise that he started out on a very weaky, weaky lecture on economics, or an attempt at a lecture on economics.....

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER:.... Yes, Senator Boxill, I have two hours. and treated us to, well I do not

know how to put it — they were not even suggestions — examples from the textbook. The most recent former Minister of Finance tried and failed at that. But I really was not expecting the Senator to run out of steam in — just what? Less than an hour, less than 45 minutes! Incredible!

I agree with one particular thing that Senator Clarke has said. He has not addressed the Estimates at all, except to say at the beginning that the Estimates should be put in perspective. About that, he is absolutely right. I said that last year.

Mr. Deputy President, I took a lot of trouble over this last weekend to reread the Senate Estimates, what we all said last year, and I did this in an effort to see how we might possibly move forward in debating the many important national issues, particularly as they relate to the economy of this island. But I regret to report to the Honourable Senate, Mr. Deputy President, that time appears to have stood still, and what was said by my colleague, Senator Tull, and myself last March is relevant — in fact, even more so, more urgent today, than it was a year ago. And more so, if only because the financial and economic profile of Barbados has deteriorated further, perilously so.

I remember how many times I said in the course of my contribution last year that we were on the brink of chaos. It does not give me any pleasure to recognise that I was right, and that in March of 1988 we are no longer on the brink of chaos, we are definitely in chaos. We are now there!

I am afraid, Sir, that Barbados has now lost all sense of direction. Where other Caribbean countries are reporting progress and positive growth — and LDC countries, Mr. Deputy President, the Lesser Developed Countries — Barbados is now reporting no growth, if not negative growth. We do not know what the end of this quarter that we are now in will show us, but I have a belief that it will show that Barbados is regressing rather than progressing.

Indeed, Mr. Deputy President, our Prime Minister has now reported, both at home and abroad, that Barbados has, in fact, regressed from the status of a More Developed to a Lesser Developed country. And I believe that as Prime Minister and Minister of Finance he must know whereof he speaks. We know it, because we are living it and feeling it every day.

It is no excuse to say that these remarks were made jokingly over dinner. Prime Ministers have a duty to be particularly mindful of what they say when they are outside of their country, whether they are drunk, sober, eating, drinking, walking, riding whatever. They never cease to be Prime Ministers. For 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, he must be mindful of Barbados' business. If he is not mindful of his own, I cannot do much about that. But he must be mindful of the business of this country.

Again there has been no Economic Review presented. I do not know if we are going to see one before the Budget. The latest thing I have to guide me is the Central Bank Economic Review at December of 1987. That is not a happy document, but I will refer to it from time to time. I do believe it is a document of the Senate, Mr. Deputy President, and if it is not, I am more than willing to make it one.

I have been constantly asking — and not only myself, most right thinking Barbadians who care about our country and its future have been asking — where is this country headed? What is the Government's plan? What is the Government's programme? What is the Government's policy? I have been asking that since May of 1986, because the Democratic Labour Party's manifesto contains no medium or long-term plan, programme or policy. I will never tire of saying that it was a document designed to win an election, but not run a country. And that is why Senator Clarke has been in here groping about for the last 40 minutes, and telling us a sad old story that we have heard before, not even as one Lionel Craig would say, "cold soup warmed up". We are now having no soup at all!

He threw out a lot of platitudinous statements. I do not want to be unparliamentary — statements! Dropping words and phrases like "diversification" but telling us nothing about the Government's plan to diversify! Telling us about major structural change, but particularising none at all! So we are no wiser after he sat down as to what steps the Government intends to take to deliver the economy of this country out of the morass into which it now finds itself.

11.10 a.m.

I will not tire of saying that when the Barbados Labour Party left the reins of Government in 1986, the foreign reserves in this country were up.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, Senator Boxill, I am repeating what I said last year in the Estimates. The things I am saying are as relevant and as urgent in March 1988 as they were in March 1987.

The foreign reserves were up. This country was an MDC not only in the eyes of the Governments of this region, but in the eyes of people who sit in the metropolitan centres and with whom we have to deal. Now the boot is on the other foot. But I have received an answer to my question about where this country is headed, and what is the Government's plan, policy, and programmes, and I have received it from no less a person than the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. I have received my answer, Mr. Deputy President, from the head of the spring. I should not say that. "Spring" connotes vibrancy, life, movement, going forward. Perhaps I have received my answer from the horse's mouth. Perhaps I have received it from another part of the horse's anatomy. I do not know, Sir. I really do not know.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I do not mean to scandal horses, as my colleague is suggesting. I really do not. But last year, Mr. Deputy President, as I said I pointed out to the Senate that foreign reserves were down. This year they are even lower. Last year, I pointed out that unemployment was up. This year it is more so. Last year I said that exports were falling. This year that is more so. It brings to mind a certain nursery rhyme, Mr. Deputy President, you do not hear it much nowadays — "Seesaw Marjorie Daw, Johnny shall have a new master," — you can put any name for Johnny's name — "He shant have but a penny a day because he can't work any faster."

Poor Johnny indeed! But this does not apply to the Minister of Finance. This nursery rhyme applies to the workers of this country, and I want to hear the trade unions on this, Mr. Deputy President. I regret deeply that Mr. President is not with us at this time, because, traditionally, you would know that not only in Barbados, but everywhere in the world, universally trade unions do not care about the unemployed. They are preoccupied with the interest of their membership, in other words, the employed.

The Government is boasting about 2 500 jobs and trying to make it sound big — 2 500 jobs created! But I want to know what the figure is of workers who have been laid off and dismissed in the same period as the so-called 2 500 jobs created. We want the seesaw well balanced. We want to hear both sides of the story. So far, Mr. Deputy President, neither the Government nor the unions have been able to give us a figure of those laid off and dismissed. We are left to wonder if it is because they do not know, or if they do not care, or is it because they cannot say, or is it because they dare not say.

Poor Marjorie Daw! Is she high up on the seesaw on the credit side, or is she hitting the ground on the debit side? Well, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance,

and this morning Senator Clarke, have answered that question for all Barbadians. They say that we are deep, deep in deficit, and the question now is, and this is the question which all Barbadians are asking — I am hearing it on the street, I am hearing it in the mini-mart, I am hearing it wherever I go — what is the Government going to do? I had hoped that Senator Clarke might have given us some indicators this morning. We have received none. We have heard him with the same story that we heard coming from the Other Place, that we have to wait until the Budget to find out.

We have heard broad, as I said, meaningless statements about diversification, agriculture, major structural change, expansion in tourism, and so on. But it does not mean anything to us if the Government is saying one thing and doing another, not only speaking with forked tongue but contradicting itself by its actions. And I want to say now that Barbadians already understand, Mr. Deputy President, that tinkering with Ministries and the various departments, whose Estimates are to be found in this document which preoccupies us this morning, is not going to solve the problem of how we will salvage the economy of Barbados. It does not work!

I am saying this from now, and I am using this as an example, because like everybody else, and I believe everybody else even including the Minister of Finance, I do not know what is going to be in the Budget. Raising the bus fares, Mr. Deputy President, just as an example, is not by itself going to create any dent in the Transport Board deficit. That is what I mean when I say that tinkering is not going to be the answer. Raising the bus fares is not going to by itself help the Transport Board's financial position, nor is the declaration of war on the minibuses. In fact, Sir, if that kind of tinkering is what we will come to see when the Budget arrives, in the end the ones who will bear the burden will inevitably be the commuters — those who use the Transport Board buses and the minibuses and after that, at the end of the day we are still going to have taxpayers face the huge deficit at the Transport Board.

So I was interested when I heard Senator Clarke say that major structural adjustment is going to be required. I will go further — indeed major structural adjustment is required if we are not going to find ourselves in the arms of the International Monetary Fund before the end of this year.

I have looked very carefully at these Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, which are our business today. Remember, Mr. Deputy President, I have some ten years experience reading and analysing Estimates, helping to prepare Estimates. The first thing that hit me when I perused the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue for 1988-89 — I got the impression that the civil servants and

technicians in the various Ministries and departments of Government had clearly been instructed by the Ministry of Finance to hold this year's Estimates within last year's levels. You do not have to be a Solomon to see that. You do not have to have any degree in Economics. Basic understanding of reading, writing, and arithmetic will show you that. And in some instances, it is clear to me that the instructions from the Ministry of Finance was that they should cut back, probably anticipating what has recently been described as "a cut in wastage."
11.20 a.m.

The password last year was efficiency. That was the word we heard from Senator Lewis. This year they have graduated from that, and the keyword now is wastage. So again this year, looking at the Estimates, Mr. Deputy President, we have to wonder which estimated figures here will actually apply. Open at any page, look at a heading, and you will see Estimates 1988-89; Statutory Expenditure in one column, Other Expenditure in another column; Approved Estimates in another column; Increase or Decrease, and then at the end column, Actual Expenditure. You have to ask now, which figures are we dealing with? Those that were actually approved by Parliament last year? Or those that were actually spent, especially in the light of a whole rash of supplementaries which have come before Parliament in recent months?

I remember last year being at pains to point out to the Honourable Senate that there were salaries outstanding and the Government was having difficulty in meeting the salary bill at the end of February last year, and March. Do you remember how we delayed and delayed in This Place and the Other Place? I remember last year pointing out in the Estimates Debate that there were certain move-ins, and explaining, for the benefit of new members, what move-ins were, and explaining the principle of carrying forward. I was privileged last week to hear from no less a person than the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister that, in truth and in fact, that did happen in this current financial year.

Many funds were carried forward from the financial year before into this financial year. Some funds lapsed and some are carried forward. So in the end, we cannot be sure today whether the Estimates of Expenditure which are before us truly reflect the revenue and the expenditure which we will see in the year 1988-89. The Government is doing everything in its power — the word I used last year was "obfuscate" — now to confuse itself, and so I have difficulty with any of the figures.

I notice that Senator Clarke was very tentative and careful in his presentation of figures here this morning, especially figures relating to what he picturesquely describes as "the gap". In Barbados, we know Jack-my-Nanny Gap and other gaps of that description, but when it comes to the economy we are not accustomed

to gaps, and in everything he said in the 40 or 45 minutes that he spoke, we still are no wiser as to the size of the gap.

What he has given to us, to be truthful, Sir, I do not know that we can even describe this overall fiscal gap, as he describes it, in excess of \$227 million, as a figure that we can trust, because we do not know what is going to be carried forward from this financial year into the next, we do not know the move-ins, and again this year I complain that there is no figure before us. We do not know what the Estimates actually are, because move-ins which occurred in the Other Place last week have not been brought forward. I have received no paper, no documentation to show me what they actually are.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: There were no move-ins this year? Ah! I am pleased to hear that. All it does is to fortify me in my view that what will happen is that we are going to see a great carrying forward, and again in this financial year we are going to see, coming down perhaps to the end of the year, another rash of supplementaries.

Even the stories of these supplementaries are not happy ones all the time. As an example, Sir, we sat in Parliament and we approved a massive supplementary for the Ministry of Housing and Lands in respect of, we were told, the payment of compensation for certain land acquisitions. The truth is that today, at March 21, 1988, bearing in mind that the financial year comes to a close on the 31st, ten day hence, just a little over \$1 million of a total of \$11 million voted for compensation for land acquisitions has actually been spent.

Are we able this morning to glady the hearts of Barbadians, some of whom have been waiting years for this compensation? Are we able to reassure them this morning that between now and March 31, ten days from now, that the excess of \$9 million still outstanding, voted but still outstanding, will be paid? I very much doubt it.

This is what we have, Sir. We do not know if the seesaw is up or if it is down. Perhaps I should draw another analogy. There was a Broadway show, it did not become a hit, I am not so sure, called, I believe, "Up The Down Escalator." I think that is what is happening here now in the Ministry of Finance. Have you ever tried standing at the bottom of an escalator going down to get up it? Not easy! That is what is happening here, so there is mass confusion, chaos.

Now that I am on the matter of land acquisitions and payment of compensation, there is a particular point I would like to make. Last Monday, other Senators who sit at this table and I spent a very enjoyable, interesting evening with the Salvation Army at their Annual Dinner. I am pleased to take this opportunity publicly to congratulate you, Sir, on your appointment to the Advisory Council of the Salvation Army. I am partial to the Salvation Army. My grandmother on my father's side was a Captain in the Salvation Army. As a Methodist, as you are, Sir, Mr. Deputy President, we have a partiality to the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army grew out of the Methodist movement. General Booth started out in the Methodist Movement, and so I am very partial to the Army, as you call it.

The Regional Territorial Commander and our Commander here both made very heartfelt appeals. You were there, Mr. Deputy President. The night hostel at the Salvation Army has been in a state of disrepair for many years. In fact, some years ago it was rendered unsafe, and the then Government, which was the Government of the Barbados Labour Party, approached the Salvation Army — they did not come to us — with a proposal — I know, because I am the one who carried the proposal — that the Government would help in the reconstruction of a night shelter, because it provided a need that was still in demand in Barbados.

That need is not peculiar to Barbados. Everywhere in the world, in the biggest, most well-heeled cities of the world, you will find the bag ladies and the bag men who live on street corners, on the steps and in the doorways of buildings, and on park benches and so on, and we have our share of that in Barbados. The Salvation Army, for many, many years, before my time even, had provided a night shelter for them where they could sleep and get up and have a hot breakfast in the morning, and go about trying to scratch a living as best they could during the day until night fall again. The Army then suggested that it was thinking in terms not so much exclusively of a night shelter, but more now, answering a need much felt in our community, a rehabilitation centre.

11.30 a.m.

I do not think it is any secret, Mr. Deputy President, that the city of Bridgetown, like most cities today, is a centre for drug trafficking, and that a lot of the flotsam and jetsam which is the fallout of the drug trafficking is to be found in the alleyways, byways and street corners of the city of Bridgetown. The drug rehabilitation centre at the Psychiatric Hospital, which has been there for many years, has for quite a long time been full to overflowing. Even though we are treating more psychiatric patients in the community, the facility there just cannot cope with the rapid increase of young people particularly. It started out really as a rehab centre for alcoholics, but alcohol is only one drug, and now there are other drugs such as cocaine

and marijuana and other hard drugs, although they have not yet overtaken alcohol in this country. But do not let us get so preoccupied with the hard drugs that we forget that alcohol is still a big destroyer, and the biggest destroyer in this country, larger than tobacco, larger than cocaine.

There has been a great deal of young human traffic moving through the doors of the rehabilitation centre at the Psychiatric Hospital, and they simply cannot cope. We are yet to develop halfway houses to help these people, and so the Salvation Army is attempting to rise to a very urgent and medical need in our community to provide a rehabilitation centre where young people who have fallen victim to illegal drugs of all kinds, but particularly hard drugs, can go for counselling, for therapy.

But to do this, the Salvation Army requires more acreage than it now has at its disposal. If you know the central corps at Reed Street, you will know that you have the building where worship takes place, then there is another little building next to it, and the night shelter itself is in back of that, and there is not sufficient room to build a rehabilitation centre which will even begin to answer the need in our community. And what the Salvation Army has applied to the Government for, and wishes at the soonest opportunity — if not it may well find that the funding which is at its disposal to build the rehabilitation centre may disappear from it — is for the Government to do is to permit it to acquire the properties next door, moving south along Reed Street.

There is a property which was formerly a school meals centre. It ceased to be a school meals centre in my time, the operation which used to take place at Reed Street has long been removed to the Harbour, I think that there is a boxing gym or a work-out centre of some kind occupying those premises. The other premises were premises which used to be the old family home of my family. That also fell to the Government, so these properties are both owned by the Government.

It seems that the Salvation Army is experiencing the gravest difficulty in persuading the Government either to let them acquire the lands, or to have, in my view, the Government give to the Salvation Army these lands as its contribution in kind towards the rehabilitation centre. Because the Government cannot do all in this, and in any way that non-Governmental agencies can help us battle the damage that the consumption of illegal drugs has visited upon our young people, we should be anxious and glad to say, thank you very much, what can we do to help?

It appears from the appeal that was made last Monday night that the Army is being turned around by civil servants and technicians, and by Ministers, too, although they were polite enough not to say so. It appears that nobody is giving an ear to the Salvation Army on a matter which deserves very prompt and positive attention,

and I would like to call upon the relevant Ministers in the Government to harken to the cry of the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army is not trying to service itself. That is not its quest; it never has been. The Army's record is one of service to the community, where it is, heart to God, as they say, and hand to man, and the Salvation Army is here in Barbados seeking to put out its hand to man yet again, but finding that there is no one to receive it.

That is not unusual with human kind. We are in the season of Lent and we are coming to Good Friday and Easter, and the same lament that was made at the foot of the cross is the same lament that we are now hearing from the Salvation Army.

Asides

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, I know the Bible that well, Senator Blackman.

"He looked for some to have pity on Him and found that there was no man," and that is what the Salvation Army is finding, that there is no answer. There were women.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, the women were there at the foot of the Cross, Senator Boxill. We are always there. We were there at the foot of the cross, we were there at the tomb Easter morning early. We are always the ones, we carry the big burdens.

The Salvation Army is finding at this Eastertide, as certain other people found at the first Eastertide and the first Good Friday, that there is no man. So I am appealing on behalf of the Salvation Army, Mr. Deputy President, to those persons high in Government who have the power and the influence to make this land available to the Army so that it can get that rehabilitation centre up in the soonest possible time, because the young people of this island need it — I am not only making this cry because it is something which will go up in the City of Bridgetown. We expect that people will come from all over Barbados to use the rehabilitation centre. I have spoken on that matter, Sir, and there I rest.

To go back to the seesaw, Sir, the seesaw is worse than trying to go up the down escalator, as the Minister of Finance is obviously trying to do, with a little help from his junior, Senator Clarke. The Minister of Finance does not seem to be getting much help from his advisers. It is difficult to know who his advisers are, Mr. Deputy President, because some of the advisers to this Government have either been sent away, such as one Dr. Richard Haynes and one Dr. Courtney Blackman, or they

have gone away of their own accord — Mr. Steve Emtage has gone, and now we hear Mr. Teddy Griffith is to go — not to mention those advisers who are still in place but are choosing to put distance between themselves and the Minister of Finance and I am talking about the triumvirate from Cave Hill, the McClean/Alleyne axis aided and abetted by one Russell. If you listen to their comments, both public and private, you have to know that they are putting distance between themselves and the Ministry of Finance and what goes on there.

11.40 a.m.

Advice is clearly not being well received by the Government, even when it has asked for specific advice. In fact, the most recent person to join the back bench in the Other Place has publicly, and on the floor in the Other Place, castigated the findings of two sets of advice, specific advice that the Government asked for.

They set up a Task Force on Employment, and he castigated them virtually within days of entering the Other Place. And, last week, in the Estimates Debate we heard him castigating the National Assistance Board Enquiry. And, in the same breath, he, who is a member of the board of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, called for an enquiry into that corporation.

You understand what I mean when I say Mr. Deputy President, that there is an attempt to go up the down escalator? We do not know where we are going. There is absolutely no sense of direction.

I want to turn to some of the matters raised this morning — and just raised, because it cannot be put any higher than that, or any further than that.

Senator Clarke alluded to things and left us to wonder. I am not going to make any response to what I regard as a joke, when reference was made by the Senator to an expansionary budget. I think that he may have turned to the wrong page in the text book and that slipped in by mistake, so I am not going to rise to that one at all. But I feel that I must, as I did in the Estimates Debate of last year, Mr. Deputy President, draw to the attention of honourable Senators the status of the main sectors of our economy. Very flippant and dispassionate reference was made to them by the Honourable Senator before he sat.

It is only fair that I should start off with the major foreign exchange earner, and that is tourism. The Senator was at pains to point out to us that the Government has assisted the tourist industry by way of tax reductions. That is true, we cannot deny it. But what is the point of giving with the one hand tax deductions and then taking away with the other hand, virtually crippling, or attempting to cripple, the tourist industry of Barbados by closing Caribbean Airways and by failing to promote Barbados abroad as a tourist destination.

We had the spectacle of the Minister of Tourism in the Other Place actually confessing that we had not advertised Barbados as a tourist destination in North America since April of 1986. In another country, a Minister would have said that and resigned. But not in Barbados!

For lack of any more recent document, I turn, as I said I would, to the Economic Review from the Central Bank at December 1987 to see what they have to say about tourism. They have told some truth about it. We have to start off by recognising that the tourist season of last financial year, January 1987, did not live up to the expectations. It was the summer tourism which pulled tourism out of the hole in which it was finding itself. Now, we are hearing that the industry in this season is down on last year. Well, if last year did not rise to expectations and this year is down on last year, you have to know that we are in a very bad way.

Only this morning in the newspaper, I think it was the *Barbados Advocate*, I read a letter, and there was an article, both making the point that tourist expenditure is down. How could it be otherwise? Tourism depends on two major factors, Mr. Deputy President, airline seats, especially for an island like ours, and bed nights, and this Government is so clever in the person of its Minister of Tourism, and I mean the most recent former Minister of Tourism — there is a lot of recentcy on the front bench; we have recent former Ministers of Finance and recent former Ministers of Tourism — that in one fell swoop he attacked not only airline seats, but bed nights, when he closed Caribbean Airways and our tourist offices in Europe. He put in jeopardy the security of airline seats out of Europe, and remember that our long-staying tourists, the ones who give us the quantity, the number of bed nights that we need, come out of Europe. The ones with the greatest spending power at this time are coming out of Europe. But in one fell swoop that is what he has achieved. So I do not want to hear about tax reductions.

As my learned colleague has pointed out, the hotels are all in serious deficit and cannot afford to pay taxes. This report is honest enough, I think at some point it does say that. If it does not say that, it is something that I read in this morning's newspaper which made the point. That is the damage that has been done to tourism.

I hold in my hand something that I found on this table when I came in this morning. I believe all Senators have a copy of it, a very attractive looking document called the "Sports and Cultural Calendar, 1988," a very glossy, good-looking sports and cultural calendar designed and printed in Barbados, very well presented, and put out by the Board of Tourism. Wonderful, Mr. Deputy President, but too late for tourists who would want to come here and participate in these events!

This kind of document should have been out since last year. You do not promote in March 1988, for March

1988. This should have been out, at the latest, in the fall or autumn of 1987. It should have been in all of our tourists missions abroad to help to encourage people to want to come to Barbados for one or other of the events listed here. It is too late. It may even now, Mr. Deputy President, be too late to capture some of the summer tourists who we would like to see coming here for Crop Over, and to help to stave off the shortfall in the tourist expenditure which we are experiencing this winter.

11.50 a.m.

It starts at January. Very interesting! I see a lot that has been done by the Barbados Labour Party is here to be found in living colour, as they say. It warms the cockles of my heart!

What is the point of it, if it does not reach the market that it clearly is intended for? It cannot help the winter tourists now. It certainly cannot. And nobody must try to fool me that this document is designed simply for home consumption. This is a beautiful thing which should be found in every tourist office and in every mission of Barbados abroad, and not only outside of the Caribbean, within the Caribbean as well.

But what do we find, courtesy of the most recent former Minister of Tourism? That we have closed some of our tourist offices abroad! That there is no managing or directing person, or manager or director, or whatever you choose to call him or her, in any of the missions which still are operational! In fact, I gather that in one mission there is only one person. He does not even have a typist to help him. It is not as though they even have acting people. It is not Hollywood, it is like a desert!

And then the Minister has the gall to get up and say that we have not advertised in North America, our main market, since April of 1986! It means that since the Barbados Labour Party left Government we have not advertised in North America. And it is sickening when you go there and you see how Jamaica is advertising, Aruba, Margarita, St. Maarten, and you cannot see Barbados. So nobody in the tourist industry should be surprised.

I do not listen to the hoteliers. They sing the same song all the time. They need to be put in the Top Ten with some of the people from the Other Place. Some of the people from the Other Place make an interesting Top Ten, Mr. Deputy President, if you would allow me to digress for a moment.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: No, the people on the Government side.

One fellow has two in the Top Ten, he is so brilliant — "Mini Bus Men" and "That Old Black Magic". Then

there is another fellow who is out there singing, "What Kind of Fool Am I?" And then there is another one in the Top Ten singing, "A House Is Not A Home". Then there is one who is singing a popular local song, "Can't Find Me Brother". Then there is a certain front-bencher who is singing a song called, "Misty". The first line of "Misty" goes: "Look at me, I am as helpless as a kitten up a tree." And then there is another fellow singing, "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood." And another one singing, "Where Do I begin?" And then there are two or three harmonising together, "Don't Give Up On us, Baby." Another one singing, "Trying Times."

Laughter.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: There is one singing, "Send In the Clowns."

Laughter.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: And another one singing, Sir, "Until It is Time For You To Go." A fellow in the corner is croaking, "Let Me Try Again." And some fellows near the top on the front bench are singing in duet, "Let Us Face The Music And Dance."

Laughter.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: The fellow at the top of the table is singing, "Call Me Irresponsible", immortalised by Frank Sinatra.

Laughter.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Sir, I can go on. Because there is still another one singing, "Softly, As I Leave You" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water." And then the fellow at the bottom of the Top 24 is singing, "Make The World Go Away". That is what we had the benefit of in the Estimates Debate over there from the Government benches last week!

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: No, you cannot beat that. I would like to write a letter and send it to the Press so that everybody could know about it.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I can give you a list, Senator Eastmond. I know you want to be sure that you are matching the right song to the right person.

I forget the fellow who is singing, "Endorse the Cou-cou."

Laughter.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: You know who he would be!

If I can get back to this matter, Sir, of tourism and bed nights, Sir, not only has the Government failed to promote Barbados abroad, failed to advertise, not only has the Government closed an important office in Europe, not only has the Government failed to appoint managers to our various tourist offices and to people them so that they could get on with the work which we would want as taxpayers to pay them to do, but even here at home the Government is doing everything in its power to make life difficult for those people who are trying to promote tourism.

Only recently I came in at the airport and was borne down by tour representatives who are at a great loss to understand why the Government should choose to pressure them at this time, at the height of the season, a season which is lagging, because we can read in this morning's newspaper that March 1988 is going to be worse than March, 1987. We are seeing the tourist industry tail away from us. We cannot even see April. There are open predictions that April is going to be worse this year than it was last year, if that is possible. So at the height of a flagging season, the tour representatives, who work in the Arrivals Hall at the airport, doing a very important job that the Government pays no one to do, neither does it pay them to do it, but they see it as part of their function — meeting people, some who have come very long distances, some of whom are incapacitated and coming here to convalesce, meeting people who are coming from countries who speak a different language from our own — they have been told in a very summary fashion that they must now do their business outside on the pavement where the taxi drivers wait to take our visitors away to the hotels.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, Senator Morrison. I saw the letter myself. They were given notice at the end of January that they would have to remove themselves from the Arrivals Hall, although they have been given a grace period. The tour representatives at the Grantley Adams Airport, who meet visitors in the Arrivals Lounge, have been told that they will no longer be able to meet visitors there, they must wait outside the Arrivals Lounge and Customs area and meet them on the pavement.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: They are still inside, because they have been given a grace period. But they have not reversed the decision. A decision not made by the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Deputy President — a decision made, we are reliably informed, by no less a person than

the Deputy Prime Minister, who is Minister of Civil Aviation!

These are not actions, Mr. Deputy President, designed to inspire confidence in Barbadians that the Barbados Government wishes to help tourism upward. And so I listened very carefully when I heard the honourable Senator say that the Government has done much to help tourism. It has done much more not to help tourism.

I really do not know what the Barbados Labour Party can say any more to the Government than it has already said. Many of our policies which are to be found not only in the manifesto of 1986, but in the manifesto of 1981, are policies which we see the Government now turning its attention to. Because you see, Mr. Deputy President, in this other document, this other manifesto with all the flowers, if you turn to the part on tourism.....

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: The part on tourism hardly a whole column. It says that the aim of the Democratic Labour Party is to make Barbados an "EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER". Well, they certainly have.

They wanted to make tourism an experience to remember for visitors and residents alike. And the first order of business was to reorganise the Tourist Board. In fact, the first order of business turned out to be a disorganisation of the Tourist Board. The largest Board in known memory in this country which simply cannot, even after 18 months or more, get a grasp on what the imperatives for tourism must be in the late 1980s. And we are not seeing anything in these Draft Estimates. We have not heard anything from Senator Clarke to indicate to us what medium term plan or even what long-term plan the Government may have to help to salvage not only the end of this flagging winter season, but to help us through the summer, not to mention next winter.

12.00 noon.

Next winter is going to be coming after a presidential election in North America. The next winter is coming on the eve of the 350th anniversary of this Parliament, which we have done nothing to promote — nothing!

The Americans had a bicentennial. Only a bicentennial you know, Mr. Deputy President. The Australians are this year celebrating a bicentennial, just 200 years. Barbados can boast of 350 years of parliamentary democracy, of whatever colour. Whether you like it or not, we can boast of 350 years of parliamentary democracy. We could not find a way — we did not have the imagination to know how to market this to encourage tourists to come here.

Tourists love historical events. Any little country having its 75th anniversary, a centennial or something, they go to in droves. We have 350 years. There is only one other country, Bermuda, in the Caribbean which can boast of this, and outside of the Caribbean there may only be two countries in the world which can talk about 350 years of unbroken parliamentary democracy. We even defied Cromwell, and the Parliament of Barbados met throughout the Protectorate. But we cannot find a way to market this in such a way that people would be breaking down the tourist offices everywhere, that we have them outside of Barbados trying to get to Barbados for one major event or another during 1989. If I were not a strong woman, it would bring me to tears. But I am an angry woman this morning, because these are the opportunities that we let bypass us.

I do not know what the forecast will be for the next winter. As I say, I do not listen to the hoteliers. Every year they are expecting a bumper winter and a bumper summer season. At the end of every season, or half way through it, you hear the cry story again. I can only speak to what I see with my own two eyes.

It is a fact that expenditure is down this winter season. Cave Shepherd in Broad Street tripled the space on its ground floor where it sells handicrafts and a lot of cheap souvenir items for tourists with "Made in Barbados" on the front and "Made in Taiwan" on the back. Oh yes, I know of what I speak, and I speak with the authority of somebody who knows a product that is handmade in Barbados when she sees it. Cave Shepherd tripled its ground floor space anticipating a bumper winter season and Cave Shepherd had to report today that what it is taking in that department is 40 per cent down on last year. Senator Goddard is here. He might be persuaded I hope, in his contribution to tell us what is the situation with Harrison's duty free shops, of which there are several across this island — to be found in hotels, at the airport and in Broad Street, even more than one in Broad Street. That would be as good an indicator as any for the first three months of this winter season. But the fact is that it is down.

Taxi drivers are complaining. Water sport operators are complaining. The women who sell on the beach are complaining. The beach vendors are complaining. It is not a matter of blaming the hoteliers. The Government has a responsibility. In the Government's power lies the potential for airlines seats which in turn will influence bed nights. But that is where the Government has done crippling damage to tourism in this winter season.

I turn to agriculture. Senator Clarke said — I cannot remember how he put it, but words to this effect — that we have to do something about diversifying agriculture. I made a note, Sir. In the course of the lecture about economic growth as distinct from economic development and so on, he said we have to do something about

diversifying agriculture. That is not anything new. When the Democratic Labour Party was in Government before 1976, we heard a lot about diversification in agriculture, too. We did not see much of it. We used to hear about something called the comfith project all the time. I never can understand what overtook it in the end. It was still-born, I think. But we used to hear a lot about diversification.

Between 1976 and 1986 we saw a lot of diversification taking place, and now again we are hearing about diversification. The Government cannot continue to speak with forked tongue on this matter of diversification in agriculture, because people in Barbados are not fools. We cannot have farmers who are producing those crops which we are now self-sufficient in, or we could be if we were allowed to be by the Government, and which our soil produces well, complaining about outside competition. Senator Fraser will have to bear me out on this. Cabbages, carrots, green beans, eggplant or whatever you want to call it cucumbers — for the past couple of years we have been self-sufficient in these items, but in recent months we are hearing farmers complain about importation of these items from both inside of CARICOM and outside.

This is a real crying shame, Mr. Deputy President. You cannot be, on the one hand, talking about investing in diversified agriculture and, on the other hand, undermining the efforts of farmers, who are putting their sweat and labour into diversification in one area or another, by allowing the importation of these items. It is a strange thing, and it is something peculiar to the Democratic Labour Party when it is in Government. You do not hear that the BMC is importing these items, you hear that a certain person in Swan Street gets the import licences for these things.

Asides.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Deputy President — the man that the licences are given to.

(Aside: SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Who is he?)

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: The Government has to know. The department of Government which issues licences has to know to whom it has issued licences to import these vegetables, undermining the garden farmers of Barbados. Do not ask me who it is.

(Aside: Senator V. C. FRASER: Give us the name.)

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: What is it that they gave a travel agency licence to import.....soft drinks? Imagine! I have said that in this Chamber already Mr. Deputy President. This is what we see whenever the Democratic Labour Party is in Government.

Asides.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Help the Senator. She wants to know who the man is.

(Aside: Senator V. C. FRASER: I am asking you.)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Address the Chair, please.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: You have to ask your people. I did not give him a licence. Your people gave him a licence. Ask them. That is a big one!
12.10 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: That is a big one. You know Government is very funny with contracts, like the one up at CBC, the seven year contract up there, so do not raise the issue of contracts now. Do not try to sidetrack me with that, Senator Morrison, please, and that is a word to the wise.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Address the Chair, please.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Deputy President, I address you. It is a matter not only of grave moral concern, but of grave financial concern to the vegetable farmers, the garden produce farmers of this country, that basic items like cabbages, carrots and cucumbers are being imported into Barbados. The Government has to decide whether it is for diversification or whether we are going to go back to an old system where we do not bother and just import all the food that we eat. I know that Senator Fraser would have a lot to say about that.

Our food import bill is rising, and we are in a position today where we are not sure we are going to have the foreign exchange to pay for it. Imagine in 1988 I am going to hear a Senator, standing on the Government side introducing a debate on Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, in this year of Our Lord, at this stage of the development of Barbados, saying that one of the present aims of the Government is to find itself in a situation where it has two or three months' foreign reserves supply! Is that what he said? In 1988? A more developed country like Barbados? Could that be an aim of the Government? I would not be so invidious, I would not be so patronising, as was our Prime Minister in Dominica, to suggest other countries where that would more be the order of the day, but we are not accustomed to that in Barbados. It really seriously cannot be an aim of the Government. I have to believe that that is a slip of the tongue, or perhaps he turned to the wrong page in the textbook again. I cannot tell.

I do not know when in this country we are ever going to be told, or if we are told, by whom what is the Government's policy in respect of agriculture. I heard the honourable Senator boast this morning about how recently in this Chamber we approved price support for the sugar industry. When the Barbados Labour Party brought the first price support for the sugar industry in the Other Place some years ago, we were lambasted by the then Opposition, which is the now Government. All the old talk about cane blade and so on came up all over again, and we were told how we were going to waste the taxpayers' money, what we were going to do and what we were not going to do, and what the future of the sugar industry should and should not be, and now all of a sudden it becomes a matter for boast that this Chamber recently approved price support for the sugar industry.

Do try and let us support it. It continues to be one of the certain foreign exchange earners in this country, and will continue to be so, if we only give it a chance. We cannot live without the foreign exchange which sugar earns. In all these years that we have produced sugar at a loss, we have done that secure in the knowledge that we have to have the foreign exchange.

But that was all the Senator said. There was nothing to indicate in what way we would diversify even in sugar. I remember that last year when I spoke this same point came up, and I recall making the point to the Senate then, Sir, and I make it again. Senator Lewis was speaking then straight from the files, reading the notes written by the technicians, "We are going to diversify around sugar, not out of sugar." That is what we heard last year. This year we are not hearing anything at all. All we are hearing is how generous we are with our largesse that we can approve price support for the sugar industry. We have to do more than approve price support for the sugar industry, we have to make serious decisions about the future of the sugar industry.

The Senator made the point, and he underlined it, when he talked about major structural change — I think the word is really adjustment, but I will let you get away with change — being required, especially in agriculture. But then he proceeded to tell us nothing. So we do not know, there is no way of our telling in what direction the Government might want to go by way of major structural change in agriculture. All we have heard from the Senator is what we have known for many, many years, that we need to diversify and that we need major structural change. We are still waiting to find out about the nature of the change.

I went to the blue document with the flowers to check on agriculture. There is a whole page and maybe less than a quarter page, but the plan is not here, the programme is not here, the policy is not here. All we can hear are these old-time shibboleths coming out of the mouth of a junior Minister of Finance.

Then he spoke to unemployment. He said that unemployment is an "elusive variable." Well, let me tell you, Mr. Deputy President, to those who are unemployed there is nothing elusive about it, it is a very real and present thing.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Senator Tull is saying the right thing. It is employment that people are finding elusive in this country, not unemployment. Unemployment is a very real and terrible thing for those who find themselves unemployed.

A lot of fancy language and fancy footwork was used to describe a phrase that I think was born in the time of the Barbados Labour Party, the voluntary idle.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: You were not around in those days, you were not even a member of the Dems in those days.

It could be attributed to Tom Adams. In one Budget debate, I think it was, he first used the phrase "the voluntary idle." As he spoke, Senator Tull and I looked at each other this morning and the phrase came to both our lips at the same moment. That is who he was describing. But what about those who find themselves involuntarily idle? Those who do not wish to be idle? Those who, because they have children to feed and clothe and house, cannot afford to be idle? What is the Government doing about these?

I heard a boast this morning — it sounded to my ears like a boast — that inflation is only just in excess of 4 per cent. Do you know what that means, Mr. Deputy President? That compared to last year, inflation has doubled in the course of this financial year, and there is every reason to believe that it should double again in the coming financial year. So it is how you use words.
12.20 p.m.

It is easy to make a statement that sounds positive, that sounds good: inflation in Barbados is still in single figures. It is just over 4 per cent, but listen to this Central Bank Economic Review, at December 1987, less than three months ago, and I quote from page 3, Sir:

"Inflation remains low at an average rate of 1.9 per cent for the first nine months, about the same as was recorded for this period in 1986."

We know that, because the Barbados Labour Party took inflation down to one per cent. Now we hear this morning that it is in excess of 4 per cent. If at this time last

year it was 1.9 per cent, there is no cause for boasting in that, and the question that we have to ask is, is it not that the Government's financial policies have led us to an impasse where inflation is going to be on the rise again?

He says that unemployment is an elusive variable. But the Central Bank Economic Review goes on with a second sentence. This is on page 3, a small paragraph headed "Employment and Prices". What I just read about inflation is sentence one, and this is what sentence 2 says:

"With continued weakness in the manufacturing sector the unemployment rate remained high at 18.6 per cent at the end of the third quarter. At the end of September 1986, the unemployment rate was 19.1 per cent."

I read that out because I want to read out the whole thing, because the other side will read out some and not all. Whether it is favourable or not favourable to the point I wish to make, I read all.

Again, I can be quoted for what I said last year. At the height of the crop season where we are now, at the height of the tourist season where we are now, we are not seeing any downward movement in the rate of unemployment. Unemployment should have fallen at this time of the year, Mr. Deputy President, because we are at the height of the tourist season and the height of the crop season — our two major foreign exchange earners are seasonal — but we are not seeing that. That is why much earlier on in my contribution I asked the question, who is going to tell us? Will the unions tell us? Will the Government tell us? Who is going to tell us about the number of layoffs and dismissals to balance that boast that we are hearing of about 2 500 jobs created?

We should have been having the monthly reports from the Data Processing Unit to show us that unemployment at least had fallen, whether maybe a fractional percentage or maybe a percentage point at this time. But it has not, and some hotels are putting staff on short time already. Businesses in Bridgetown are laying off people, and I hope that when Senator Goddard speaks he will advert to this.

The prediction that we in the Barbados Labour Party made has come full circle. The Shadow Minister of Finance made the point at the time of the July Budget of 1986, and we laboured that point all through last year, through the Estimates Debate and again in the Budget Debate. I remember clearly that in this room Mr. Barrow of late lamented memory, was sitting down at this table and I was sitting over there. I know whereof I speak. We laboured the point over and over again — you are behaving like a conservative Government, you are putting

more money into the hands of the rich, full well knowing that it does not necessarily mean that it will trickle down to those who are less rich, and all this fancy talk that we heard. What effect is it now?

I can never always remember the economic jargon, I prefer basic Bajan English, but the theory at the time was that it would trickle down. The point that we made is that it would not trickle down, and that the major beneficiaries would be the shareholders, and this year we have lived to hear Plantations Limited, Goddard Enterprises, Barbados Shipping & Trading, BET, Banks Brewery, all the major corporations in this country, publishing big and bold in the newspapers how well they have done. They had to do well. The cut in the Corporation Tax was made for them to do well, but we have not seen the ripple effect that was much mooted. We have not seen that trickle down to the man at the bottom, and that is what we predicted, that the money would not go in the direction of creating more jobs, of increasing employment, it would not go in the direction of expansion that would create more jobs.

We are seeing some expansion. I do not deny that Cave Shepherd is building on at their Broad Street property, but Geoffrey Cave was very careful to point out that it does not necessarily mean that their staff complement would increase. As I have said, expenditure is down in there, they are 40 per cent down in that store on the tourist items, and they are going to be laying off staff at the end of March. And not only them, many other firms in Bridgetown are in the business of laying off staff. They simply cannot carry them. And all that the Senator can tell us is that unemployment is an elusive variable. I will have to put you in the Top Ten, too. I have to find a good song for you.

Senator Fraser has said there is one called "Elusive Butterfly". You have only quoted a line from it, elusive dream, but it is really called "Elusive Butterfly". I know it well. Now Senator Fraser has found a Top Ten title for Senator Clarke, "Elusive Butterfly!" Not me, Sir, Senator Fraser!

This whole business, Sir, of the rate of unemployment is truly not a laughing matter. We are again at the time of the year when the spectre of the school leavers looms large before us. We say this every year. When we were in Government we said it, now we are in Opposition we say it, and I make no apology for saying it, it is no less true now than it was when we were in Government. It is the most awful feeling when you look at unemployment figures in April and May and know that in June in excess of 4 000 young people are going to come out of school and find themselves joining the ranks of the unemployed.

It would take far too long for me at this time, Sir, to go off on any long tangent about the direction in which

education needs to go to counter that, and I have done it already in this Chamber. The Barbados Labour Party embarked on a broad education policy which was designed to do that. The introduction of the Skills Training Programme, the thrust that we have given to vocational and technical education, specially in the areas of the new technologies, are all positive proof of that, and I do not have to go over and over that again. What has happened to these policies, Sir, I know not, but it is one thing to train these young people coming out of the secondary and tertiary institutions, to equip them with skills, for them still to come out and find that they will have to join the ranks of the unemployed. We want to hear the Government on this.

The Government was loud in the night air in April and May of 1986 about the jobs they were going to create, and Senator Clarke, nobody talks about zero unemployment. It does not exist anywhere, except in one or two little islands where everybody is eating coconuts, and I do not mean islands in the Caribbean either. All we are asking is in our lifetime to see unemployment come back down to single figures in Barbados. That is what the Barbados Labour Party was working steadily on, and did get there, and then suffered reverses and found ourselves back up into double figures again. It calls for deep, deep concern, because we cannot seem to move away from this 18 and 19 per cent unemployment rate, and I am not satisfied that this Government has any plan which, in the medium or even in the longer term, could instil some kind of hope in people who have been out of school for two, three, sometimes four years and still have not been able to find employment.

It becomes more urgent now, because we are challenged now in the 80s in respect of the young unemployed in a way that we were not challenged in the late 1970s, and that is the matter to which I adverted earlier. The consumption of illegal drugs in this country is a terrifying spectacle, Mr. Deputy President. I think that it is wrong, I think that it is dangerous, for people like the Attorney-General and the Prime Minister, who should know better, because they will have police reports at their disposal which us other mortals would not have, to say that the drug problem is not as large or as serious a problem as is being made out.

12.30 p.m.

It is, Mr. Deputy President. Talk to teenagers and you would know it. Move around the streets of Bridgetown and you would know it. We are now in a situation where we are seeing zonked-out people on our pavements crossing the road in front of our cars. One man just stood up in front of my car a day last week, just stood in front of it. That spectacle that we would, perhaps, be more likely to see on the streets of New York or London, we are now seeing that in Barbados.

There is a destructive alternative for our young people that makes unemployment, particularly among the younger ones and the recent school leavers, critical in 1988 in a way that it was not, perhaps, quite so critical in 1978. So I have a lot of difficulty understanding when the Prime Minister says that the drug problem is not as bad as we say it is. That is like saying that AIDS in Barbados is not so bad. The fact is that although the number of AIDS cases in Barbados appear small to us, on a per capita basis we are on par with Haiti and Guadeloupe, and in this hemisphere the incidence of AIDS is frightening. In Trinidad it is higher than it is in Barbados, but in Barbados, for a population of this size, the incidence of AIDS is very bad. It is all very relative, and we must not think that because we do not see these people lying down on the street and we do not find more bodies floating up in the Careenage every morning, the drug problem is not a bad problem. It is. It is now endemic in all of our secondary schools, and it is to be found in our primary school system as well. I know whereof I speak.

When I was in the Ministry of Education these cases would be reported to me, and the first morning that it was that a youngster in a primary school in St. Thomas has been found with drugs on his person, a terrible, terrible feeling came over me. It just had not entered my contemplation that ten and 11 year-olds would be involved. But they are, and we cannot continue to hide our heads in the sand over it. The more the unemployment rate rises among young teenaged people, the more we see the teenage pregnancy rate rising, the more we see the rate of crime rising, and the more we see the rate of drug abuse rising.

This is the generation which is to carry us into the 21st century, which will carry Barbados forward after the year 2000, and the damage has to be arrested now. So if the Government did not have enough incentive when it looked at the teenaged pregnancy figures, if it did not have enough incentive when it looked at the juvenile crime rate, if it really does analyse not only existing figures, but institutes a survey of some kind, particularly in the schools, both public and private, when it looks at the truth about involvement in illegal drugs in Barbados in people under the age of 18, that, if nothing else, gives us all, not only the Government, an incentive to do something as quickly as we can to arrest a serious rot that has set in.

The other major sector of our economy, Mr. Deputy President, is manufacturing. Senator Clarke glossed over it so quickly that I find that I have not even made a note in respect of what he said, if he said anything about manufacturing. I think he did say something, though, about revitalising industry, and by way of example he particularised the garment industry.

The garment industry in Barbados has been researched, surveyed, analysed, re-researched, re-surveyed, re-analysed divers times, both under the Democratic Labour Party and under the Barbados Labour Party, and we know the real truth about the garment industry. The fact is, are we willing to face the real truth of the garment industry?

The real truth is that we cannot compete with the sweat shops of the Far East. We cannot compete with the sweat shops of some Caribbean countries, like the Dominican Republic and Haiti. We cannot compete with some Central American labour structures. Our wage structure simply does allow us to compete. Even if we did, and even if we found a highly specialised area within the garment industry, as the honourable Senator is suggesting that we should look at uniforms, the garment industry in Barbados needs recapitalising. The antique machinery which is to be found in Barbados cannot compete with modern plants which the Trinidadians had the foresight to put on the ground.

Here again, I know whereof I speak. I have a small business establishment where I deal in things of very high quality, only hand-made in Barbados. I will not have anything that is mass produced or machine made, and among these things — it would be a good advertisement, because it would teach people something — are hand-painted fabrics, silks, cottons and so on. Barbadians can do exquisite work. I cannot find in Barbados anybody with a machine which will hand-roll a silk hem, and so they have to be stitched. They still sell, because they are beautiful.

I went to New York to a meeting a couple of weeks ago and I took some of these pieces with me, and the man to whom I took them, who is in the garment industry, took me by the hand two doors down from where he was into a small building three floors up, a bunch of sweat shop labourers there, too, women working by the piece. But he had a plethora of machines, and for the princely sum of US\$16 he put the four pieces of silk through the machines and gave me a rolled hem, and that is only an illustration.

We cannot afford these machines in Barbados, is what the garment manufacturers tell me when I enquire. But that is only symptomatic of all the plant and equipment that is to be found in the garment industry in Barbados. I have heard Senator Tull, when he was Minister of Trade and Industry, make this point time and again. That was how the Trinidadians stole back whatever market there is in the Caribbean from us. And the only way we are going to do it is for the Government to help recapitalise the garment industry. Whether you are making socks, ribbons or uniforms, the Government is going to have to put its money where its mouth is. So if, as Senator Clarke is saying, we are going to give some hope to

the garment manufacturers in Barbados, the Government has to understand that it must begin by recapitalising the garment industry.

12.40 p.m.

But the garment industry is only one industry. What about the rest of industries? We seem to be taking for granted that manufacturing is dead, and there is nothing we can do about it. In my humble submission, Mr. Deputy President, manufacturing is not unlike sugar, in that even if it is going to be done at a loss to us here on the ground, the foreign exchange which manufacturing must earn us, or would earn us, is absolutely essential. We just have to find ways and means of either revitalising, as Senator Clarke says, or underwriting the manufacturing sector. They have rightly, in my view, said that we are offering price support to tourism and sugar, what about the manufacturers? What, indeed, about the manufacturers?

I think that the Government needs to sit down and think very carefully about ways and means of offering price support to the manufacturers of this country. There is no point going on with the old excuse about what has happened in CARICOM. We all know what happened in CARICOM. That excuse was dead years ago, not now in 1988. Do not tell us about that in 1988.

We understand the thrust that we have to make with extra-regional exports. But the manufacturers of this country need a lot of help. The Barbados Labour Party started to help them. I remember the price guarantee scheme for which they said they were grateful — it did not stop them from chucking us out, though — and a whole number of other incentives, like export credit as I am being reminded here on my left.

The Export Promotion Corporation was given as its mandate this business of finding not only markets, but ways and means of helping us to underpin the manufacturers of this country. But nothing is happening in that connection. All we know is that in the last Budget, what the Export Promotion Corporation asked for was cut. We know it is going to get cut again this year. And we are going to hear the same sad story that we have heard in tourism, that the Government failed to invest by way of promotion abroad, and then we are going to feel the burn in our behinds at home a year or 18 months down the line.

So, again, the Government has to put its money where its mouth is. The Government has to stop speaking with forked tongue. You cannot be constantly telling the manufacturers that they need to be revitalised and that manufacturing is important and yet provide nothing by way of incentive to the manufacturing sector. We just cannot take the attitude, well, it is dead, what can we do? We have to do something, because without exports we are lost.

From the time there was a Barbados that was the case. All those centuries we have been depending on sugar. Then it was more than sugar, it was sugar and manufacturing and light industry and tourism. Sugar is in decline, tourism is not living up to the mark. There is no way in that perspective — I come back to where I began, agreeing with Senator Clarke, that the economy has to be put in proper perspective — when we look at the big picture, that we can afford, as legislators, as parliamentarians, not to be able to see the wood for the trees. It is important for people like ourselves always to be able to see the big picture, and that is why I agreed with Senator Clarke when he said that we have to look at the economy in proper perspective.

We cannot look at these major sectors in isolation, we have to see them all together, and that is why the Government's answers to these problems cannot be in the form of tinkering here, a little tinkering there and commiserating with this one here. It does not work like that. The Government has got to get up off its haunches and work. The Government has got to articulate its policy clearly so that people will understand it and be able to make a decision about whether they can fall into it or not.

Two years into Government, we cannot still hear, we just must not still hear, a Government groping its way to a policy. It was bad enough when we were told they did not have an employment policy, and they set up a task force. Well, we know what became of the report of the task force.

We listened to what was said in the Other Place last week. We listened in here this morning for nearly 45 minutes. There was nothing that we can go away with and lie down in our beds tonight and think, well, this is the road that Barbados is going to take — even if it is not the high road, even if it is the low road; any kind of road that Barbados would take. But we do not have that security.

As I said in the beginning, Sir, we have lost our sense of direction. We are now being told by Senator Clarke and the Prime Minister that we must wait for the Budget. There is nothing magical about a Budget. If we did not find out that in 1986, we are never going to discover it. In April 1986 people left the proverbial bird in the hand and ran behind \$15 000 in the bush. They are now reaping the result of that, Mr. Deputy President.

On that, I take my seat.

Applause.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Tudor.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for one hour.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: There is an amendment, Sir, which I now defer until 2.00 o'clock.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is now suspended until 2.00 o'clock.
12.50 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed. Senator Phillips.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to lend my support to the Appropriation Bill and to make a few observations, and, if possible, to make some points in response to the Senator who spoke just before the luncheon adjournment.

She alluded to the 1986 Budget and described it as a "vote-catching Budget for election purposes." The success of that Budget, if it can be measured at all, can be measured in terms of the housing construction which is going on in Barbados now. It is my knowledge, and I am in the business of housing and supplying of materials for housing, that there is a housing boom going on in Barbados. This boom, Mr. Deputy President, could be even better were it possible for us to have at our disposal more skilled labour. All persons who are capable and understand the work of artisans are currently employed, and with them a number of persons who would be on the unemployment list, in this sector of the Barbadian society.

However, Sir, although I support 100 per cent the relief given on personal income, I cannot with the same confidence give my full support to the relief given on Corporation Tax. My feeling is that that should be on a sliding scale basis. If we wanted to give the business sector some relief, the government should have tied that relief to employment generation. I feel that it was very easy to implement such a scheme, in that all you had to do was to take the level of employment in the previous year and arrive at a figure that if you increased your employment by "X" per cent, you get a reduction of your Corporation Tax by "X" per cent, and you could have gone down as low as 35 per cent, which we went to. I feel that the business community should have exchanged employment for that relief. However, I think it would be retrograde of the

Government, with the new Budget coming up, to interfere with personal relief, because, as I said before, the relief on personal Income Tax has given persons more disposable income, and in this way it gives greater security and comfort to lending organisations.

Sir, some comments were made concerning the growth of the economy. The indications are that the growth has probably been zero or between zero and 2 per cent or thereabout, and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance did indicate that the projected overall deficit was some \$227 million. However, it is my contention that the resilience of our economy must be judged by the continuous strength of our currency. On account of our currency remaining stable, foreign interest and local interest alike have shown confidence in the management of the financial affairs of our country. Government must be complimented for this, and must be able to make it clear to those persons who would criticise them that, in spite of a slow growth in the economy and a reasonably large deficit, our currency has retained its strength. This speaks well for the management of the economy.

Some comments were made about a speech made by the honourable Prime Minister when he visited Dominica. The Honourable Prime Minister made it clear that when he made this speech, he was speaking in jest and, therefore, should not have been taken seriously. But although he may have said it in jest, there is one thing that is common between what he said and what happened as far as the currencies are concerned. It is that the Barbadian dollar and the EC dollar are the only currencies in the West Indies that have stood the test during the last five years. The dollars of Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana have all showed a continuous slippage, but this cannot be said, Sir, for Barbados or the LDC's. So if you wanted to peg what he has said to anything that is fundamental, I would say that you can pin it to the strength of the economy and the steadfastness of the dollar in the LDC's and in Barbados.

I believe, Sir, that our economy can be kept steady with limited tax increase, but attention has to be paid to the following:

- (1) The encouragement and support of the small business sector.
- (2) Further extension of the tourism sector.
- (3) An evaluation of our real property and how best it could be used to the benefit of the state.
- (4) Improvement in our agricultural sector.
- (5) An increase in our export drive.

I would like to deal first with No. 3, which is an evaluation of our real property. The Government of Barbados, although I know it has in place a board called National Investment Corporation, has a number of very important pieces of property which are underutilised and as such are not generating the sort of revenue for the Government and people of this country as they should. Government should pay serious consideration to these matters, in some instances they could possibly look at joint ventures with the private sector, in other instances they could probably utilise these properties on their own, but in a more meaningful way.

One of these properties is the playing field at Dover, Christ Church, opposite to that open window by the sea which is below the old Cable & Wireless building. That piece of land there, in my view, is approximately three acres. At the moment a little cricket and football is played there. In my opinion that is a total misuse of an expensive property. I feel that a larger playing field, with proper facilities, could be provided not so far away from there, but that such an area of land should definitely be used for the betterment of this country.

The police, quite rightly so, have been protesting about the quality of their recreational and boarding facilities at the various stations at which they work. I would like to point out that there is a classic example of where a police station has been placed, although effective there, but would be no less effective in an area not far away. I make reference to the Hometown Police Station and that property that houses the post office, and I think there is a small library somewhere on the compound near to the statue. I feel that is a waste or a misuse of expensive real property. Government should look very seriously at relocating the station, library and the post office somewhere possibly in the Trents area. Certainly the present site is a beautiful location for some tourist development.

In the same category we could put the Bridge Police Station. Some of the money which we could derive from a sale of this expensive property could be put into the construction and improvement of facilities for the police.

Another very important real property is the building which houses Immigration, formerly the Customs House which housed the Parcel Post, located on the wharf. In my view Barbados is ready for a city hotel. With the sort of business going on here that is international business — now we have offshore banking and that sort of business — it is time that Barbados look at acquiring and having constructed a city hotel where persons would be located sort of in the hub of business. I think that is another area that the Government should have a look at.

The Fisheries Division on Bay Street is another waste of property. I believe, though, that I did hear of

some plan for that whole area to be cleared and windows to the sea put there. But at the moment, quite frankly, I find that that building seems almost out of place.

In the parish of St. Peter, located on what we call or used to call "the Almshouse Gap", that is right down the road which joins Plantations Limited — the St. Peter Almshouse, when it was a poor people's house, was located on a property there, which is also about two or three acres. It is right on the sea, on a nice beach, it is beautifully located, and all that is there now is a small hut which houses, I believe, some division of the Ministry of Health. A property like that could be better used than it is now used.

2.10 p.m.

Sir, the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation owns some 3 000 hectares of land. Some of it, obviously, is arable land, and I am not advocating that their agricultural land should be taken out of agriculture, because I think that we are all consistent on the point that we need to look at our agricultural policy and we need to diversify into areas that are appropriate. I am not an agriculturalist, but I know that there have to be appropriate areas that we can diversify into. However, on the BADC estates there is a large quantity of what is known as rab land, which again could be made available either to the National Housing Corporation or to private enterprise, or whatever, to be used in the development of housing and other areas, probably commercial enterprises, where it is possible.

The subject of small business enterprise in Barbados, Sir. Only recently I had an opportunity to really begin to think of small business in Barbados, and I was surprised, after doing an analysis of my own, not professional but an analysis nonetheless, that small business employed so many people. It looks to me as though small business employs in the vicinity of 6 000 people, and I believe that if support and encouragement could be given to this sector of our commercial life, that 6 000 could be moved up to 10 000 or more, but I must emphasise that the proper conditions must prevail for small business to be successful.

I feel that Government should look very seriously at setting up what I would describe as a national advisory body on small business, and that this body examines the physical, sociological attitudes surrounding small business. It must determine who they are, that is, who comprise small business, how these people function, what are the main social and political influences on their existence, how economically viable are they, what is their future. Then, most importantly, that the advisory body advises Government on how best they can assist in solving the problems which small businesses now face. We must be able to determine how best we can remove the obstacles which confront small businesses.

I did it for my own benefit, but I do not think that I would be boring if I explained what I did to my fellow Senators who I perceive as small business people. I divided them into two categories, one I called Cottage Industry and the Self-employed, the others I merely called Other.

Under Cottage Industry and the Self-employed I came up with peasant farmers, basket weavers, shell work workers, wood carving workers — I believe Senator Miller would obviously have an interest and knowledge of such persons — then I came up with carpenters, masons, joiners, motor mechanics, tailors, dressmakers, sign painters, potters, entertainers. Obviously I would have omitted some, but those are the ones I came up with.

Under Other, which now would be those businesses that would be employment generators, I came up with furniture manufacturers — and furniture manufacturers here would be as opposed to joiners or just wood working shops — grocery shops, bakeries, hair dressing parlours, boutiques, video shops, record shops, transportation services including minibuses, taxis, lorries, pickups, etc., beach bars, nightclubs, restaurants, canteens, marine rentals and the varied farming that is, vegetable, dairy, pig, poultry, etc.

That group of persons, Sir, really needs some assistance. The problems that confront these people are mainly of a funding nature, and the other weakness they suffer from is the lack of technical advice. The other large problem that I find that they have, from talking to them, is that the professional services are rather expensive. I wonder if probably BIMAP could receive a higher grant from Government, if BIMAP could not have within its operation persons who would give, if not free, very cheap advice to small business people.

They also suffer from problems of marketing, both on the domestic front and in CARICOM, worst of all, extra-regionally. I believe that extra-regionally there will be no success unless a very positive and aggressive plan is looked at in the marketing process. I believe that in North America it may be possible to procure large warehousing facilities to which we could move our finished product. You would have a marketing arm set up in North America and the warehouse. The same way we travel from here to Miami and go to a warehouse that sells building material and select what we need, if these small business people were able to have a warehouse in Miami, North Americans would go to these warehouses, I presume, and other persons, and buy goods from the warehouse, rather than continue on the direct marketing basis which, in my view, has been a failure, particularly in furniture. I believe that serious consideration should be given to those points.

The Export Promotion Corporation has, in political terms, been getting what we call a lot of lashes in recent

times, and speaking with persons who work with that corporation, they express some hurt sometimes at the sort of criticisms that may be levelled at their operation. In many instances, they claim that they do not have the products to export. Very often the products do not meet the requirements of the extra-regional markets, very often the products are not ready for shipping when they should be ready, and sometimes they receive orders that are too large for our manufacturers here. So it appears to me as though there is a complex situation centered around the export trade and our manufacturing trade, and some effort should be made to resolve these problems in the fastest possible time, since, as I said before, I realise that this area of our economy can improve our employment possibilities substantially.

2.20 p.m.

I know, Sir, that the Ministry of Tourism has been doing its best to improve the tourist sector by improving, first, the number of visitor arrivals. They have also been trying to encourage hotel owners to improve their plant. Indeed, Sir, it is within my knowledge that the Tourist Board is now looking into new markets out of North America rather than the regular New York and Baltimore areas to which we are accustomed, and they are looking to get into areas in Atlanta, San Francisco and Los Angeles. American Airlines has indicated to Government that they want to use Puerto Rico as a hub, and if this succeeds, I am sure that we would be getting an increase of tourists in the summer.

As recently as March 5, when the Barbados Turf Club ran off their Gold Cup race, which is an international event now, the Ministry of Tourism was able to bring three Canadian journalists here. They, of course, brought their cameramen and what not and produced a documentary of Barbados which they did, not free of cost, but at a very reasonable price, and for this Barbados will be getting quite a bit of mileage in Canada from the exercise carried out by the Barbados Ministry of Tourism through its Tourist Board.

For that Gold Cup race there was also Mr. Cecil Poole, who is a renowned English sports writer, and obviously when you have a man like Mr. Poole here covering a race of that quality, Barbados gets a substantial highlight in the English papers. All this goes far towards the building of our tourism.

It was indeed a very good move by the Government when they sort of married tourism and sports. Those of us who follow sport will recall that during 1987 there were about at least 100 sports teams coming into Barbados to take part in various sports at varying times. Obviously, with them would have come their family and friends to see them participate, and all that goes a long way into assisting our tourism development. The effort in that area will be continued during 1988, I hope successfully.

The document which Senator Miller refers to, a very beautiful document, sets out for all of us events from the end of March on which will be relevant. When this document reaches our various tourist offices in North America and elsewhere, we should have the benefit of this publication.

The Government has continued to develop sporting facilities throughout Barbados. I make reference to areas such as Valerie, Silver Hill and Oxnards. At Bayville they have put in some lighting and upgraded the facility there substantially. At Haynesville they have upgraded the facility. There is also one at Emmerton in the city, and at Ellerton and Shorey Village, St. Andrew they are looking at improving the facilities.

The Government continues to look at the development of sport in a positive way. Not long ago this Senate approved the borrowing of a large sum of money from the Chinese to establish a sporting facility at Wildey which will take care of indoor games. I saw a picture of it and it is a very beautiful complex, and when that is ready, it should encourage and bring visitors to our country.

However, Sir, during the last six months there have been some very disturbing features in the field of sport. I know we have a National Sports Council, but I am not sure if we have any disciplinary body to look at problems as they arise in the field of sport from time to time. Certainly bodies carrying the prefix "Barbados" before them should behave in such a manner as not to cause people to look at them in any derogatory manner, and there have been some things that have happened during the last six months that have been cause for concern.

Some of us in here will recall that the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association had reason, I do not know if justifiable, to suspend a player, and because of that we had three officers of the Lawn Tennis Association resigning their posts. In the Barbados Turf Club a group calling themselves the Friends of Barbados almost organised a coup to overthrow the legitimately elected Board of Management of the Turf Club — and here I must declare an interest, Sir — to the point where that body calling themselves the Friends of Barbados had actually set up what they called a steering committee of five, although the club is managed by a committee of 15. So that, too, was one of the problems.

In quite recent times, Sir, I read in the news that because of some difference which existed between the heads of secondary schools and the Physical Education instructors, there is the possibility that we will have no inter-school sports this year. I consider this a serious matter, and I do not see how the Ministry of Education can sit by and allow this to occur.

Inter-school sports are something that has been going on from the time I was a boy, and that is a long time ago, and it has expanded its wings and now engulf all the schools in the island that are secondary schools. It would be a retrograde step for us to allow a group of persons which really and truly is a minority to determine the fate of the large number of school children out there.

Another peculiar happening in recent times is that all hell seems to have broken loose in the Barbados Netball Association. They have not yet been able to get their season started because of this internal problem which exists in that body.

Recently, too, Sir, we had a problem with the golfers. Three amateur golfers, knowingly or unknowingly, accepted monies from a few kind-hearted business houses in order that they could participate in a tournament in Trinidad and Tobago, only to discover that they were axed by the Committee of Management of the Golf Association. The players have remained adamant that the stance which they have taken was taken unknowingly, but they refuse to return the monies although asked to do so by the Committee of Management. But the real point I am getting at, Sir, is that we should have some body to determine what are the solutions when these issues arise.

Most of all, Sir, I would like to give my impression as to how I see the development of our national game, cricket. It would appear to me that if we remain on the same path as we are now, in 1989 Barbados would not have one single cricketer on the West Indies team. If that occurred, I believe that it would be the first time that would ever have occurred in the history of the game in the West Indies. We have to take stock as to what is going on with our national game of cricket. In spite of our interest in a large number of other sports, I do not think it would be prudent for us to stand by and see our national game going into decay.
2.30 p.m.

I believe that we will have to take a very close look at what is happening, probably from primary school level. Again, we may have to examine carefully what is happening to cricket. We may have to increase our coaches and improve our facilities, or whatever is necessary, because I think it would be very disappointing to the people of Barbados if we came to a time when the West Indies team was selected and there was no Barbadian cricketer on the team.

Barbados is the leader in this field of entertainment. Barbados is known as the leader in sports, particularly cricket, but here it is, things are looking very shady for us. Although it would be too late for 1989, I would think that by 1992, or thereabouts, we should be back in the limelight if positive measures are taken regarding our coaching, or whatever it takes, to rebuild the game of

cricket. I know that Senator Jones has a very active interest in cricket, and I believe that he, too, will make some comments on this when he stands to speak.

There are a few other areas that I consider that we, the Government, should look at during the year 1988, and one is the area of mining. I declare an interest again, Sir, but in the area of mining, I notice that two or three of the quarries on the island have scales whereby the aggregate could be weighed before it is delivered to the consumer. It is on the weight of the aggregate that the tax is paid to the Treasury. However, Sir, at the two sand mining operations that I know, there are no scales provided, and I say without any contradiction that many persons get far in excess of the sand they pay for. Each time this occurs Government stands to lose revenue, and I feel that the same way we put Customs inspectors at the various rum operations, it may be necessary to put inspectors at our mines, because here may be an area where a substantial amount of revenue may be going down the drain.

Government, Sir, has to pay some attention to narrowing the deficit as provided in the Estimates. However, I think they should approach this area with some caution. I believe that if we reviewed, or revamped the Corporation Tax, we could get some increase in revenue from that, because, quite frankly, as mentioned in this Chamber by Senator Tull and Senator Miller on other occasions, the effect of granting the Corporation Tax to companies has not had the effect on employment that Government anticipated.

What has happened is that we have been seeing companies paying to their shareholders higher dividends. The relief was not meant for shareholders to get higher dividends. The relief was meant for persons engaged in business enterprises, with the additional revenue, to look at expanding their operations to improve the employment effort. This has not been done, and I feel that this is one area where Government would have to have a look.

Alternately, I feel that the concession was so good in 1986 that it would not be asking too much to increase the overall levies, which now stand at 18 per cent to 20 per cent. It means that employees would have to pay an additional .25 per cent while businesses would pay 1.75 per cent, so do not think that I am advocating any measure that would take away the benefit of the tax relief which the Government gave in 1986. But I am submitting that businesses had a relaxation and that if they are asked to pay an additional 1.75 per cent or 2 per cent more, they should not squeal, because, really and truly they had it good. I would only ask employees to pay an additional .25 per cent, which is a very, very marginal increase.

The Government has in its Division of Finance a number of very capable persons. Any suggestions I may make are strictly from a layman's point of view. I am sure

that the experts would be able to determine what would be the best methodology that Government would have at its disposal to decrease the deficit without causing any pain to the people of this country.

In Government's efforts to improve employment, I submit Sir, that Government could have a very close look at Government's properties such as the Public Buildings, buildings wherever they may be. You will observe that a number of them are looking somewhat run-down. I feel that a massive facelift programme, mostly entailing painting and work for which you do not need a log of professional people, could easily employ 200 or 300 persons. It may not be for a long time, it may be called a crash programme by some persons, but it would be a way of improving, at any rate, the quality of Government buildings.

I make this observation, Sir, because I was in St. Vincent fairly recently and I was impressed by the look of Government buildings. For a small country, it was a pleasure. Every building where you saw the name "Government of St. Vincent" showed quality. At least, the paint was fresh, the doors looked in good order and the grounds were well kept. It was after seeing that that I formed the opinion that the Government of Barbados could look at a development of this nature to assist in our relief of unemployment.
2.40 p.m.

I know that the Government is looking at a new Road Traffic Regulations Act. I do not know what is contained therein. But as a citizen of this country, I have made some observations which I feel concern not only me, but a number of other persons who use the road on a day-to-day basis, particularly those of us who come from the country and travel to town.

During the crop season, most of the carts carrying canes to the sugar factories are laden in a disorderly manner, with the canes protruding two or three feet from the vehicle on to the highway, virtually making it impossible to pass in some areas, particularly where the road may be a little narrow.

Another thing that concerns me, Sir, is wheel-drawn tractors, that is, the rubber wheel ones drawing two or three trailers. As a layman, I would think that it is quite safe to say that the rear end of that last trailer is about 40 feet at least from the driver of the tractor. I know that it is very difficult to handle that, I have a truck licence and I have driven trucks. A truck carries a 18-foot long platform in most instances, and it is not very easy to determine what happens at the end of 18 feet. When it comes to 40 feet, it is an impossible task, and as far as I am concerned, it is merely a wild guess by the driver. He has no control of that last tractor, and I feel that Government should look very

seriously at legislating against the drawing of more than one trailer by a wheel tractor.

Another thing that comes to mind is the movement on the road of what we call front-end loaders, that is, those pieces of equipment that load trucks with aggregate. Those of you who drive, even walk, would observe that when this equipment travels on the road they go at fast speeds, and they always have the bucket end tilted up with those dangerous looking beaks or whatever. I feel, Sir, that either those buckets should be taken off and put on a separate conveyor or at least the bucket could be turned over, rather than showing those pointed ends.

From time to time, Sir, in the news — it was not highlighted a lot these last days, but I know that coming towards the end of 1987, very regularly, probably weekly — you see that a motor vehicle had dumped its goods in the road, whether it be feed, lumber or cement. I feel that it should be mandatory to have all cargo on motor vehicles bound to the platform. If anything happened at all, the whole vehicle would have to overturn. But, quite frankly, pedestrians particularly, but motorists, too, are at a great disadvantage with a vehicle passing with that sort of cargo which is not properly bound to the platform.

I used to observe that when there was any movement of heavy equipment, like the D9 tractors and the heavy road rollers that go on those large trailer trucks owned by the MTW and the large construction firms, road construction firms, it was moved in the early morning hours, and a Land Rover or some other vehicle would drive some yards ahead with a red light flashing, stopping oncoming vehicles and notifying drivers that there was an oncoming equipment-laden vehicle and that they should be cautious. Nowadays, Sir, it is common to see them any time of the day.

Nothing may have happened during the last few months. But the examples which I have brought are examples which I feel the Police Department, if it has the authority now, or MTW, or the Government, should bring the necessary legislation, if needed, to control this sort of danger to the general public. I understand from my sister Senator here that there is a law relating to the carriage of packages on trucks. Nonetheless, I feel that the police should look after that.

I live in St. Lucy, and there is an observation which I have made in St. Lucy, but I have seen it in other parts of the country as well, and it relates to open wells on private land. I am not now blaming the Government for this, but on many private lands there are wells in excess of 100 feet deep. About 200 yards from my house there is a well that is entirely covered by grass. There is no demarcation whatsoever to show that such a well exists. In that area of the country many children and adults come on bank

holidays picnicking, and they run frolicking all over the place not knowing that there is such danger around.

I feel, Sir, that wells, whether they be on private or Government land, should have some clear demarcation. In other words, around the well mouth should be built up to about six feet or so, so that a person passing would not have any problem in accepting and knowing that it is a well. If you put up a six-foot border, you would be protected from falling into the well.

Those, Sir, are some of my observations which I thought I would bring to the attention of this Chamber, hoping, Sir, that Government would use its good offices to correct.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, my initial observation is that I have some unease in accepting the *bona fides* of the Estimates before us. I say so in the context that the provisions which have been made in the Estimates do not reflect the history of the past year, either in the way of sums voted in last year's Estimates or taking into account the supplementaries which were voted by Parliament during the past year, and I am going to give two examples of this, Mr. Deputy President.

Under the head for the Ministry of Health, Head 36, Drug Service, a provision of \$8.56 million was made in 1987. A similar provision is made this year. However, Mr. Deputy President, at Appendix C, page 25 of the Estimates, a supplementary was passed on January 19 for nearly \$4 million, for the running of that department. That is not reflected in 1988-89.

In relation to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Mr. Deputy President, in 1987-88, \$6 million was voted for supplies and materials, and the note there says, "Provides for the feeding of nurses, staff and patients....." The provision for 1988-89 is \$5 million. Anyone with the experience, Mr. Deputy President, of going to the supermarket will know that things get more expensive, not less, in the course of the year, and yet there is an under-provision by \$1 million.

2.50 p.m.

Last time we met, Sir, we embarked on a Resolution dealing with the non-debate of supplementaries in this Honourable Chamber. And it occurred to me then, and I say so now, that there may come a day when Government may just put in \$10, a dollar for each Head of Estimates, pass it in the Other Place and then come back after the start of the financial year with supplementaries of the whole amount that they want to spend without giving the Senate any chance of debating the provision of services for the country. I say so, Sir, by the way of introduction.

In the Financial Economic Review of the Central Bank for December, reference was made that the fiscal deficit in 1987 December was lower than that recorded in a similar period for 1986. But it goes on to make the point that the deficit was financed mainly by profits from foreign loans and Government was able to reduce its indebtedness to the domestic banking system. At the end of September 1987, foreign borrowing by the Government had increased the foreign debt by 24.3 per cent above the December 1986 level, and foreign debt service repayments were 22 per cent higher than for the first three quarters of 1986.

I agree with Senator Clarke that it is necessary to have a national debt. But a national debt is only useful for a country, Mr. Deputy President, so far as it is utilised in productive services. You do not go to the bank for an overdraft, or you should not, to meet your day-to-day recurrent expenditures. You do not do it to buy food. You do it to buy a house or to repair a house, or to meet some extraordinary expenditure. And if the foreign debt of Barbados has been increased for purposes of recurrent expenditures, we are in some difficulty.

I think, Mr. Deputy President, that given the situation as outlined by Senator Clarke in some respects, and also on examination of the Estimates, it is essential that Government should rationalise the services provided to, where possible, reduce expenditure. At the last sitting but one, in response to a question given nearly two years ago by Senator Shorey, it was indicated that the cost of providing education at the university for N1 Students was twice what it is at the Barbados Community College. Indeed, Mr. Deputy President, if you analyse the cost of providing education within the secondary school system, you would see that the cost per head in the schools known traditionally as the Sixth Form schools is also substantially less than it is at the Community College. At Harrison College it is nearly \$3 000 in these Estimates, Queens College, \$2 700; Lodge School, \$2 500; Combermere, \$3 100. And there is a need, Mr. Deputy President, for additional Sixth Form places.

I think that one way Government can move towards reducing its expenditure in the area of education, without necessarily reducing the quality of education, is to revert to the old practice of requiring persons for entry to the University of the West Indies to be A level entrants. The four year entry programme at Cave Hill for those who have O levels is an expensive encumbrance on this country, and it cannot afford it. Indeed, the non-campus territories are moving to having the first year done at home, and there is a recommendation of the Marshall Committee on Cave Hill that the Government move towards removing the O level entrant from the Cave Hill system. The average cost for a student at Cave Hill is \$8 000 per student, and I think that this cost can be reduced and the savings effected for the overall benefit.

We need to look at the improvement of the country's finances. The Government should probably place more emphasis than it has to date on the offshore business sector. This Government is yet to give the sort of stamp of approval to the offshore business sector promotion than it has given to the areas of industrial development and tourism. I think that it is important that at the earliest opportunity Government, with the private sector, should mount a mission to the areas of the United States and Europe where we have favourable tax treaties to promote, and advance interest in, Barbados as an offshore finance centre.

In this context, Mr. Deputy President, the financial community in Barbados has suffered some very serious body blows in the past year. Unlike any other sector it has lost five persons, or will have lost by the end of this year five persons, who have been much identified with the off-shore sector and whose reputations in industry were well respected from outside, whatever you may have thought of them. I refer to the former Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Steve Emtage, the late Prime Minister, whose knowledge of finances was renowned, the late, lamented former Prime Minister Errol Barrow, and according to the news on the weekend, Sir, the General Manager of the Central Bank, Mr. Griffith.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I said four — Mr. Steve Emtage, Courtney Blackman.....

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Well, it is my five. It is my list not your list.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right, let us hear the Senator.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: They are Courtney Blackman, Steve Emtage, Errol Barrow, Teddy Griffith, and Richie Haynes. People respected them. Whether they liked them or not, people respected what they were saying. We have a new team in place, unknown, with great respect to my friend. Some of mine are dead, others have gone to other pastures — contracts not renewed. I am not going down that road and spend time on that one.

There is room to promote the offshore sector. We have a piece of legislation covering international business companies which has been around for close to some 20 years. Companies pay a maximum of 2½ per cent tax. I believe it makes some sort of contribution to the revenue, but it is my experience from dealing with these companies that they can structure their affairs in such a way that at

the end of the day you may get very little in terms of real return to the country.
3.00 p.m.

The other thing about IBCs, Mr. Deputy President, is that you have to operate for a whole year before you get a certificate from the commissioner that you have been an IBC, and this is a shortcoming.

The Central Bank Report for 1986 said that there were 150 active IBCs — I think the number went up in 1987 — and there are about 200 or 300 inactive ones; shelf companies we call them. It seems to me that there is an avenue for finance by Government in amending the legislation to give a licence up front to an IBC for what they now pay for the exemption, about \$5 000 a year, and those shelf companies \$1 000 a year, and when they become active trading companies, they then pay the full fee. At the present time I do not think we are getting what we can get out of these IBCs.

I am also told that there was a draft Act prepared to do what I just said in terms of international business companies. Senator Clarke, you may enquire around which desk it is floating, because I understand that this Bill was drafted and is in substantial form, but there was a little territorial row between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce as to whose baby it was. I think we should stop the internal difficulty and bring it forward so that it can be used more effectively for the good of Barbados.

Mr. Deputy President, I now look at one of my hobby horses, Parliament. Over the past year I have had need to do some research on matters from time to time for debates. I must say that I found great assistance from the facilities at Cave Hill, either the law library or the main library. I am still to find the library in Parliament. I have never been able to find anything I want in here. It may be that it exists, but with great respect, there seems to be no will to put that into effect, appoint a librarian and provide facilities where parliamentarians can go and seek what they need.

I note, Sir, that under the provision for Parliament in the Other Place, our elected colleagues are being provided with constituency assistants.

(Aside: They have them already.)

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Well, they are paying them more money. As Senators, I consider that we are the 28th constituency, but we do not need constituency allowances, we need research assistants. We need money provided here so that staff can be engaged and, perhaps, Senator Ward, Senator Shorey, Senator Jones and I can share an assistant to do some work for us if we want to make a contribution. We can share, we do not expect each

Senator to have a research assistant, because he may be under-utilised, but I think there should be provision here, whether it be for individual Senators or persons engaged in Parliament, to do some research for Senators so that, frankly, Mr. Deputy President, they could make more intelligent and reasoned contributions.

Frequently, it is a matter of doing it off your own bat, your own sort of resources, and sometimes if we could have someone to channel information to us, we could improve the quality of general debate in public life. You have to start somewhere, Mr. Deputy President. Get a librarian first, fix a library up so that we could at least sit down and find books in there, and then move on.

We will have been here next year for 350 years. What are we going to leave as a memento for 350 years? Are we going to come and find the same thing in 1989 and have to repeat what we said in 1987 and 1988?

Mr. Deputy President, I now look at the Prime Minister's Office and the Defence Force. The Estimates provide \$17.8 million on Current Account and \$2.2 million for Capital Account. There is an increase of \$917 000, page 9 of the Estimates, in the provision for the Defence Force in the Recurrent Account, and a similar sort of increase in the Capital Account.

I think in some respects that the resources of the Defence Force are under-utilised, and there are two things I wish to throw out in relation to the Defence Force. One is in relation to a Capital Expenditure item. I think that the Defence Force, and Barbados for that matter, could usefully benefit from having some sort of helicopter ambulance service, and it could be equally useful in search and rescue missions for missing fishing boats. Because I have a nightmare, Mr. Deputy President, of an accident occurring at the Grantley Adams Airport. How do you move people from the airport to the hospital with the roads that we have and the congestion after that occurs?

(*Aside: Senator B. A. MILLER: You will have the Tom Adams Highway.*)

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I still think that, notwithstanding the Tom Adams Highway, or whatever you want to call it, and the predilection of Barbadians to block highways when emergencies occur, you need some means of bypassing highways to move people who are injured to hospital quickly.

The other thing, Mr. Deputy President, concerns the reference to unemployment and the voluntary idle, the involuntary idle and all the rest of it. I believe that, some years ago, there was a hot political potato as to the idea of putting young people under training by the Defence Force. I have to say I see nothing wrong with that. We have too many people who really need to acquire some skills, and

they need some discipline, and every person between 16 and 25 should be required to spend at least six months not with the use of firearms, but acquiring training and skills.

At the depot in St. Lucy, I am advised that there is space and facilities to learn them

(*Aside: Senator N. W. BOXILL: Teach them.*)

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: . . . to teach them, expose them to training in agriculture, masonry, plumbing, and in all the ancillary skills that Senator Phillips was referring to earlier that are in short supply in the construction industry. At the end of the day, Mr. Deputy President, when they leave the training service, some of the money that they would have more or less kept back, as happens when people serve in the British Army, you give them as a start up for their own small business enterprise.
3.10 p.m.

You need to get the young people off the street corners, and I do not care which school they went to. I think that of all Senators, with the exception of Senator Comissiong, who is still to reach the age of discretion, I have three children who would fall within the ambit of this, and I do not exclude them from serving in the national training service.

Mr. Deputy President, I turn to the Ministry of Finance. We have a department under that head, the Central Purchasing Unit, which has an obligation to make purchases on behalf of Government departments. I looked at the note, and it is required to make its provisions in accordance with the Finance Rules, 1971. The point I wish to make in relation to the Central Purchasing Unit is that I am reliably informed that that department, notwithstanding the need to conserve foreign exchange, has purchased goods for use in Government departments from extra-regional sources, from a CARICOM source, in preference to a Barbadian supplier who was providing the identical product. It is all very well to ask the private sector to buy locally, but we expect an example to be set by a Government department. Central Purchasing is found at page 42. I am asking the Minister for the Civil Service and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance to look into this and see where this can be put right, because it makes no sense to have money going out for goods which are available and manufactured locally.

Sir, I next turn to the Land Tax Department. By way of observation, there is a little difficulty in an interpretation placed by the Valuation Department on a valuation of lands and buildings in relation to companies that have substantial investment in machinery. They add the value of the machinery to the land to arrive at a taxable value, and I think this has come as a disincentive to investors. I think it is one of the reasons that at the end of the day caused some problems with INTEL which had a substantial revaluation because of its substantial investment in plant. I

know it is a burden to the sugar industry that the value of equipment at the several factories, even though the factories might have stopped operations, is added to the value of the land, and it is historical that sometimes agricultural machinery is moved from factory to factory because it is capable of that sort of movement.

I should like also to suggest that the Ministry of Finance consider some form of amendment to the Transfer Tax Act. There is a provision in that Act which says that a lease is subject to Transfer Tax. You can have a nonsense, Mr. Deputy President, that a lease is valued by the Commissioner of Valuation for a sum greater than the freehold, and as a result, most of the legal persons in Bridgetown have resorted to a stratagem whereby no Stamp Duty is paid on a lease and no Transfer Tax is paid on the lease. I have no difficulty in admitting to that, because we can find ways, driving round the roundabout, to avoid these fiscal impositions. One day we will hit the road block if a dispute develops with our clients, and then when we have to go to courts, documents will have to be produced and the relevant duty paid.

When the Transfer Tax was introduced in 1969, it was to deal essentially with sales of land, buying and selling. The thing to catch the lease came in 1976, and I remember it very well, because I had a case before the court in 1975, when Mr. St. John appeared on behalf of the client with me, and we argued successfully before the Chief Justice that leases were not caught. Then, in the typical fashion of all legal persons, when Mr. St. John became a Minister he amended the Act to make sure that leases were caught. But he did not deal with it in a way that ensured equity, and I would like to suggest that the Act be amended to provide that leases for periods of up to ten years be not caught. If you are looking for a 99-year lease, which was what some people were trying to do to avoid transfer tax on sale, that should be properly dealt with. But in the process, you are losing Stamp Duty in revenue.

I also think there is need for that Act to deal with a clarification as to the incidence of tax payable on transfer of property between parties in a divorce suit. It is a frequent hardship that at a time of a matrimonial settlement, the order or the agreement may be to transfer the property from one spouse to the other spouse where it is jointly owned, and because of the arrangements made, it is not the so-called market value, it is a figure that is arrived at by negotiations. The Registrar seeks to cover Transfer Tax as if it was a property being sold, and I think it is something that the law needs to look at.

Mr. Deputy President, when we receive money from persons, we give them a receipt and we put a 10 cents stamp on it if it is over \$20. However, those people who are engaged in supermarket enterprises or other pursuits give you a piece of paper from the cash register and put the money in the till and smile and leave it at that. In Trinidad,

— I was in Trinidad recently, Mr. Deputy President — any piece of paper from that cash register you put a stamp on for anything over \$20, and I really do not think there is any reason why Senator Eastmond or Senator Phillips or Senator Goddard, who do not put stamps on their receipts, should be allowed to get away with it, when you and I have to do it all the time when we pay our bills and when we get back receipts. Senator Eastmond is agreeing that this would be a fair tax to be added.

3.20 p.m.

I turn next, Sir, to the Ministry of Legal Affairs. I saw in this morning's paper that they have started to repair the Supreme Court, and I am reassured by the Attorney-General. In addition, Sir, I hope that when they do that that they will provide adequate modern equipment for the courts.

A month ago, in the *Trinidad Express*, someone writing on the Trinidad Courts, and it could be equally applicable to Barbados, said:—

"What is needed is the immediate reform and the immediate introduction of available scientific mechanical aides to assist the clerks, the Registrars, and judges in their daily work.

"No amount of words, Committee Reports, Commissions of Inquiries will replace the palantypist, tape recorders, word processors and computers. We either provide every judge with a palantypist and tape recorder, computerise the files in the Registries, train our Judicial Officers in the use of word processors or we watch the system degenerate into slow-motion anarchy.

"We either have drastic revision of the working hours and a commensurate revision in fees or we watch cases clog up the system and bring it to a halt.

"We either reform our antiquated law of evidence and method of taking down notes of evidence, our legal love affair with the prolixity of legal documents and our hysterical documentation before a case is heard, or we continue to see the system drown in paper work."

What is said of Trinidad and Tobago is as relevant to Barbados, and on that point I say that successive Governments have been tinkering with our judicial system, and since Independence, we have operated on what I can only refer to as a bastard Court of Appeal system.

Right now, Sir, they have sent a judge on leave in order to appoint an acting judge, in order to constitute a Court of Appeal. I have great respect for the learned Acting Judge. Nothing I say here must be seen as derogating from his integrity and his ability. But it is passing

strange when, to constitute a Court of Appeal, you have to make an acting appointment for someone, whose substantive role was not even that of a judge, to constitute a Court of Appeal. I am sure he is going to give the right decision and not concur in what is written by his senior brothers in order to win favourable consideration when a permanent appointment comes up, but it is wrong to have a system like that operating in the courts.

We have had a Supreme Court Act providing for a separate Court of Appeal in Barbados since 1981, and seven years later we still have a situation where judges sit on the thrall from each other. People tend to ignore it and say it does not matter to them, but one day it is going to create a crisis in this community when people are going to start to question what sort of judgement they are getting when the judges, and sometimes regard it as a "stratch-me-back" court.

I have raised in this Honourable Chamber before, and it is something that I think needs to be looked at, or it is going to reach the stage where it is going to call our whole judiciary system into question. We have been fortunate over the years of having judges of ability and integrity, and that is what they are, but the system, in terms of how it is structured, is open to all sorts of considerations which are not going to reflect to the credit of the judiciary.

Sir, I turn to Legal Affairs and the Police. At page 83, Mr. Deputy President — and this, in part, goes back to where I said I had some questions with the basic underlying integrity of the Estimates, at Head 30, Subhead 12 — Operating Expenses — Plant, Equipment and Expenditure — there is a blank. Last year \$175 000 was provided. This year, zilch! I find it strange that you can have a Police Force and do not provide for it to have any new plant, equipment or furniture, but that is what is shown here for 1988—89.

In the report of the Commissioner of Police of 1986, he says at paragraph 215, page 38:

"Many of the matters raised by me in my general comments for 1985 pertaining to the need for equipment and other resources necessary for efficient management still obtain today, and the physical conditions of our stations across the country are continuing to seriously affect the morale of personnel. There is great dissatisfaction among members of the Force with these conditions, and I must once again urge that prompt action be taken to remedy this most undesirable situation.

"It is also necessary for me to highlight the need for us to be equipped with available modern technology for greater efficiency in dealing with the large volumes of information now circulating through the Force. The introduction of computers into the Force must now be seen as an absolute priority.

"Our Crime Intelligence Unit is at an enormous disadvantage in its efforts to collate, analyse and disseminate criminal information manually, and the Drug Squad is seriously handicapped when attempting to retrieve vital information quickly."

I think that a word processor computer package would cost them less than \$10 000.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I do not know what they are asking for, but give them a desk top computer. At least, they would start somewhere.

Mr. Deputy President, you would know that if you go to town with the children at Christmas, they want everything they see and you buy what you can afford. What they ask for and what you give them are two different things, so I know how to turn a deaf ear to unreasonable requests. I know what you can give them. You can give them a desk top computer, \$10 000, with a printer. At least, that would help them store some of the very information they want to retain.

Senator Miller made reference to the drug scene in Barbados. I do not think that we can gloss over the gravity of the drug scene in Barbados. I think the drug scene in Barbados is reaching proportions of tremendous crisis.

There was an interview in yesterday's paper with a youngster, 15 years old, who gets money for being a watchman. I heard recently that there is an area downtown where a lot of trafficking takes place on Sunday mornings and that the cars move through fast, and if you happen to make a wrong turn, as happened to a friend of mine, they get you out of the area very quickly, because you are holding up traffic and the trade. He told this to the Police.

But the law in Barbados relating to drugs is such that the real big people, as they say, are not caught, because the law relates to possession. You have to have it in your briefcase, in your pocket, somewhere on your person or in your house for the police to nail you. I understand the DPP does not like anything in law about conspiracy. He throws them out.

Yesterday's "Sun" carried a story on the United States, where they resort to wire-tapping. It is coincidental, because I had prepared my notes on this in advance of the story appearing in yesterday's paper. In England, the law provides that tapping may be done where there are grounds for suspecting that the tapping of the particular telephone will be material assistance in detecting or preventing crime, or discovering the criminals, or otherwise assisting in the discharge of the function of the police in relation to crime; that no use is made of material obtained

except for those purposes, and any knowledge of information which is not relevant to those purposes is confined to the minimum number of persons reasonably required to carry out the process of telephone tapping.
3.30 p.m.

If we have tapping in Barbados, we must have safeguards, as there are in other places. I think that the law should be amended to provide that the authority, the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney-General, should be sought before a police tapping order can be made.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: If what the aside I hear coming from my left from Senator Tull has any bearing that tapping does happen, it is not being done with any sanction, so no judge is going to listen to it. But, clearly, if we want to go after the big drug boys, we must put the law in a position to catch them, by whatever means. Because let us face it, Mr. Deputy President, the drug situation is a war — it is like going to war against Iran and Iraq — and no holds are barred in a war.

Mr. Deputy President, the legislative wheel is not a new one, it has been there before. If the will is there, the model to the legislation is there and the safeguards can be put in place. But do not let us get so hyper to believe that we are immuned from this that we do not have to give the police the authority and the machinery to go after drugs and the drug barons of this country in a meaningful way. The drug barons have taken over Columbia, the way they shoot Attorneys-General and Judges with impunity, they are reaching the point where they are now becoming a law unto themselves.

Whatever the statutes available in other jurisdictions that can be looked at is what is necessary. There is a drug trafficking Bill which may come to Parliament during the course of the year, which I have seen as a member of the Bar Association, which also is recommending that the necessary legislation be enacted to give teeth to the police to go in and trace money in bank accounts because you need resources so that the Force becomes sophisticated to deal, I will use a favourite phrase, white collar crime. Unless the machinery is there, nothing can be done, Mr. Deputy President.

Sir, I turn to Head 32, Fire Service. As recently as last night there was another house fire.

Earlier this year I was fascinated to come across a series of articles in the English Press on the incidence of fires and the speed with which those fires travel, and the Fire Chiefs identified the use of foam in the modern furniture as one of the things that contributed to the

spread of fires. I was speaking to a retired fire officer who told me that they have been concerned that whereas under the old dispensation, as it were, they knew that they could get to a property in sufficient time to save it, they are now surprised how quickly the fire is rushing through it, and that, usually, when the fire takes place at night and children are home, they die from suffocation. This may well be because of the same problem identified in the United Kingdom, foam being used in the furniture.

They have now enacted laws in the United Kingdom banning the use of that sort of foam in furniture. We are always light years behind the metropolitan countries, but I throw this out here today, Sir, so that the Barbados National Standards Institution and other relevant agencies can look to see what is being used in the furniture in Barbados. If it is the foam that encourages the fire to spread, then we must make provision that other materials be used to retard the spread of fires and reduce this tragedy that occurs on a regular basis in our community.

Sir, I turn to Head 36, the Health Service. I understand from reading the newspaper that the St. Joseph's Hospital has been bought. There is no provision for running that institution in any respect. I do not know how the purchase was financed, but that certainly has not, as far as I know, been subject to Parliamentary Debate. But assuming, Mr. Deputy President, that it has been bought against a background of a reduction of the provision of expenditure for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, what would the cost be?

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, an acute hospital with 541 beds, cost the Government of this country about \$45 million to run, in salaries and other expenditure. I am told that the St. Joseph Hospital has around 100 acute beds. The nearest thing I came to it in terms of the Estimates, for something of that size, was on page 124, the Christ Church District Hospital. This is not on all fours, but it comes to about \$1½ million. Possibly the cost is going to be greater, because you are going to have a higher wage bill in terms of the professional staff.

I wish to suggest, Mr. Deputy President, that if the hospital has been acquired, the Government now pass the burden of running it to some people in the private sector, contracting it out. But do not add it to the red ink of the Government expenditure. The insurance companies have plenty money, Sir. They are in Blue Cross, they are in this, they are in that, they have money coming out of their ears. I suggest to the Minister that he goes and talk to one of them and say, come and lease this from us and

run it, we are guaranteed our rent. Do not get into the business of running the hospital, because the Government will be losing money until it will be coming out of its ears. We will be coming back for supplementaries year after year.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: If you are committed to it, you are committed to it. So I am not going back over that one.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I beg your pardon.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: No. No one talks to me.

Mr. Deputy President, when we came in here today, we were given the Accountant-General's Accounts and Statements for January, 1988, and that shows, at page 28 of that document, Head 79, that \$11 million was voted only this year for the purchase of buildings and lands by the Ministry of Housing, of which \$2.186 million was expended up to January 31. What has happened to the other \$9 million, Mr. Deputy President? Why have not the claims for compensation of land acquisition been met out of the vote of \$11 million? In 1988 - 1989, on page 140 - green page - you provide \$3 million against a background that you came and asked for \$11 million last year.
3.40 p.m.

I do not understand what Senator Miller means when she talks about "ins and outs", but this may be a good case of the "ins and outs", of which Senator Lewis might have some knowledge and can probably help when he is responding or debating this issue.

Again, Mr. Deputy President, at Head 42, Transport and Works, Appendix C, on February 3, \$13 million was voted to supplement the Transport Board by way of a subsidy. The provision in the Estimates for 1988-1989 is \$5½ million. Nothing has been said by the Minister as to what is the level of the subsidy this year, and against a provision that was made a short while ago, where, according to the note to the Resolution which was circulated, an additional \$13 million was required to supplement the Transport Board to be the unfinanced part of the deficit for the fiscal year, we need some information as to what is the true level of the subsidy. Or is it going to be supplemented later on by way of supplementaries?

Finally, Sir, I wish to look at Appendix A and the provision of money for the schools. With few exceptions,

in the provision for the schools under the Head, "Other Charges", there is a reduction in the amount provided for all the schools. I identified about two exceptions; Alleyne School got about \$10 000 more and Combermere got \$1 000 more. By and large, Sir, there were reductions, and I make the point, Sir, because I used to be chairman of a school board. I know that these reductions bite. Heads 1 and 2 are fixed, they deal with salaries. Head 3 deals with National Insurance contributions. Head 4 deals with Transport Levy.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have two minutes left, Senator Blackman.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I am obliged to you, Sir.

What is happening in the schools, Sir, is that under this other Head, "Other Charges", things, what some people regard as non-essentials - the library and equipment for sports - are cut, with the result, Sir, that the schools are not moving forward. I mean the cost of books goes up each year, but there is no provision, and at the end of the day they say to you we cannot buy any books. We look to PTAs to do these things. But the PTAs feel that they should help with things that are not part of the normal exercise, and surely the provision of books for our schools should be seen as part of Government's ongoing responsibility and should not be subject to these cuts.

I am indebted to you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. Deputy President. I would like, first of all, to take some matters on which I would like to speak relatively briefly, before I move on to the area to which I wish to give more attention. There is no way in which I can avoid referring to some of the matters that have been mentioned or touched on by Senators who have spoken before me, but I will try not to belabour them.

I will start with drug abuse and link that with one or two other things on a plane which, perhaps, has not been noticed before, at least not been mentioned.

Sir, I am perturbed by the kinds of words that I am hearing being used. For example, in the Other Place, not so long ago, an increase in the ministerial and parliamentary salaries was designated as a "technical adjustment". Today in here, a deficit, or what other people would call a deficit, of \$48 593 376 was termed a "gap". Specific reference was made to it and they said it is not being called a deficit, it is being called a "gap".

The Attorney-General and the Prime Minister said words to the effect that Barbados' problem with respect to drugs is not really as serious as people have been saying. I am wondering, Sir, whether these statements are just

fortuitously inopportune or whether they are intended to mislead. If I say they are intended to mislead, I am imputing ulterior motives, so I am forced to say that the persons who are using these terms are not sufficiently conscious of the meaning of the words which they are using. But I find this even more unfortunate, that persons in those positions should be either unknowing or, perhaps, more likely, careless about the use of words.

Sir, if in fact we do not have a very serious drug problem, perhaps one can look forward in the very near future to seeing replaced at the airport the sign that used to be there saying that Barbados does not have a serious drug problem. So I hope that in the light of the statements made by two of the country's most important people politically, shortly one will see this statement replaced.

When I had the honour of speaking in last year's debate, I touched on labour legislation, and I would like to touch on that again. I wish to repeat, the view that I held then, and which I still hold now — that in the legislation over the years, the pendulum has swung, I think, unreasonably strongly in favour, disproportionately so, of the employee. For that reason I argued then, as I wish to argue now, that there is need for a total re-examination of labour legislation which would seek to ensure that the rights of both employers and employees are adequately protected. I would like to emphasise that, Sir, because sometimes people extract phrases that suit them. I am arguing that there is need for a comprehensive review of labour legislation so that the rights of both employers and employees can be adequately protected.

3.50 p.m.

I am not alone in that point of view, and I will make reference, Sir, to an article by someone who I think was appointed by this Government, so presumably the person holds views consonant with the Government on this matter. I refer to an article by Mr. Harold Russell not so long ago in the *Nation*, in which he is saying: "It is conceivable that there will come a time . . ." and I can make this document one of the House if you wish, Sir, ". . . when workers will realise that in order to keep their company competitive and so preserve their jobs, they will have to agree to reduced salary benefits."

He spends a great deal of time talking about what amounts to the undue imposition of certain requirements. Then:

"During the past two years or so, we have moved towards preservation of the rights of workers to the extent that the tail may now be wagging the dog. The rights of the workers may be wagging the management of the work."

I could go on quoting, Sir, but perhaps that will suffice to make my point.

Aside.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: It is from the *Nation*. I do not have the date, but I can have that arranged.

I think, Sir, that the point is that we really need to make sure that the rights of both are protected.

Relating to that is the matter of wage restraint, I know that Dr. Blackman has come in for a lot of indictment on this. In this context, this is what I would call honourable mention rather than indictment, but over the years he has consistently argued the need for this.

What I find very interesting, Sir, is that one of the economists, in particular, who was at one time very vociferous in contradicting Dr. Blackman, appears, within very recent times on a very recent programme, to have moved, if I could use these words, perilously close to supporting wage restraint. In fact, I think he avoided doing so only by — and I am deliberately going to mix my metaphors — some adroit footwork in word play. That is the only way in which he managed to avoid agreeing with it. He was playing, I think, a sort of game that you might call, now you see me, now you don't.

Since Senator Blackman has made the points very strongly, I do not need to belabour them, but I would wish to record my support for his point of view and his disturbance, as I was disturbed — let us say surprised — that there is no provision, at least that I could find, in the Estimates for the purchase of the St. Joseph Hospital, nor for the maintenance of it. I do not understand how this matter could have been overlooked. I find it very surprising.

I want to refer to some of his comments about the Defence Force, but from a slightly different point of view. I seem to remember that this Government, when in Opposition, and maybe since it has come into power — not the present Prime Minister, to my knowledge, but certainly the policy of the Government as stated by other leaders of it — made remarks implying that the Defence Force would be reduced drastically in numbers, or discontinued. I have not heard anything recently from the present Government on the matter. I look at the Estimates and I do not understand what the provisions are saying. Is it to hold the fort, hold the strain, kind of provision?

Senator Blackman indicated that for effective work, there might, be additional provisions needed. What is the Government's policy on this matter? I think it would be most helpful to the citizens of the country if information of this sort could be provided.

The next short point I wish to touch on, Mr. Deputy President, is the matter of praedial larceny. I do not think there is anyone in the island, except those involved in it, who would fail to agree that it is a major problem. My understanding is that part of the difficulty is in getting convictions, that it is very difficult for the police, even if they have got some of the evidence, in the present requirement of evidence production, to secure convictions. I would like to enquire whether or not it is possible to amend the legislation so as to permit easier conviction of persons, because it seems to me that we cannot reasonably, on the one hand, say what I think we ought to say, and should continue to say, that we need to grow more, and at the same time fail to take the necessary steps at least to provide some measure of protection for the persons who are taking this recommendation about growing more food seriously. I do not think that it is a matter on which we can reasonably be ambivalent and justify any such ambivalence, and, therefore, it would seem to me that this is a matter to which it would be useful for Government to have its legal department give perhaps a little more urgent attention than it is receiving at the moment, because I am assuming that the matter is receiving legal attention.

My next short point, Sir, has to do with something to which Senator Miller alluded, and I think Senator Blackman as well, that very shortly we will be celebrating something that only three countries in the world can do at the moment, and only two better than ourselves, 350 years of continuous parliamentary history. I do not think that we should play down this: I do not think that we should be unaware of the tremendous importance it has in the history of what we would call democratic governments. However restrictive or restricted the rights and privileges of the persons who operated this in the distant past may be, I think is really irrelevant from this point of view. Either we are proud of the 350 years of democracy and we do something to show that pride, or we are not proud of it, in which case we say so.

I would be among that group who firmly believe it is a matter of which we should be tremendously proud, and I believe that we ought to take the necessary measures to demonstrate that. I would wish to have the assurance that Government is in fact working very actively on this. I would like to have something more than the assertion that Government is, and would like to have some awareness of the kind of thing that is being planned.

Finally, Sir, in terms of the short points I wish to touch on, let me also support Senator Blackman's urgings for facilities of a research kind for Senators if we are to make the kind of contribution of which I think we are capable, and certainly which we would wish to make.
4.00 p.m.

I move on now, Sir, to what I would consider to be my more substantive contribution to this debate, and I

am speaking broadly now in the area of education. I wish to start, first of all, with primary education.

I do not think that there is a single Barbadian who does not feel strongly about education, in the sense that he or she recognises how important it is in 1988 as it has been in the past. Successive Governments, and I think one can say this without any diffidence whatsoever, have made determined, persistent and continuous efforts to improve the quality of the education provided. But what is clear, Sir, is that no less than other countries, and much bigger ones at that, we are faced with some major problems in our educational system.

Let me say for the record, Sir, that I am not seeking to indict any individual, group of individuals, or Government, present or past. I am merely identifying incontrovertible problems in our educational system, and I want to go on record as offering some suggestions as to how I think some of these may be tackled.

Sir, one of the most obvious ones, and it is now mooted about by everyone, is that youngsters are leaving our primary schools who are essentially illiterate and innumerate. Their reading capabilities are so minimal that, to all intents and purposes, we have to say that they cannot read and they cannot write.

Let me adduce my evidence in support of that, Sir. In 1984, there was published by the Ministry of Education a study carried out by the present Principal of Erdiston College, who was then holding the post of, I think, Education Officer. It was a study of reading in all the primary schools in Barbados and, if I remember correctly, all the students. What the researcher found was that across-the-board, irrespective of age range, irrespective of class group, irrespective of parish, the variation was very small, of the order of 0.7 per cent across class groups, so it is negligible. Some 46 per cent of students found difficulty in reading and 26 per cent of students found serious difficulty in reading.

In 1987, Sir, there was a report at a secondary school at the graduation or speech day, whatever one wants to call it, ceremony, not so long ago, I am sure it is within the past month. On March 5, the head, in giving his report, referred to a study which had been carried out at his school, and since it was published in the Press, I presume I can mention it here, it was at the Grantley Adams School, where a set of reading tests, really word recognition tests, were given to students in the school. I have no reason to believe, nor did he imply, that his students were in any way peculiar, so I would be willing to extrapolate from the findings there that it would be probably the same across the system.

If you would permit me, Sir — again I do not know if it is necessary, but this document can be placed in evidence — this is the document entitled "Results of a

Survey which was carried out among First Form Students at the Grantley Adams Memorial School during the week of October 26 – 30, 1987." We are talking about less than a year. In his report, the principal indicated who the persons were who carried out the survey:

"With the help of Mrs. Kathleen Drayton of the School of Education and Miss Margaret Griffith of our own staff and Dr. Walters of St. James' Secondary School, we tried to look at reading problems in the school."

Sir, what he found was that some 53 per cent of the first formers there had scores of between 210 and 75 marks. This means that "more than half of them are performing between Class I and below at the primary school level in terms of recognition." And these are youngsters who have got admission to secondary school.

Sir, some of the words which these youngsters did not recognise were "upon, always, once, many, wish, its, some". You are talking about youngsters who are at least 11 who do not recognise the word "its". Anybody who is in doubt as to whether we have a serious problem needs only to look at that.

I will talk about contributory factors, and then I will seek to offer what I think are possible approaches. I do not think that teachers alone are at fault. I think that the parents, and I shall come on to that in another aspect of education, have a role to play which I do not think they are adequately playing; but, conversely, I do not think that the teaching profession as a group can absolve itself of responsibility for this problem. I think that would be equally unrealistic; otherwise we would be saying that the parents are not responsible, the teachers are not responsible, presumably the youngsters are not responsible, which clearly would not make any sense. So I am assuming that most of us will agree that some measure, and possibly one would say some considerable measure, of responsibility for this must lie on the teachers.

Before we are too rash and put it that way, let us recognise that these youngsters are educable, because if we take the view that they cannot be educated, then it means that we are forced to conclude that Barbados must have the highest proportion of ineducable people in the world; and I see no grounds whatsoever on which that would be a tenable conclusion. In fact, if you would permit me, Sir, I think I may be able to put my hands on a comment of the principal who made the very strong point that these pupils, despite their initial reading disabilities, are otherwise totally educable, but the school must be capable of providing the environment which will motivate them.

Sir, if we accept that what the principal is saying has a considerable measure of substance, we have a situation in which the youngsters cannot read. This is indisputable. We have, if we accept his contention, and I would certainly share that, to acknowledge that the youngsters can learn. So surely a reasonable deduction is that we need to examine why they have not been learning, why they have not been taught. It is to this that I now wish to address some attention.

I have for years argued, Mr. Deputy President, I am arguing today, and I think I shall continue to argue until I see controvertible evidence that would persuade me to argue otherwise, that part of the problem we are living with, part of the contributory problem, is the very structure of the system we are trying to operate, which has demonstrably created problems that we find difficult to cope with.

Sir, the prestige of many a secondary school, particularly a sixth form school – let me start from that end and I am sure to link up in a moment – depends in large measure on the performance of its students in the A level exam. I do not think anyone would seriously dispute that. In a very similar way, the prestige of a primary school tends to hinge on the performance of its students at the so-called 11 plus; the official name is the Secondary Schools Entrance Examination. And how well youngsters perform is in large measure related to the schools to which they gain admission, because again I do not think that very many people would seriously dispute that we have a hierarchy of schools in Barbados. Whether this should be so or whether we like it or not is really beside the point.

Aside.

4.10 p.m.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Senator Miller has pointed out that it is true all over the world. I am not denying that. I am only dealing with Barbados.

I have tried to spell this out repeatedly, there is pressure on the teachers in the schools to get the youngsters who are perceived as most likely to do well to do well. We have what we call streaming, and if you look at the school system – I was chairman of a commission that reported in 1974, and the same thing holds in 1988 – there is a tendency for the schools, because of this external pressure, to assign their best teachers not to the youngsters who need them most, but to the youngsters who are perceived as most likely to do well.

Since I think I can claim for some reason to be familiar with, at least, some of the literature in education, let me hasten to tell this Honourable House that that problem is not peculiar to Barbados, as Senator Miller

knows very well, and Senator Tull, both of whom sat as Ministers of Education. It is pretty well established in the literature that this is a common and almost inevitable outcome of this kind of structure, that when you have streaming, one of the concomitant results is that the result of schooling tends to widen the gap, rather than to narrow it, between students who come in better prepared for one reason or another. And, as they go through the school, they separate rather than come closer together.

But, Sir, the principal of Grantley Adams was right on target, I am convinced, when he said, "these pupils, despite their initial reading disabilities, are otherwise total educable." The conclusion I wish to suggest, then, Sir, is that we need to change this way of doing things. I maintain that until we take off the pressure on the primary schools that now exists on them, until we remove the pressure to get a few youngsters to do well, I think to hope to change, if I may use a Bajan phrase, is like "spinning top in mud." It is a fruitless, pointless exercise whose achievement is negligible. It is a course of action foredoomed to failure.

I can legitimately be challenged, and I think it would be a fair challenge, if you are finding all this fault with the system, what do you suggest is an alternative? I have suggested one alternative already, but I would not follow that one up. I will come up with another.

I have tried to sell this idea in public. We have, with computer technology, a capability that we did not have easily five years ago. We can, in my view, test every student in our school system every year, particularly, I would say, from upwards of nine years, because this would require that a youngster must be able to read and write. How could one do this? Suppose a youngster is being taught long division. To do a long division sum, you have to be able to do division, multiplication and subtraction. If you make a mistake in any one of these three operations, your sum is going to be wrong.

Let us hypothesise that there is a student who understands how to do multiplication and can get it right every time. Let us hypothesise that the same student understands how to do division and can get that right. If the student gets his subtraction wrong, his long division sum is wrong. If I am the teacher and the youngster gets his long division sum wrong, my normal tendency is to say, he cannot do long division, let me spend more time teaching him long division. But I am wasting time, his time and my time. The youngster's problem is not long division, the youngster's problem is subtraction, so unless I can identify, or be helped to identify, the precise nature of his problem, I can misuse a lot of my energy and get nowhere. I am sure that teachers will agree with the logic, and I hope that all Honourable Senators can see the logic of what I am saying.

You may ask, what has all of this got to do with computer technology? Sir, for the first time almost in human history across the world, not just Barbados, we really have the technology on a massive scale across-the-board to identify not only what problems youngsters get wrong, but the likely reason why they get them wrong, in the sense of what precise operation, or set of operations, is causing the problem. So, to put it quite briefly, it would be possible to design a computer system. We would have to try out items and so on, but this is part of test construction, and if we give a youngster a set of problems, we would know that if the youngster makes a certain kind of mistake, the possible cause is so and so.

Sir, follow this through with me and let us look at the implications of this. If we designed that system — and we have the people in Barbados who have the technical knowledge to design such a test sequence — what would be the result? I envisage a situation within which, say, four weeks at the most could be required, because once the data are fed in the analysis by the computer, it is a relatively small amount of time, almost negligible. At the end of that time, four weeks, certainly, not more than eight weeks, we would know for each teacher and for each child in that teacher's class, what kinds of problems the child has, where the difficulties are, because the computer printout would read, 'Mary James — addition and decimals. Mary James subtractions and fractions.' It would be so coded, Sir, and the printout would show this. There could be a tally for that school, or that class, ten youngsters have difficulty in, to take my previous example, long division, or finding the LCM in numbers. For the whole school you could have that breakdown, so the teacher's role is helped.

It is like a diagnostic clinic in health. This is one of the first things a medical practitioner does. He takes information about your symptoms and then he works out in his mind, because of his previous experience and training, what those symptoms appear to indicate, and that is what he treats, what he perceives to be the cause. We now have the technology to do this in our school system so that the teacher can get that feedback. The principal of the school will get a printout that 350 or 125, or in a big primary school, 500 or 600, youngsters, this is the breakdown, these are the kinds of problems that you have.

4.20 p.m.

Sir, what fascinates me — I really am enthusiastic about this, and I hope it is showing in my voice — is that for the first time, the Ministry of Education can have specific information. I am not indicting the Ministry in the sense that it has ignored doing this. They just did not have the technology in the past. But now they do. A Minister of Education would be able to sit down and

have placed before him or her information which says that of the 30 000 youngsters in primary schools, and of the 4 000 in Class 2, 60 per cent of them make this kind of mistake, 40 per cent that kind of mistake.

And, Sir, do you know what the Ministry would be able to do? Something it has never been able to do before — plan in-service courses, not in the light of we think it would be useful to do this, because we did fractions last year, let us concentrate on long division this year, but in the light of this information, the Ministry could say such and such a thing is clearly a major problem in the country, come next Easter that is what we are going to concentrate on for two weeks.

Mr. Deputy President, I really believe that if we were willing to seek to do that, we would really change enormously the way in which our education system functions. It would enable us to eliminate or so drastically reduce the importance of this one-shot exam that we could take off the pressure from teachers and allow them to do their job, which is to give every youngster the kind of help which that youngster needs.

Sir, I move to secondary education. Senator Blackman touched on some kinds of concerns. I have other kinds of concerns, about which I have shared some comments in this Honourable Chamber and in other fora. One of them is that we continue to have disproportions in allocation of resources that disturb me, and I cannot, as a professional in education, fail to draw this to the attention of all the powers that be. In this sense, this honourable body is one of the powers that be, since it can exert influence.

Sir, I am not implying ill will nor evil nature. I recognise that this is part of the antecedents of history. But, Sir, I know of no clearly stated Ministry policy, and I want to emphasise this, which is designed and explicitly planned to eliminate these disparities. I was going to call them injustices, but let me not use those words. Disparity merely indicates a difference.

I have breakdowns, Sir, for all kinds of things in the secondary system, but from this point of view, I am going to pick out the percentage of graduates in the schools. I will take 1976, which is the first year I started, and look at 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988. Remember that I am making no claim that a graduate is a better teacher than an untrained teacher or a non-graduate — I am merely saying that we pay more than for a non-graduate. That is a categorical statement of fact which cannot be successfully disputed, Mr. Deputy President, and I am therefore saying that, on that basis, we can begin to understand how come there appear to be some of these disproportions to which Senator Blackman referred.

If I do the analysis for each of those years which I mentioned, you get what I think is an extraordinary situation. Without exception, all the older secondary schools — you would pardon me if I use the term, but I do not know otherwise how to categorise that group — come at the top and all of the newer secondary schools, without exception, even the ones that have been started in the last few years, come below.

Mr. Deputy President, let me give you one or two other things as well. If we take the overall proportion, in 1988 the average proportion of trained graduates in the newer secondary schools was 45.4 per cent and for the older secondary schools, it was 58.2 per cent. But what I find interesting is that way back in 1983 the average for the older secondary schools was 57.7. So the average now for the newer secondary schools is not even as good as it was five years ago for the older secondary schools.

If I take the percentage of graduates, that percentage is worse. The average number of graduates in 1988 in the newer secondary schools is 55.1 per cent of the staff. In 1976, 12 years ago, the average percentage of graduates in the older secondary schools was 76.7 per cent. And so one can go on.

Let me be fair and add that, if you draw a graph, you would find that all of them have moved up. But what I am saying is that they have moved up in packets, in sets. There has been no overlap, and I feel disturbed at this situation, and let me repeat that I am not aware of any Ministry's policy which consciously sets out to remedy that state of affairs. If you ask me what my solution is, it may not be a very palatable one, but I would certainly recommend that Ministry set a policy.

Let us take 1988 and the percentage of graduates. The average is 86.4 per cent for the older secondary schools, which means some will be below and some will be above. Let us suppose that the Ministry says that over the next five years there will be 80 per cent graduates in all schools in Barbados. My answer is that, that decision having been made, schools that are above it we do not bring down.

I want to make myself very clear, Sir, because it is so easy to be misunderstood. I am not suggesting that we lower our schools that are above that. What I am saying is that we should not let them be moved until the other people have caught up. Then, when everybody has caught up to that, we now set a new goal, which is 85 per cent graduates, and then everybody moves up. So wherever you are, if you are above the aim line or goal line, you remain where you are, and we channel additional sources to those below until everybody meets that defined minimum.

Let me take something else, Sir. I am sure if other honourable members have looked at it from this point of view, but I found this very fascinating. At the back of the Estimates, Sir, with respect to schools, there is a little item, any one of the secondary schools . . .

(Aside: What page?)

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Appendix A, from there on.

All the secondary schools are listed: Teaching Staff, Non-Teaching Staff. That caught my eye and it struck me that something was deserving of examination. I did the analysis for 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989. I will not bore this Honourable House with all the years. I will only give one year, this year.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: If you take that ratio, Sir, of support staff to teaching staff, that is the ratio of non-teaching staff to teaching, you get some amazing disparities, to use a very mild word. For every ten teachers in one school, you have 6.4 support staff. At the other end, for every ten teachers you have two support staff.

Let me give some examples, Sir. In Grantley Adams, there are 67 teachers, according to these, and 20 support staff. In St. Michael School, there are the same 20 support staff, but there are 43 teachers as against 67. In Coleridge Parry, there are 49 teachers and 21 support staff. Harrison College has 47 teachers, but it has 30 support staff. So Harrison College has 30 support staff for 47 teachers and Grantley Adams has 20 support staff for 67 teachers. And St. George, right at the bottom, has 10 support staff for 50 teachers.

Once again, I am not arguing that this is done with malice or forethought. I recognise that some of these things are accidents of history. I am only saying that I find it unbelievable, and unacceptable, that there should be no explicit Ministry policy saying that these disparities cannot continue. I also recognise that some schools have bigger grounds than others, so I hope that I would not be indicted for saying that I am ignoring the obvious. But let me also point out that the ones that have the worst ratios are the biggest. So I only wish to draw, through this Honourable House, the attention of Government to these things.

4.30 p.m.

I move to tertiary education. In 1986, the then Minister of Education, who is now Senator Miller, who is beside me, appointed a Commission, which reported under Sir Roy Marshall, and it made some very straight comments. Among other things it said that the university

is wasting money — I am paraphrasing, but I can give the actual quote — that it is mis-using its scarce resources to teach the N1 Programme, the Preliminary Science programme, and Use of English Programme. The words were “and that we recommend that they be discontinued”.

What is more, Sir, the Committee was at pains to make the point that — it did not put it like this, but I am putting it like this — the Government cannot excuse itself on the grounds that the university is an autonomous institution and we cannot really tell it what to do. That holds no water, Sir. Permit me to read the words of the report, from page 7:

“Restructuring of the UWI has effectively placed each campus under the control of the Government of the territory in which the campus is located.”

So there is no way of getting away with the excuse that we cannot do anything. Another quote, page 7: “All but a minor part of the funds needed for the operation of the campus will be at the discretion of the Government”.

I wish I had time, Sir, because I had intended to quote from a page from a debate from the Other Place, in which Members on both sides of the House indicated in very clear words the difficulty which they had in getting the university to change its point of view and to go in the direction which they saw was needed for the development of countries in the region. There is no time, Sir, to quote that, but in the parliamentary debate in March 1986 — I have quotes from Hon. H. B. St. John, Hon. L. R. Tull, and the Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow — there were very clear statements indicating the difficulties which all of them had experienced in getting the university to move forward. So while I am saying that there is going to be need for pressure, it is not out of any dislike for the university. It is a statement of fact, and I think that we have to recognise this.

Sir, I would like very much to invite Government's attention to what I would call general education. You will pardon me, Sir, if I make one more bit of personal reference. I was asked recently to take part in a radio talk, and we were talking about youngsters, and a little story was told. I really hope it will disturb honourable Senators as much as it disturbed me. A parent of a four-year-old was very unhappy at the fact that her four-year-old did not form letters well and was punishing the child, by beating.

Sir, at four years-old a youngster's fine muscles for shaping of letters just have not developed. I do not think that the parent was evil minded, it is just that the parent did not know. There is no more reason why a parent should know that intuitively than that the parent should be able to repair one of these microphones. It is not intuitive knowledge, and I wish to use that as a

jumping off point, Sir, to say that I urge Government to seek to mount more direct educational programmes, just as we mount information about how to fill out your Income Tax forms. Very important – very good!

Every year we give information about how to choose schools; strongly to be supported and commended. But I think, Sir, we need to do more. We need to help parents understand much more about the growth and development of their children. The pre-natal clinics do a tremendous job, but they tend to limit themselves to the physical needs of the child. I wish to suggest that the time has come, in fact, it is long overdue, when we need somehow to add to that information and understanding in helping the parents to acquire understanding about the psychological and educational needs of the child. All I am pleading for, Sir, is a broadening of the provisions. I am not knocking the provisions. I am not saying that they are a waste of money. I am not saying they are inefficient. I am only pleading that there are other aspects of the child's needs that we have so far overlooked.

Finally, Sir, with respect to the handicapped, we need legislation which would require that all new structures should have ramps, washrooms and parking provisions for the handicapped. I would even go so far as to suggest that such legislation should also address the matter of major reconstructions. It could presumably be left in the hands of the Town Planning authority to determine whether it is a major reconstruction.

I think that the time has come for us to ensure that under the law, we take greater notice of, and provide care for, the persons who are handicapped. I am asking, Sir, that it be embodied in legislation. If it is embodied in legislation, that is fine. If it is not, that is really what I am pleading for.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 5 p.m.

The question that the Senate be suspended until 5 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
4.40 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. Deputy President, every year we go through this exercise of

examining Estimates of expenditure and making perceptive speeches and observations on the economy and other things, but there is never any provision to see in any year how the money which we have voted in the previous year has been spent. There is no provision in the documents for comment or observation on the actual performance of the money which we had voted for the previous year. It seems to me that this is a serious shortfall. I take two examples. I choose two because they are the two subjects which are not quite at random in my choice.

The provision for the police stations under the Ministry of Legal Affairs in the 1987–88 Estimates was \$1 225 000. At the end of January this year, that is within three months of the end of the financial period, \$38 000 of that amount has been spent. It seems to me that it is unlikely in the following two months that that difference will be expended. I must ask a direct question. Why has the money which has been voted not been spent? This means that the objective of the expenditure has not been achieved, while the police stations, which were to be repaired or refurbished, and I am thinking particularly of the accommodation for the Police Band, remain shabby and almost uninhabitable.

The provision for library services in the 1987–88 Estimates was \$387 000. At the end of January in 1988, \$19.5 thousand of that money had been spent. It is therefore unlikely that that difference of over \$300 000 will be spent in the following two months.

I think these deficiencies need to be explained. Money is voted presumably to achieve a certain purpose, to reach a certain stage in the developmental process or to correction of some inadequacy. The Estimates are no use if all we see is this difference, with no explanation, and then a call for more money. I choose these two things because these are two services – library services and the police services – which seem to me to be at the heart of much of our present disaffection. I think this is a structural deficiency in the presentation of the Estimates, and presumably in the preparation.

This brings me to the point that Senator Phillips made when he selected sports and the decline in the performance of some sporting organisations in recent years. He selected cricket, and he could not have selected better if he wanted to touch the heart of the Barbadian who identifies with cricket performance in a very serious, almost religious, way.

But the fault is not in cricket, and the fault will not be remedied if we produce another set of W's, which we are likely to do. The fault is in the spirit of the country. There is a decline in our moral standards. There is a decline in the quality of discipline, the quality of character which once we thought was part of the

Barbadian character. We did not perform well at cricket by accident, we did not perform well in other fields by accident. In our church singing, we did not perform well because we naturally had good voices, it was an expression of our character. When those qualities begin to fade, we have to take stock, we have to look at ourselves. These are signposts, and it is very dangerous indeed when we see things which we hold dear falling apart.

For reasons which I need not adduce, I have been paying some attention to institutions in Barbados of which we were once proud. I speak of things like the Cathedral Choir and the Police Band, things which we use which are part of our heritage. I notice the neglect into which they have fallen.

The Cathedral Choir, now 50 strong, has two treble voices, two boys' voices in it, two in 50, and is having great difficulty in recruiting boys' voices. When these two voices break, as they are bound to do, there will be no boys' voices in the Cathedral. Those of us who used to think of the Cathedral Choir as something of which we could be proud must ask ourselves, why is it that at the 11 o'clock Mass two Sundays ago, there were more bodies in the choir than there were in the congregation?

I have seen a photograph of that assembly; about ten people scattered among the body of the church and a choir of 50. The picture tells a story. You have to ask yourself, because at the same time, despite Swaggart and all the other things, other churches are packed to overflowing. I merely pose the question, you can find the answer.

Nearly everything that has been said, nearly every comment that has been made on our economy, on the failure of some of our institutions, on discrepancies in the law, on the treatment of Parliament, in our attitude to the preparation which we should make for 1989, points to a decline in our moral character. We are here voting money, but money is not going to cure it. In fact, money had better not cure it, because if it is cured with money, it will not be cured at all.

I do not want to speak any longer, and I do not need to speak any longer. Better minds than I will attack the details of these shortfalls. But I think I have identified pretty clearly for myself, if not for the Honourable House, what is wrong with Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

5.10 p.m.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, at this time every year we have to debate the Estimates as laid in this Honourable Chamber under quite a number of Heads that will affect our lives as Barbadians. I first

must start off by saying that it makes no sense any Barbadian saying that we have mass confusion, mass misery, mass this, mass that, everything is going to shambles. We are all Barbadians, and if we tear down our country, even if it is at home, it is going to be reflected in the newspapers and it is going abroad, and the very tourists that we are talking about attracting, we are not going to attract, because if they hear that they are coming to a place that is in shambles, that it is bad and so terrible, the economy is down in the gutter and everything is in the gutter, nobody will want to come to a country like that.

I think we as Barbadians must desist, both at home and abroad, from decrying our own country Barbados. It belongs to us all, and if something belongs to you, you care it, you look after it, and when things go wrong, you try to get them back together. It is our duty as citizens of this Caribbean island to get it back together if we feel that things are going wrong. I do not care which side you are on, I am a Barbadian first and anything else after that.

I think that should be one of the things we should look at very objectively, not only in this coming year but in the future. We used to look at it in the past, and up to now there are many Barbadians living abroad who care. Why is it that Barbadians who live in New York want to come back to Barbados? Why are they sending money here to buy spots of land? Why are they sending here and building houses? Why are they coming down and making enquiries about jobs? They want to come back to this beautiful little rock called Barbados to help to make it better. We can only make it better if all of us put our heads together and do that. This cannot be over emphasised.

I take Senator Wickham's point, and I feel very strongly about it, and agree with him wholeheartedly, that standards have dropped from the kind of behaviour patterns we are seeing evinced in this society of ours. If we are talking about attracting Barbadians back who are so technically skilled to prevent us from spending money for all these different consultants, this is an area we have to look at with great concern, because some of them are coming back with very young families which will be growing up in a society that we hope will be the right type of society, a just society that we started to create in 1961 under the Democratic Labour Party by giving them the opportunity for free secondary education.

You cannot educate a man and then think the man is ignorant. You are dealing with educated people, and if you are dealing with educated people, they are going to respond to you in a certain kind of way. They are not going to stand for foolishness, regardless of which Government it is, and I am glad that we are still working

hard at preserving our democracy. In any society that is democratic, you try to preserve the very hallmark of democracy. If you do not do that, you are going to find yourself in very serious trouble.

Getting back to attracting visitors, Sir, there are some negative aspects in tourism which I do not agree with, for instance, some of the negative advertising. I am aghast when I see some advertising with women exposing all of their rear parts, and I am very annoyed about this, because it looks as though women are still like slaves being sold on the slave market. The Women's Organisations have spoken about this, they have written to the various Ministries about this. We are not satisfied about this kind of thing, and we are not going to be satisfied with it in the private sector either. I do not care who it is that is doing it, it is Barbados, and I think that when we see these things abroad especially, it hurts us very badly as Barbadians.

That is one of the negative aspects of tourism that must come out, shoddy, stupid, uncalled for and, I would say, ignorant advertising. You do not need that to sell your country. Every time you leave Barbados, you are an ambassador for this country. The way you behave, the way you conduct yourself, the way you carry out your business, will sell the image of Barbados. This has been proven over the years. Wherever you go, you can hear that Barbadians did well, and that makes me feel very proud to be a Barbadian.

There are also other areas of negativity that I see in the tourist sector. I was very involved in the beach vendors aspect of it. I saw no reason why at the time beach vendors were asked to pay another tax; they were already paying a tax. Why were they asked to get a police certificate of character when we have itinerant vendors travelling all over this country without a police certificate of character? One set of people is fish for one and fowl for the other? We cannot do this, and I think they have been hurt ever since by that.

I have talked to several of them, and one of the things I would like to see removed is the police certificate of character. If beach vendors are going to get involved in the drugs business, that is a matter for the police; that has nothing to do with people who want to work for an honest day's pay. If the person that the police catches is a beach vendor, by all means lock him up. I am not talking about that at all, because if you are my brother, they can lock you up. That is how I feel. But do not impose anything extra on me for trying to get an honest living that you have not imposed on people who are working, travelling and entering people's houses daily as itinerant vendors. They are never asked to get a police certificate of character. So if you are going to do something for one, you have got to do the same thing for the other, or take it off from the one.

Drugs are separate and distinct. As I said, if it is a beach vendor, lock him up, and you can throw away the key as far as I am concerned, because if they are going to be disturbing the minds of the young people whom I talk to, they need to be dealt with. I know, from sitting on a Committee, that there are many young people with disturbed minds who have been forced to take drugs. As somebody said, it is not only going to take money, it will take a lot of counselling, it takes a lot of trying to build back the family into a unit. I think this is one of the biggest problems we have in our society.

We fail to realise that we are moving further and further away from the home as being the centre. This is vitally important. If we move away from the home, and if we move away from the training that children should get in the home and we send them to the schools to see if they can get that training from a teacher with 40 children, we have really fallen down badly. And any parent who thinks that he or she has gained because his child or her child was not involved has also lost, because you have your cousins, your little nephews and nieces. So ask not for whom the bell tolls, it might be tolling for thee.

This is a serious problem. I would like to see us devote some attention to spending money on advertising through the Government Information Service. I would also like to see some of the private sector people drop some of the advertisements that they have between some of the prime time programmes and give the space for advertisements to tell young people about the ills of drugs. 5.20 p.m.

One of the things they did in America, was show how people looked before and after. This was a very good thing and it did pay off, because you found young people going around saying, "that person did not look like that. Now, he looks like some old weather-beaten cock. I cannot believe it." You used to see these things appearing daily all around the place. I think we need to realise that we have come into the age where we need to use the electronic media more, and we should utilise them effectively. I wish that, along with the Government sector, the private sector would get involved in an exercise like this showing people before and showing them after. I think this could help a great deal.

One of the things is that parents must be very careful about people with whom their children mix; not that you want to denigrate anybody, but you have to monitor situations. I believe that we are leaving some very young children alone, especially at nights. A story has been told to me by a psychologist, that he left his young family with another group of young people and a third group of older children. When he was arriving home, he was sure he smelled marijuana, and he said that as he got closer to his house, he continued to smell marijuana. He said, "It cannot be in my house." But when he got there,

there were two older boys out on the patio, they had left the little ones inside, smoking a joint. He immediately called all of them together and started to talk about the effects of marijuana, what it is and how dangerous it can be, and he had a lesson at his house.

Sometimes these things are happening when parents are at work, who will not get back home and find their children awake at all, so they would never see them with the joint. I was on a school board and noticed that some parents are denying that it is their children. "Not my child, he would never do this", they say. But you cannot say that your child will not do this or your child would not do that, because you do not know what your child would do with the influence of his peer group, or peer pressure, in your absence.

I have seen this at university. I have gone to places where I have seen Barbadian students who came from top-class families in this society — I do not mean top-class with money, I mean top-class with good behaviour, good manners, good everything — and when you got there and you saw how they were dressed — first of all, you are looking for this fellow or this girl — you cannot identify them, because they now wear old, ragged hats and skirts, or something else, looking really way-out, because they have joined the clique. So we have to pay attention, serious attention, to the home, and I am not only saying this to my Minister of Religion who is here — it has to come from all the leaders. Sometimes we pass the wrong kind of information and feed people too much of it, and we do not feed them with the information that they need to get which is necessary for their social, spiritual and total development as individuals and as human beings. I will say no more on that.

I was very glad to hear Senator Miller say that the Salvation Army is working towards a rehabilitation centre. That is a very commendable idea, and I am one of the people who have always supported the Salvation Army, but I have to get my pound of flesh. NOW has been advocating that and a half-way house for a long time. We even had an arrangement with a Minister of your former Government to go to St. John and look at houses that belonged to the Government. We have gotten, perhaps, like the Salvation Army, thus far and no further. I hope this will not be the case. I hope in future that we will see more half-way houses and more rehabilitation centres because they are very necessary.

The Mothers' Union has done very good work at Black Rock. Now, I understand that place has gone to ruins. I was there the evening of the opening, and it was specifically for the purpose of children who had been left wondering at night — they did not want them to get into trouble — to stay at that home. It was like a home away from home, until they found their parents and things of that sort, and got the Police or the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, or whatever, on the case so that that child would

not be involved in any trouble during the night. Now, I do not know for what purpose it is being used, but it is not being used for that purpose. I would like to see that come back into being. I know how hard the Mothers' Union worked to get that money to start that operation and I would love to hear that that is going to have some hope.

In the area of small business, Mr. Deputy President, there are many things that we can do to curb unemployment. I agree with all the Senators who said that we take up souvenirs and at the bottom is marked "Made in Hong Kong", or "Made in Taiwan". They are made all over the place except Barbados, or even CARICOM. We have been looking at this seriously, not only now, and a resolution was put forward to the Government in connection with this. We felt that this was too important an area, and we had raw material around that we could utilise, that we should let something like this go abegging and, therefore, we put together a resolution, and we were calling on Government to do a survey on all the handicraft coming into the island from all the extra-regional sources.

Utilisation of indigenous raw materials for the making of handicrafts would be a priority. For example, banana bark makes some beautiful handicrafts, animals, all sorts of things. I could show you some at my own house. I made coconut cups and bangles and sold them, so I know when I tell you about the coconut shell. You can get about ten other handicrafts from that coconut.

There is clay, and the wild ball bush that you see about the place. That makes beautiful dry flowers. All over the world you can see them in different places being sold in lovely arrangements. It costs people nothing because they just go about and pick the ball bush. And people are glad to get rid of the ball bush, so they are glad for young people to do a project like this.

Of course, coupled with this we have to keep consistent training programmes. This is one of the areas where we tend to fall down. We tend to believe that if we train a man today and that fellow is getting old, we should phase him out, like some of the people who used to do tinsmith work.

How many of you can get bouche pans if you want to get them today, or measuring pots or baking pans made by tinsmiths? Yet, we have schools with facilities, and at some exhibitions we see displays of tinsmith work. Why cannot they go into it in a group, learn the business techniques, along with the practical work, and form a little business, and borrow some money from the National Development Foundation. Do not go aiming high at a bank, go to one of these agencies like our Foundation; they will counsel you, they will help you to find markets. Several groups and individuals have found jobs of their own making through this kind of area.

5.30 p.m.

We cannot just give people the academic type of training and they have never yet seen how to market. Let them go along with some of the real first class salesmen, as a kind of an exposition, a kind of a training programme, and see how they sell things, how they talk to people, how they deal with people, how they understand when people are going to buy and what people want is important. Therefore, in your initial survey you should be finding out if people do not want knap sack baskets any more, and if they don't, do not waste time and make them and then go down Broad Street and say you cannot get any sold. If people are aiming for nice little souvenirs that are lightweight to give to their friends, think of things that you can do. Think of coconut cups, coconut rings, coconut tea sets, you know, straw work made in animals and things like that marked Barbados that people will appreciate long, long after they have left Barbados and they will remember Barbados.

But there is much to be desired in this area of small business entrepreneurship, because you do not only give people money, but you teach them how to spend that money. I think in some areas we have gone wrong. We have given people money, but we did not teach the people how to use the money. It is like giving a man a fish all the time, but you never taught the man how to fish, so he feels that the fish drops down from Mars or Venus. It is not that way. He has to assist in contributing towards the hard work of getting that fish.

Despite all that has been said about Barbados being a country on the move backward, people are still asking to come here. I was amazed at the people I talked to in Texas who said, "I have been to Barbados and I love that country." I think that if we are talking about really selling tourism, we have got to get into some of those new markets now, Texas, Atlanta, Georgia, and more of the Canadian market.

We are going in Canada with foodstuffs, and I must say we are doing pretty well from the figures, especially with hot peppers and some of the things that we are hearing that we do not see. Only last week, Peter Morgan arranged for produce to be flown to Hamilton, Ontario. Everything was very well received, and the people there are very anxious to have loads and loads of orders. And the last trip we took to Texas, we benefitted by the orders that we received, the orders that are waiting to be filled.

When we keep the market going out there — when I say we, I am a member of the BMC's Board — the production must be kept going here. This is the whole trouble. People seem not to understand. You have to produce in order to market, and before you talk about marketing you sit down and talk about what you are going to plant, where you are going to plant it and how you are going to get it there. BMC now has two lovely

vans that can store refrigerated fruits and vegetables and take them to the airport plant. That is an improvement.

As we go along, we will improve if we understand that Barbados belongs to all of us, and that if this country drops, we drop, too. Let us leave out all this thing about chaos and confusion and this kind of foolishness, because if we say that, it is going in the newspapers. The Nation hits Medford in Massachusetts. When I was at Tufts University, every Sunday morning I used to get a *Nation* newspaper early. So we have to be careful. People abroad would be reading these things, and if we destroy ourselves, we have nobody to blame but ourselves. We were once very proud people, and we must not take to heart some people who get a little emotional and start to say we are running down, we are going back.

(*Aside*: SENATOR B. A. MILLER: We are LDCs).

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: We are LDCs. We are all kinds of Cs.

We must say, we are fighting back. And we have fought back because we have produced the number of candidates, 24 to three. And we will continue to fight back, Opposition, Government and everybody. Do not think we are leaving out the Opposition. They have to help fight back, and they have to help give Barbados a good name abroad, and they have to help and go and promote it as a tourist destination to get money for their children and their children's children, and they have to see that Barbados is in the order that they want to see it in. So I am not leaving out anybody. If you think I am leaving out anybody, you are very wrong. I am putting in everybody in this thing.

Aside.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Yes, I am going to give you a list: sweet potatoes, okras, breadfruit, coconut, pumpkin, eddoes, egg plant, yam. And when you are talking about hot peppers, you are talking about 22 210 pounds just between early February here. Perhaps you thought I did not have the figures, but I have them.

Laughter.

Aside.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: I want to satisfy your mind that I checked personally, and the person you talked about did not come through the BMC. We know not about that person. That person did not come through this Government.

(*Aside*: SENATOR B. A. MILLER: You know now!)

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: I know that the person did not come through the Government. That is what is important to me as a Barbadian.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: But you know, now!)

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Thank you for telling me to find out. It is your job to do that.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: You know now!)

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Right. Thank you. You did it my way, because you made me find out as a Barbadian and get the information that I could bring it here and let them know that it was not passing through the Barbados Marketing Corporation. It has not passed through there.

Aside.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: All right. You take it easy. Time will tell. But the improvements are telling, too, you see, and we are going forward. We are not going backward. Even if we were going backward, we have started to move forward again. Sometimes you take a few steps forward and you take a few steps backward, so do not worry about that too much.

Aside.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Yes. That is good. It makes us sometimes more businesslike when we know that we have had problems and we can iron out these problems and get them solved together as a people. I do not believe in this rancour. I believe solving problems is in people; you giving me information and I thinking it out and getting it cleared up for the good of all Barbadians. 5.40 p.m.

One of the things that I would like to touch on, Mr. Deputy President, is how we market our tourist product. I think that it is time that we look at a different style. We have a lot of people who are in music, drama, and different areas of culture, and I sometimes get a little worried seeing a few people just going around and saying that they are on a big sale for Barbados. What are you selling? I would like to see that we select a group of people comprised of people from the different areas of cultural activity, even our national cuisine. Because whenever we go abroad, we find ourselves — those who went to Germany can tell you this — frying flying fish, because the people asked for flying fish, they wanted to know how it tastes. They are not buying any pork anymore. So you have to get all these various people — people who know about horticulture — so they can organise professionally. You see you are talking about specialties. Then you have to get people who understand how to deal with people.

And what are you selling in Barbados. Are you only selling bottles of rum? You do not have anything else to tell the people about. There is nothing interesting. There is nothing of historical value. So I would like to see a change from just a few people travelling from place to place saying they are marketing Barbados, and it is a big tourist venture.

I would also like to see the sort of home-life thing that they had at one time re-introduced. Tourists came and asked people if they would take them in their own homes and let them see what it is to be in a Barbadian home, because they may get a wrong impression staying in a hotel in Barbados.

At any seminar or conference that I have been on, some type of home visit is always arranged for you to get to see and talk with the local people and understand how they live. I remember that Easter 1978, I spent a weekend with the Red Indians in a place called Holdingville, 150 miles from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and I got to understand these people. They told me so many things in that weekend, about the Red Indians and the problems they have gone through and what the bicentennial had brought out about their life and history.

These are some of the things that we want to see to improve our country, not only in the infrastructural development. We need to see better roads, of course. The roads need to be repaired, but these roads got bad over a period of time. They did not just get bad suddenly. I hear the people driving cars are quarrelling every moment about their shocks. I do not know much about car language. If the roads were repaired before and we did not build so many highways, or 'die-ways,' we would have had good roads all now and we would not be complaining about shocks. So you can think on these things, as the Bible says. We must think of the sins of omission and commission committed by our forefathers. It means now that we will have to go borrowing money and hunting money, whether we are criticised or not, to get the things done.

I reiterate, this is "we" country. I heard Senator Miller saying how much she loves democracy and how much she loves Barbados, and if she loves Barbados she is not going to run down Barbados, because Barbados is her country. So I do not want to hear anymore running down. I want to hear moving up, moving on.

We are moving together as a serious people of this country, Barbados. When we find out some information, we are going to let it be known. If it is a matter dealing with immigration, they are going to get it to the Immigration people. If we know that somebody is encouraging people in drugs, we are going to get it to those people. If we know that people are coming here to disturb the peace in this country, we are going to give it to the powers that be. In this way, and only in this way, we can then seriously talk about the Scout Song —

"Building together for the future, building together for the good of one and all, oh land and sea we raise our song to thee." Then we will truly be strict craftsmen and guardians of our fate.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any other Senator desirous of speaking at this stage? If not, I am willing to entertain a motion for the suspension of the sitting.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: I would like to move the suspension until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

The question that the Senate be suspended until Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
5.50 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support several Heads in the Estimates, I should like to refer to what has been a very burning problem so far in this debate, that is, Sir, the problem of the deficit. I want to make a few observations on what I believe should be our attitude towards any deficit.

A lot of programmes have been conducted in this country in the past years; the new Grantley Adams Airport, the Airport-West Coast Highway, the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour, near completion. Heywoods Holiday Resort, and the programme for the improvement of the major roads in this country. All these developments have taken place with the aid of foreign funds. All these developments, while they may have some social benefit and make things more easier in one way or another, bring in no revenue, or they do not solve our foreign exchange problem. So the fact that we have to service these developments means that we cannot balance our budget on Current Account, and the servicing of the debt, interest charges, and moratoriums have produced in our accounting system the thing known as a deficit.

So we have no apologies to make about the deficit in any particular year, because it has been handed down to us. And whether Errol Barrow was Minister of Finance, or Tom Adams, or Richie Haynes, or Erskine Sandiford who is the present Minister, we would still have this deficit today. It has come to reside with us because we have bunched a lot of projects into a

small area and we have a long repayment schedule, which started last year, and every year we have to provide a sum of money to service the National Debt. The benefits would be derived eventually by our children and grandchildren. That is the price we have to pay for development.

I should like to give an account of the revenue position with respect to International Transport.

Airport Management Services. We had forecasted that we would collect revenue to the tune of \$19 271 000 for 1987-1988. Our predictions have come true, because we are going to realise that target. The figures up to February this year show that we have so far collected \$18 054 000. We are hoping to bring in at least \$19 376 000 in this new financial year in airport revenue.

Immigration Services. We had forecasted that we would bring in revenue of \$2 039 635. However, Sir, I believe there will be a shortfall in our projections, in that the receipts so far have fallen a bit below, and stand now at \$1 764 377. We are hoping in the new financial year to make a better go at that.

To give a breakdown of the area of the proposed revenue for Immigration for the new year, we are hoping to collect \$600 000 Work Permits; Citizenship, \$100 000, Extended Stay, \$148 000; Residence, \$210 000, and Passports and Visas, \$950 000, which gives us some \$2 018 000.

The Telecommunications Unit remains very static. We targeted a figure of \$1.2 million for the last financial year. We have come very close to that, and we are not being adventurous, and we look forward to bring in in this new financial year the same \$1.2 million.

We turn now to Current Expenditure, Sir, for 1988-1989 in the area of Ministry of International Transport. We are spending \$880 000 for the next financial year for General Administration in the International Transport Division. For Air Transport Licensing Authority, the figure will be \$75 196. We will be spending \$4.7 million on Airport Management; and in the Maintenance and Development Unit, \$5.2 million; Air Traffic Control Services \$2.2 million and Regional Shipping Services, \$363 672.

Sir, passenger movements at the airport increased. The number of passengers disembarking at the airport during the last financial year 1987 recorded an increase of 13.1 per cent compared with 1986. The actual amount of people disembarking in 1987 was 600 151 persons, as opposed to 530 741 persons in 1986. So, Sir, you will see from those figures that the argument that we closed down Caribbean Airways has no merit, that the suspension of those services has not affected the amount of

passengers which came to this country during the past year.

Asides.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: That is true. As a matter of fact, if I can give you a breakdown of the non-scheduled services, the non-scheduled services recorded the biggest increase, from 6 069 last year to 7 772 aircraft movements, which is a 28.2 per cent increase on those services. This is also due to the policy of the Ministry of International Transport, because we have been giving licences to air tours people to bring people to Barbados to assist in tourist promotion. We have approved air tours from Manchester, England, and people have been coming in large numbers out of Europe. So although we did not carry on the services of Caribbean Airways, we still made provision by giving licences to other people for non-scheduled flights to bring people to this country.

10.10 a.m.

Cruise ship passengers continue to increase. In 1986, we had 168 105 passengers by cruise ship, and this year we recorded 260 292 persons coming here on cruise ships. That has been increasing steadily every year.

Sir, I turn to the vexatious area of Caribbean Airways, and I want to give this Senate a brief history of Caribbean Airways to have this matter settled once and for all about the termination of flights by that airline.

In 1974, the Government of Barbados, in a joint venture agreement with Laker Airways, acquired 51 per cent of the shareholding of Caribbean Airways. This agreement, among other things, expressly stipulated that the Government would not be required to provide any financial support in case there were losses encountered in the operation of that airline. As a matter of fact, between 1976 and 1981 no subsidies were given to that airline towards its operation.

In February 1982, after the Laker group of companies went into receivership, the then Government of Barbados decided to assume full responsibility for the operations of Caribbean Airways. From that date Caribbean Airways has been receiving substantial subsidies from Government. Between February 1982 and January 1986, Caribbean Airways received subsidies totalling \$25 million, which were paid by the Government to that company.

Notwithstanding these annual subventions, Sir, the liabilities were increasing steadily. They rose from \$4.1 million in 1982 to just over \$24 million in November, 1986. Of that amount, \$14.9 million was owed to the Barbados National Bank and the \$9.4 million was owed to trading creditors.

Losses, Sir. For the financial year ended March, 31, 1985, the company's net loss was \$11.2 million. At March 31, 1986, the net loss was \$14.2 million on total revenues of \$17.8 million.

When the new board of directors came into being in June 1986, in an effort to reduce the high cost, we introduced a DC-8 in place of a DC-10 which was being used at the time, which was being rented from Ghana Airways. We got the DC-8, a smaller aircraft, from Overseas Airways, to reduce the high cost of these services. The DC-8 was used between November 1986 and December 1986, but there was some problem at that time about the payment of the insurance premiums for passenger liability service, so after two months we had to abandon the use of that DC-8.

However, Sir, it is interesting to note that because of the lower operational cost of the DC-8, as against the DC-10 aircraft, the company achieved in the month of November 1986, when the DC-8 operated, an operating profit of \$286 257. There was a net loss, however, before interest charges, of \$67 657. The figures for the corresponding period, November 1985, were an operating loss of \$441 128 and a net loss, before interest charges, of \$681 600.

When the DC-8 arrangement came to an end, the company decided to use a cargo lot 747 and operated services once per month until March 21, 1987 when the company's flying operations were suspended.

Sir, I will give you some reasons for the suspension of that airline. Between 1982 and 1986 the company's losses on liabilities steadily increased. In fact, the accumulated deficit at March 31, 1986 was \$40.7 million. Moreover, liabilities at the time, current liabilities, of \$22.8 million, were substantially greater than current assets of \$2.5 million.

10.20 a.m.

It was recognised that the ability of the company to continue as a going concern was dependent on a return to profitability or the injection by Government of substantial annual subventions. But in our manifesto we said that we were not prepared to take the taxpayers' money, and it was our stated policy in the last General Election, and pay for these commercial ventures which were not bringing in any revenue and which were millstones around the necks of the taxpayers of this country.

Further, the last Government had authorised a study before we came into power, conducted by a reputable international airline consultant firm, Aer Lingus, and when they produced the report in March 1986, their findings were that the future of that company would not return to profitability in the foreseeable future. So with the report from Aer Lingus and our stated policy

of not financing things out of the taxpayers that were not paying, a decision was taken to shut down Caribbean Airways, and this we did.

On the suspension of those services, Sir, the Government publicly stated that we would honour the airline's indebtedness to the various creditors. A Press Release went out to that effect, putting our case to honour all the obligations of the *bona fide* creditors of that company. It was agreed at that time that the Barbados National Bank would extend credit facilities to Caribbean Airways to allow the airline to satisfy the outstanding debt to the various creditors. Since then, the Ministry of Finance has consolidated its debt, and we are now into one loan of \$40 million. Of this amount, we want \$10 million almost immediately for contingent liabilities.

On contingent liabilities, we owe Ghana Airways US \$500 000 and we owe Overseas Airways US \$2.6 million. There are damages to be secured by Mr. Sam Waithe, former General Manager, of \$183 000, less Income Tax. The Don Carrington case is under review, severance payments are to be made to Nicole St. John, former Manager, Brussels, and there are legal fees and costs. Some of these claims are being contested by the company, Sir.

I now give a brief review of the operations of the company since we stopped flying. We had entered into arrangements with BWIA and British Airways to provide certain services. We are supposed to receive, according to an agreement, royalties from both airlines which now ply the routes which we had at the time when Caribbean Airways was flying. We have received \$900 000 in royalties from British Airways and \$207 358 from BWIA. This information, Sir, is confidential under the respective agreements with these two companies and I would not wish to go into details about the agreement itself.

We are providing handling services at the airport for certain air tours, and charters, and also for Air Martinique and Air Guadeloupe. Negotiations are taking place with British Airways for Caribbean Airways to provide passenger handling services for that airline. We also manage at the airport a VIP airlines lounge, which produces a management fee of ten per cent on sales. We also provide management services for Aero Services Ltd. at a minimum fee of \$100 per month.

Sir, that is the background to the whole Caribbean Airways affair. As a matter of fact, it has made money for the first time since we were not flying. It has been more efficient on the ground that it was in the air.

(Aside: Why don't you tell us about the direct flight to Barbados?)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you please address the Chair?

SENATOR A. MORRISON: We had a lot of air tour charters coming to Barbados. Those are the facts of Caribbean Airways.

Sir, I go on to another casualty which we inherited from the beginning, Aero Services Barbados (1982) Limited. This is no end of trouble, Sir, and again the taxpayers' money has got to be protected.

To give a brief historical background, Aero Services started in 1976, like Caribbean Airways. It developed out of the Barbados Flying Club and was incorporated in 1966 as a general aviation, maintenance and sales company, with a share capital of \$50 000 divided into 5 000 shares. The company commenced operation of charter services from June, 1976.

The company was placed under receivership in June, 1982, due to its indebtedness to Barclays Bank. The bank was owed \$5.3 million. The Government and the bank entered into negotiations in 1982 to determine means of saving the company from complete liquidation. It was agreed that a new company be formed with a share capital of \$10 000 made up of 10 000 ordinary shares, divided as follows — 7 000 to the Government of Barbados and 3 000 to Barclays Finance Corporation. Thirty per cent of the company's debts would be written off and Government was offered the remaining debt of \$3 347 000 as a loan over 25 years at 4 per cent, with a seven year grace period. The capital was to be repaid in one lump sum at the end of the 25th year, and a sinking fund was so set up. Interest payments are due from the year 1989–90, the financial year coming up.

Parliament in December 1982 approved the borrowing of \$3.7 million from Barclays Bank International for the purchase of 70 per cent of the value of the assets of Aero Services. All of the assets were vested in Aero Services Barbados (1982) Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act on November 29, 1982.

The reasons given for the acquisition by Government at the time of the setting up of that company were:

(i) The need for an air taxi service to meet the needs of the tourist industry.

(ii) The undesirability of adding to unemployment which would result from the closure of the airline.

(iii) The need to provide for crews and maintenance of aircraft being used in Search and Rescue, anti-smuggling and civil operations.

(iv) The need for back-up service when the Coast Guard was insufficient or out of service.
10.30 a.m.

In November, 1983, Barclays sold its 3 000 shares — 30 per cent shareholding — for \$1.00 to the Tourism Investment Corporation, giving Government sole ownership of the company. The company provides intra-Caribbean air taxi charter services, transporting passengers as far as Venezuela in the south. The company also provides maintenance services for general aviation aircraft and is a sales agency for Cessna aircraft. Search and rescue services for missing vessels are also performed by that company.

Passenger traffic carried by the company up to the end of 1987 is as follows: 1983, 6 510; 1984, 8 509; 1985, 8 024; 1986, 6 644; 1987, 5 684.

At the beginning of last year, 1987, the carrier had a fleet of five aircraft operating commercially, charter services. However, the status of the fleet at present is as follows:

Two Cessna 402 aircraft, with a capacity of 8 passengers each, only one of which is currently serviceable. The other one has been under maintenance for a long time. One Island — currently out of service for maintenance. One Beechcraft Baron — out of service for extensive repairs following a crash.

We had one Skyvan, which was supposed to be attached to the Coast Guard, but which refused to fly when you wanted it to fly. This Skyvan was leased by the Barbados Government to the Republic of Guyana on a lease-purchase arrangement. The Government of Guyana will obtain full ownership of that aircraft in December, 1990 after all lease payments have been made. The aircraft was delivered to the Government of Guyana in July 1987, and there is currently one payment outstanding and due since December, 1987. We have received one payment so far from the Republic of Guyana.

We have two Cessna Trainers used for local operations, training and pleasure flying, only one of which is currently serviceable.

We are holding talks now with the Goddard Group of Companies and Neal and Massey about the sale of that company. I would not want to prejudice those discussions today, but we are trying to divest ourselves of that company. The current position is that Neal and Massey has expressed an interest in the purchase of the assets of the company and not the company. A valuation of these assets acceptable to all parties is currently being discussed.

I will give you, Sir, a quick run-down of total losses for that company for the years 1983 — 1987. We had a net loss of \$1 218 054 in 1983, \$1 862 991 in 1984, \$1 983 792 in 1985, \$1 824 841 in 1986 and \$1 338 780 in 1987. That is a total of \$8 228 458 in net losses.

Government gave subsidies to the tune of \$800 000 in 1984, \$300 000 in 1985, \$600 000 in 1986 and \$245 169 in 1987, which gives a total of \$1 945 169 in subsidies to that company.

The draft financial statements for the year ended December, 1987 show that the company earned revenues of \$1.44 million, made up primarily of \$1.2 million from flight operations and \$192 315 from the provision of maintenance services (engineering sales). The revenues were 13.1 per cent below those of 1986, and showed the continuing decline in the company's operations, as they are 33 per cent below those revenues experienced in 1985.

Sir, the company has a very serious cash flow problem, with a working capital deficiency of \$3 446 805, an increase of 14.8 per cent over that of the previous year. Most of this was as a result of an increase of 30.6 per cent in Accounts Payable and Accruals.

The deficit for 1987, before the injection of the subsidy, was \$1.3 million, bringing the accumulated deficit to \$61.4 million. That, Sir, is the state of Aero Services Barbados Limited.

These things are against our philosophy. It is true that that company was set up in a way that, all things being equal, there was no reason why it should not have made money. Be that as it may, it lost money from its inception, the Government put in money in subventions and the position got worse and worse. Again, Sir, according to our avowed policy of not taking the taxpayers' money and propping up unprofitable commercial ventures, we were forced to look for a buyer.

Sir, I think members should like to be aware of the operations of CARICARGO. This company was established in 1979 as a company jointly owned by the Governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, each has 50 per cent of the equity of this company, and it commenced operations in February, 1981.

CARICARGO owns and operates two B707 freighter aircraft, which have recently been retrofitted with quiet engine nacells at a cost of over \$4 million, a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank, to reduce the noise elements when flying to North America, according to international aviation standards. The company also leases C46 aircraft for its intra-Caribbean operations, and from time to time has leased another B707 aircraft for *ad hoc* charter operations on behalf of other carriers into South America, Asia, Europe and Africa.

10.40 a.m

Sir, the carrier has permission to operate in all the Caribbean points, and to Miami, Houston and New York in the USA. We have just gone into Canada. I think that last Saturday we took produce to Hamilton in Canada. We have gone into Brazil on a temporary basis, and we will soon commence operations into other ports, to be named later.

CARICARGO has not been doing too badly. In 1983 we lifted 4 143 772 kilograms; 1984, 6 144 911; 1985, 5 193 398; 1986, 4 574 818 and 1987, 5 313 933.

In April 1986, the Government of Venezuela indicated that the country was interested in becoming an equity partner in CARICARGO. A joint committee comprising of representatives of the Government of Barbados, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Venezuela, has been meeting on a monthly basis to decide the level of participation by Venezuela in this airline. The committee has held two meetings, and a third meeting is scheduled to be held in Barbados in April this year. It is expected that the joint committee would recommend definitive arrangements for the participation of Venezuela in CARICARGO.

The financial position of the CARICARGO for the year ended December 31, 1987 shows that the company earned revenues of approximately \$38.8 million as compared with \$32.7 million in 1986, an increase of 18.7 per cent. The company thus reported an operating profit of \$2.3 million in 1987, which is almost near the amount of profit earned in 1986. But they had expenses in 1987 to the amount of \$4.9 million, and there was a slight net loss of \$1.87 million as compared to a net loss of \$385 609 in the previous year.

The company's financial outturn for the last five years is as follows: 1983, \$2 957 506 as operating profit; net profit, \$771 205; 1984, an operating profit of \$1.3 million and net profit of \$1 070 752. There was an operating profit of \$1.3 million in 1985 but a net loss of \$2.9 million. There was an operating profit of \$2.3 million in 1986 but a net loss.....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Would the Senator kindly speak into the microphone.

SENATOR A. MORRISON:.....of \$385 000 in 1986.

That, Sir, is the position with CARICARGO. We are expecting that it should come good in the new financial year, because the returns for the first four months are looking very healthy.

Sir, I now turn to LIAT. There have been a lot of discussions recently by the LIAT company on the acquisition of new aircraft which has caused a lot of talk

in the newspapers and throughout the whole Caribbean area, with the result that there was a postal vote in November last year, in which the directors of LIAT voted in favour of the Dash 8-100 aircraft as replacements for two ATPs, which were old technology aircraft, as opposed to the ATP from the British Air Space Company. They have decided to buy the aircraft from De Haviland in Canada, and negotiations are going on now between the board of LIAT with the company about the terms and conditions under which they will receive these new aircraft.

Sir, my time is getting short, but I should like to make a few remarks about agriculture.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have ten more minutes, because you started a bit late.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, there has been a lot of talk about diversification of our agriculture. We had discussion in here about a week ago about sugar production, and I need not go into any details about that.

The Government is committed to sugar cane production in this country. We have actually earmarked a target of 90 000 tonnes in any one year to be planted on 38 000 acres of land. We look forward to working with the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited in doing meaningful research to keep sugar cane production going, to eradicate the moth borer and other things which now affect certain areas in the dry parts of Barbados. Other pests have developed in sugar cane, and the Ministry has geared its research purposes towards helping to eradicate those problems which we would encounter in the dry areas of this country.

So there is no point saying that we are not committed to the production of sugar cane in this country. It is our stated policy. We might just have other ways at arriving at our goals.
10.50 a.m.

Senator Phillips made a point about putting land to better use, he being a very big land holder. He suggested that we make some land available for housing construction, particularly rab land. But ADC has given land to the Government for housing development over the years. ADC has lost all of Wildey Plantation to housing. Part of Fairy Valley has been taken over by the airport development, and certain fields cannot be worked because the airport cuts across them.

One of the great tragedies of this country is that in Wildey Plantation the biggest amount of water available in this country for irrigation is under those houses in Wildey. Do you believe now that Wildey could irrigate the whole of St. George and Christ Church in sugar cane production? There is 100 feet of shelf water laying under Wildey

Estate, as well as in the city of Bridgetown. Bridgetown itself stands on the biggest water shelf that this country has ever known. If we had to tap the water in Bridgetown, we could irrigate the whole of Barbados. These things were discovered by Tulstrom and those fellows in years ago — sheet water.

Kingsland has also gone into development. So ADC has given generously to housing estates in this country, and we have lost all the land at Willey for agricultural purposes. The last is going now for some development by Barbados Manufacturers Life. As soon as you bombard agricultural land with houses all around, eventually the land goes into development.

Another point made about agricultural diversification was the problem of praedial larceny. I sympathise with those people who cry out about praedial larceny, because it is a big evil in this society. It is hard for farmers to plant their vegetables and then find one morning that all have been reaped. I know that the Attorney-General's office is working very feverishly on updating the legislation to include meaningful penalties that would deter people from carrying away all the produce on other people's land.

We have been assisting farmers with the export drive through the Barbados Export Corporation. They have been helping farmers with their packaging. We have been exporting yams, eddoes and cut flowers to the various parts of Europe. Last year, BMC alone exported 55 800 pounds of sweet potato; hot peppers, 17 600 pounds; okras, 150 pounds, not much; bread fruit, 4 435 pounds; yams, 8 000 pounds.

Our efforts to increase the production of yams in this country have been curtailed by a brown spot which has been discovered in yams — anthracnose disease. The Ministry of Agriculture is working very hard to eradicate the disease so that we can at least get about 5 000 acres under yam production for the export trade. We are also trying to get melons going, and the BMC staff has been working very hard with farmers, especially small farmers to assist them in the packaging and presentation of their foodstuffs for the export trade.

The Government has given a new lease to the rural development project at Springhall, St. Lucy. We have had a study done, and that project is now being revamped to show how we can diversify, cut the lots in smaller acres and assist in vegetable production.

It is very significant that in the area of vegetable production, the best produce has been coming from the small farmers, while the big farmers have been producing produce of a very low quality. That is why we should do all to stimulate and assist the small farmer in helping us

with our diversification programme. They are the ones who seem to be able to produce very good quality crops and make it possible for us to have exports which will be acceptable in the outside world. We have had a big farmer whose tomatoes were of a very poor quality, and he had the biggest slice of the cake and we had a big let-down in that we could not supply the amount that was required.

We have been very good over the years in carrot production. Barbados has a facility for growing carrots, and I know a large farmer has been supplying carrots on a contract to Trinidad.

We were talking about cucumbers being imported into Barbados. But in the spirit of CARICOM and the new Agricultural Marketing Protocol arrangements, we have to open our markets to everybody. Last year we did not have any cucumbers in Barbados, because there was a disease affecting cucumbers. They have now started to come back on stream this year, but we would not want to declare war against people bringing products here from CARICOM, because we are exporting carrots to Trinidad in unlimited numbers. So it is not that we are penalising our farmers, but we must become competitive.

By October this year, all the restrictions on trade in the CARICOM area will be removed, according to the agreement reached by Ministers of Trade late last year. The cut-off point will be September this year, when we should have free trade — and when we say free trade, we mean free trade — in respect of all CARICOM agricultural produce. So farmers have got to get with it.

It is true we stand by our farmers and we have to do something to protect our farmers from being flogged by produce from other parts of the Caribbean. But licensing is not the answer, because if other people do what we do to them, we cannot export anything at all.

As far as the police stations are concerned, the Attorney-General is very conscious of the low level of police stations, which have been run down over the years, just like the roads of Barbados. There is a new station being built at Grantley Adams International Airport for the policemen. We have had plans approved for the construction of quarters for the band since this year. We are very conscious of the Holatown Court, which is one of the most disgraceful things in this country, and plans are very much afoot to provide some kind of new station for Holatown either on the same spot or some other location, which might be amenable to the people in that area.

11.00 a.m.

A last word about fisheries. We have a problem at Oistins, Christ Church. The ice making machine does not

work properly, and the refrigeration inside that market has been atrocious. It works today and it stops for the balance of the week. The Minister of Agriculture is very conscious about that and he is working on it.

We borrowed money and built a new market, and in less than five years the market is not operable. A lot of money has gone down the drain there, and we need to revamp the Oistins fishing market to bring satisfaction to the people who work there and to the people who buy fish in that market, because the refrigeration is very bad. It seems to me like total sabotage at the Oistins fishing market.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have come to the end of your time.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the former speaker has covered substantial ground. During yesterday's debate, I was a little disappointed to hear comments which suggested that there was not an appreciation of the Memorandum to the Estimates. I propose to deal fairly briefly with that and then answer a few of the points of misinformation which were tossed around yesterday.

In the Memorandum to the Estimates, there is set out with some clarity the revenue which Government hopes to receive on Current Account and the expenditure which Government expects to make during the year. The difference between Revenue and Expenditure, according to the statement of the Memorandum, is described as a deficit on Current Account. Any persons who have been trained in public finance would know that you could substitute the word "deficit" for "shortfall". Those practitioners of public finance would also know that the difference between the revenue received and the expenditure one anticipates has always been known as the gap between what one receives and what one expects to spend. So when persons seek to make ridicule of the term "gap", it is clear manifestation of their lack of understanding of what is intended.

Moreover, the gap, or shortfall, in revenue, when compared with the estimates of Current Expenditure, represents an area to which Government must, of necessity, pay special attention. In this instance, the amount of over \$48 million, which is established as the difference, or the shortfall in revenue, for the coming financial year, is a direct consequence of the position in which this country has been pushed, levered, over several years.

When one peruses the Memorandum of the Estimates and notices that in the Functional Classification of Current Expenditure there is an item of Other Purposes, which includes public debt redemption and interest of \$169 million, nearly \$170 million, and when one takes the

ten-year tables relating to this redemption of debt and the interest that is payable, one can see a direct relationship between the shortfall on Current Account and this expenditure on debt redemption and interest which is out of the ordinary.

One also recognises that when a Government goes into debt by raising of loans, it does this to enhance the social services which the Government of the day must provide for the citizens of the country. One also recognises that these debts will have to be borne by generations yet to come. One, therefore, ought to recognise that any criticism of a shortfall of revenue, when compared with Current Expenditure, has an answer that is patent and clear when properly examined.

The overall deficit of the Government is the shortfall on Current Revenue, plus the amounts which Government is unable to identify to meet its Capital Expenditure, and that is the area that ought to be of concern. In this instance, the aggregate of the two numbers is some \$177 million. It is clear that, when the time comes next month, Government will be targeting its Budget to close the gap between its Recurrent Expenditure and Current Revenue.

I have heard comment that Government has been borrowing money to meet Recurrent Expenditure. Every Government has to borrow some money to meet Recurrent Expenditure, but the money borrowed to meet Recurrent Expenditure is never long-term money. If Government borrowed long term to meet short-term expenditure, Government would be committing a serious offence. Short-term monies have to be borrowed by way of Treasury Bills and other services through the Central Bank to meet normal Recurrent Expenditure.

It is for meeting Capital Expenditure that Government has to go overseas from time to time. That is why Governments must, of necessity, be most careful in their bunching of expenditures to ensure that the problem which now faces the Democratic Labour Party Government, beginning in 1987 and going right through until 1991, and probably 1992, is never allowed to happen again. One can only say that it is a reflection on the sort of management which was available to this country over the past ten years that we are in a situation that we have our debt bunched in such a way that we cannot escape this problem of an annual deficit on Recurrent Expenditure.

11.10 a.m.

Do not let us be foolish about it. We cannot wish it away. For every one of the next succeeding four years, the Government whatever Government it is, will have to come to Parliament with a shortfall on Recurrent Expenditure, shortfall on Current Estimates, because of the commitment of the Government to repay the debts

which have bunched. That is a fact of life and we need not shy away from it.

Over and above that, the Government finds itself with inescapable expenditure on wages and salaries in addition to these debt payments. There is no way that any Government will be able to balance its Current Account as long as there is continuing expansion in the public sector. Government, therefore, will have to carry out whatever studies are necessary to identify ways and means of ensuring the productivity of the Civil Service is increased. It will also have to carry out the necessary studies to ensure that the officials functioning in the agencies responsible for collecting the revenues of Government, and I refer to the Customs and the Inland Revenue Departments, the principal agencies for the collections of revenue, are totally committed to giving a day's work for a day's pay. In this respect the several unions have a responsibility to try to ensure that their membership understands that the country's progress is at stake unless the Public Service pulls its weight in this matter of collection of revenues.

There is one other comment I wish to make about the Memorandum to the Estimates, and a few comments about the failure to show Current Expenditure in the Estimates and relate it to the Estimates for the coming year.

There was a time when the Current Revenue, the Current Expenditure as well as the Capital Estimates, showed against each item the revised revenue or expenditure, as the case may be. A few years ago, when the Appropriation Bill was altered, and there was no longer provision under individual items, but under heads of Current Expenditure, a decision was taken that the amount of Revised Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure would only be shown in the Memorandum and in the tables leading up to the Estimates. So if you scrutinise the Memorandum to the Estimates, you will discover at page 13, although a lot of people shy away from the number 13, head by head, the amounts of Revised Expenditure. In that table, the estimates proposed for the current year would be shown, the approved sums for the previous year, the revised amounts for the previous year, the actual for two years ago and a comparison.

In the case of Capital Expenditure, not only is the revised estimate of Capital Expenditure shown at page 12 in the Memorandum of the Estimates, but it is also shown in the actual Estimates, at the green pages. The revised amounts are supposed to be shown. The column is there. So I think we need to look a little more closely at some of our criticisms, which are not altogether on target.

Other comments were made which I think I need to respond very briefly to. A comment was made, for

instance, that in the Ministry of Housing and Lands only \$2 million to \$3 million had been provided, and yet there were substantial sums of money owing for lands acquired. The commentator obviously did not recognise, or remember, that there was a supplementary in the Other Place to the Estimates this year, and I am advised that the actual expenditure on acquisitions is not anything like \$2 million, but it is in excess of \$9 million, and that included in that expenditure of over \$9 million is the expenditure to pay for the St. Joseph Hospital.

I am not entering into any debate on the St. Joseph Hospital, for certain reasons. I just mention in passing that provision was made in 1987-88 for the purchase of the St. Joseph Hospital and that payment has been made to the appropriate firm of attorneys. Hence, as far as we are concerned, the transaction has taken place.

In terms of whether provision should or should not be made in the Estimates for the St. Joseph Hospital, that will depend entirely on whether Government intends to have the hospital run along lines similar to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or other hospitals, or whether there are other arrangements being made. I believe that in good season that will be dealt with. I need not go down that road.

There were many comments made about the Ministry of Tourism. I can understand the concern about the Ministry of Tourism, because tourism is one of the largest sources of foreign currency, and it is tourism that makes Barbados move now that sugar has receded from the forefront of being the nation's largest provider of foreign currency.

The comment was made that there have been no TV ads in the United States since 1986. I am advised that before 1986, for several years there were no ads either. But that does not provide a satisfactory explanation as to why there are no ads. I am further advised that arrangements have been concluded for TV ads to be made in the United States of America, that is, in New York, Boston, Baltimore and Washington, for April 11, 1988. So the Ministry of Tourism and the Board of Tourism recognise the necessity to have such ads and have something done about it.

Some of us would also have seen last week on CNN that for five days there was some advertisement about Barbados. If we saw it, it means that some people elsewhere saw these ads for the five days. It is a fact that the ads were somewhat dated, because reference was made to Holiday Inn, and we have not had a Holiday Inn for some time. That has been overtaken by something "Grand", Grand Bay and now Grand Barbados, so it is clear that that is an old ad. But the fact is that the ad had been made, and my understanding is that CNN ran

the ad for the five days at no cost to the Government of Barbados. So we are not throwing money behind old ads. In fact, we have new ads which will come on stream during April of 1988.

My colleague who just spoke made some reference to the movement of British Airways, and he commented on Caribbean Airways. I would like to inform the Honourable Senate that during the last winter season British Airways put on as many as six flights a week, plus a flight of the Concorde, and there was an occasion on which two Concorde were on the tarmac at Grantley Adams International Airport. This gave them over 3 000 additional seats per week, and it represented an increase of 17.3 per cent in persons coming from the United Kingdom during the winter season. It is a fact that we did lose some seats through the pulling out of Caribbean Airways, but these were taken up by two additional flights by BWIA in addition to the British Airways charters.

11.20 a.m.

There was further comment that the Board of Tourism had closed its office in Frankfurt. That is absolutely untrue. It is a fact that a former Minister of Tourism had indicated an intention to close the Frankfurt Office, but that never happened. Indeed, the present Minister of Tourism recognises the importance of Europe, and I am not suggesting that the other one did not, but it was a question of saving money to get the best mileage. What is happening now is that marketing in Europe is being intensified, and agents have been identified both for France and Sweden, in addition to the Frankfurt office.

When one talks about offices, I need to comment about another statement that there were managers in the Board of Tourism offices working alone overseas. This, again, is not true. There may be acting appointees to posts in offices overseas, but the offices in London, New York and Canada have managers, as well as other staff. If reference was made to the offices in Los Angeles, Frankfurt and Montreal, these have never had managers. What they have is a representative in each instance, plus, at least, one other member of staff.

The hotels in this country have been in deficit since 1981. Both Governments have recognised the need for assisting and stimulating the owners of hotel plant in this country, especially local owners, and the Barbados Development Bank, to my certain knowledge, from time to time, has been given a mandate to assist these hotels to try to overcome their problems, in some cases by rescheduling their debts. But many hotels have, during the last year, indicated that progress has been made in meeting their indebtedness as a result of the Government initiatives taken in 1987, and special attention is still being paid, and will continue to be paid, to the small hotel owners.

During debate yesterday, this Sports and Cultural calendar was commented on. There was no praise that it was the first of its kind. The comment was that it came too late. Too late for what? For whom? The calendar aims at providing information from January to December of 1988. It would obviously be too late for January, February and March, but it is a beginning, a step in the right direction.

I think the Minister of Tourism needs to ensure that the one for 1989 is available by October of 1988, and I am assured by him that initiatives have been undertaken to ensure that that happens. But over and above that, the calendar provides information to all of those persons who are expected in Barbados, and I am advised that even before the calendar was made available to us, it was transmitted to all of the several offices overseas to ensure that it does have some impact. It will not, indeed, have total impact on all the persons who are likely to be coming to Barbados, but the Ministry of Tourism is happy about the out-of-season business which was done in 1987, and anticipates that this pictorial magazine will facilitate and assist in improving the 1988 out-of-season visitors to Barbados in greater numbers than 1987.

Comment was also made, when this magazine was drawn to our attention, that there was no mention in it about the activities relating to the 350th anniversary of Parliament. I raised this matter with the Minister of Tourism, and I was given the assurance that the several activities, which are yet to be determined, in relation to the 350th anniversary of Parliament will certainly find their way in the magazine for 1989, because it is 1989 that is the 350th anniversary.

I have been advised that plans are already in hand for giving the widest possible cover not only to that event, because it will be featured in the magazine for 1989, but that the 1989 calendar will feature historic places of interest. Discussion has already taken place between the Board of Tourism and the National Trust to identify those places of historic interest, to which tourists who come to Barbados are attracted, and which, we hope, others coming would want to see.

Another comment which was made yesterday needs to be corrected. It is a fact that our tour operators, I am advised, have been withdrawn *carte blanche* from the incoming passenger area at Grantley Adams International Airport. This is a necessary act, based on information which is available to the security personnel, and it is so not only at the airport, but in Washington and, probably, in London. This security situation needs to be tackled, and the very persons who are going to talk about being run from Washington are the very ones who will tell me that the drug problem is one which they are concerned about. So we have to put up defences not only against Washington, but against Columbia and all the other places.

It is also a fact that 160 temporary passes have been made available to the same tour operators to enable them to have a presence still. What I am told is that instead of some tour operators being able to send five people in, they can send one in, and all of the tour operators have been given temporary passes, at least, to enable them to have access to this area. So the damage or danger is nothing as severe as what is suggested.

It would be probably remiss of me if I did not make some brief and passing comment about the Ministry of the Civil Service. Last year, I regarded it as a necessary thing to speak at length and in detail on the Ministry of the Civil Service. The Ministry of the Civil Service has been with us for as long as there has been a Government. But hysteria followed the appointment of a Minister of the Civil Service, whipped up by persons who know why they are whipping up. Maybe they have something to fear, fear that things will be discovered.
11.30 a.m.

The Ministry of the Civil Service is steadfastly continuing its work to ensure that the Public Service provides more satisfactory service to the people of this country. This concern about unsatisfactory service is not only found in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party, it is found in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party for 1986. I am not going to quote from the BLP's manifesto, but I read it with interest. They proposed establishing a commission, another commission, at taxpayers' expense, to enquire into the Public Service of Barbados. Yet they presided over the destruction of the Organisation and Management Unit of the Prime Minister's Office, which had a responsibility to carry out the framework that they would have been appointing a commission of enquiry to examine.

The Ministry of the Civil Service, whether the Minister is Lewis or Browne or Jones.....

(*Aside:* SENATOR L. R. TULL: No, no. Because it is Lewis.)

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: has a duty and a responsibility.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will the Senator please stop the cross talk.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: The Lewises of this country have their faith in one source. The Lewises know whom they serve. They serve the people with humility. The Lewises of this country have a record of civil service that cannot be touched by any of the persons who make those side comments.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: The Lewises of this country in the Civil Service have assisted in making this country what it is, and the institutions will still stand long after the Lewises have gone.

Applause.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I should read Tom's letter, but I would not worry with that for them now.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Accountability is, according to the manifesto of the DLP, ...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us hear the Senator, please.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Accountability is a most important thing. This is the same accountability which was taken from the hands of the senior civil servants and placed in the hands of politicians by the Barbados Labour Party's Government. It had to be rescued from the hands of the politicians and put back in the hands of the public officers who are committed to ensuring that there are proper systems and proper use of Government monies.

I have never been one to point fingers or call the names of people, and I would therefore not even cite any cases of the way in which accountability was undermined during the period when in the foreign missions, accountability was removed from the hands of public officers and placed in the hands of politicians. I leave that where it is. The record of that speaks for itself.

The Ministry of the Public Service, charged with the responsibility of carrying out a programme of administrative reform, has started in that direction. It has reintroduced the several programmes of training, both locally and overseas, which had fallen into abeyance. The O and M Unit has carried out several studies, and the beneficiaries of its work will be the Civil Service and eventually, the way in which productivity returns.

The Personnel Administration Division continues to support the several Services Commissions. Some time in 1988, the Establishments Division of the Ministry will complete its work not only in revising the Qualifications Order, but coming with a Civil Establishments Order. At that time, we will explain in some detail why it is necessary to establish a substantial number of temporary posts, which have been the subject of manipulation over a ten-year period and which will now have to find full permanent establishment of this country.

I wish, Mr. Deputy President, with those few remarks to support, even with some shortcomings which I recognise in certain areas, the Estimates, in general, which have been presented to this Honourable Chamber.

Applause.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy President, I would like to make a couple of comments before addressing the Estimates for 1988-89.

I believe Senator Morrison alluded, when he was dealing with Aero Services, to a group of companies that I happen to be connected with, Goddard Group of Companies, and to Neal and Massey of Trinidad, which are currently negotiating with the Government in connection with Aero Services. I can confirm that preliminary negotiations started and took place many months ago, it could be as long ago as a year. I am not aware of negotiations that are taking place currently, and I think I would be in a position to know if there were. And all that he has said about Aero Services would influence me not to continue any discussion.

Laughter.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: The second point is that I would like to bring to your attention today's newspaper. I have not had a chance to read both newspapers carefully, but on the front page of the *Barbados Advocate*, there is a story reporting what Senator Amory Phillips said yesterday, and I hope you would permit me to bring it to your attention. The first paragraph says:

"Government Senator Amory Phillips has called on Government to increase the Corporation Tax from the current 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent in the new financial year 1988-89."

Senator Phillips knows what the rate of Corporation Tax is. It is 35 per cent, and that is what he did say. He also went on to elaborate. But the point I want to make is that this is incorrect, inaccurate reporting.

(*Aside:* Senator N. W. BOXILL: Stop them from coming in here, that is all.)

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: In the same column of that article, it went on to report what the Senator had said:

"He felt that the Corporation Tax relief should have been tied to employment generation and not for directors to get increased dividends."

Directors never receive dividends, as you very well know, Mr. Deputy President. Directors may receive fees, shareholders receive dividends.

I bring this to attention because I welcome having the Press in here. But I think it is very important, if we want the public to be informed, that greater care is taken in reporting these matters correctly.

Applause.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy President, I now turn to the Estimates. When I first received my copy, I was really quite alarmed to see the very large deficit on Current Account that was being projected for the year 1987-88. The original Estimates had provided for a deficit of \$18 million. We are now looking at a deficit of \$95 million on Current Account.

I understand that that includes certain figures that were not anticipated and, therefore, it is a distorted figure, in that it includes arrears of wage payments and tax rebates. I can see where the wage payments would have been charged off in various heads. I am not able to trace the tax rebate, so I will be asking for clarification in due course. It would have seemed to me that the tax rebate would have been netted against the Income Tax revenue rather than charged off as an item of expenditure.

11.40 a.m.

Asides.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Yes, that is correct. The effect is the same — yes.

But I was so alarmed over that year that I decided to go back three years to see if I could pick up a trend of where we are coming from, where we are, and where we seem to be going. In the three years 1984-85, 1985-86, and 1986-87, revenue has gone up fairly gradually, from \$574 million to \$670 million. Current Expenditure has risen by about the same pace. So in those three years we had deficits on Current Account of \$21 million, \$15 million, and \$15 million. We are projecting a deficit of \$49 million in 1988-1989. I am dealing with deficit on Current Account only. I am not at this stage adding Capital Expenditure, which will increase the overall deficit substantially.

That is the first trend I do not like — the increasing amount of the deficit on Current Account. I am indebted to Senator Lewis for his explanations with regards to the bunching of the repayment of loans between 1987 and 1992. But that does not relieve me — it adds to my concern.

If we may now look, Mr. Deputy President, at the Estimates for 1988-1989 of Current Revenue, it would seem that we are looking to increase the revenue from Income Tax. It also looks as if we are looking to increase the revenue from Consumption Tax, and we

are expecting a small decline in Non-Tax Revenue. So we are projecting an overall estimated revenue of \$753 million as compared with a Revised Estimates for 1987-1988 of \$719 million.

If we look at the Expenditure side, still dealing with the Current Account, first I would have to compare the Approved Estimates for 1987-1988 with the Revised Estimates for that same year. There were substantial increases in the Charges of Debt from \$133 million to \$161 million, in Loans and Advances from \$1.3 million to \$8.2 million, in the expenditure in the Ministry of Education and Culture from \$155 million to \$169 million - I am rounding the figures off to the nearest million, Mr. Deputy President, - in the Ministry of Housing and Lands from \$111 million to \$126 million, and in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications from \$42 million to \$55 million. I realise that reflects the arrears of wages. But instead of our spending \$716 million, we spent \$814 million - \$98 million more than had been estimated.

That is not all, Mr. Deputy President. Another alarming thing to me is that as shown in Appendix C of the Estimates, the Supplementary Estimates in 1987 - 1988 were 42, for an amount just in excess of \$100 million. In the previous year, 1986-1987, the supplementary Estimates were only half that amount, 21, totaling \$66 million. This, to me, is an indication, as we would say in the private sector, of bad budgeting, and it may be another good reason for greater scrutiny to be given to those Supplementary Estimates in this Chamber. We will deal with that at another time.

It is against that background that when we look back at the Estimates, we see that there has been a Current Account deficit every year since 1980, except two years. So in seven years we have had five deficits on Current Account and two surpluses and according to what Senator Lewis has said, I think we can safely look forward to deficit in the next four or five years on Current Account.

The significant increase in the projection for Current Expenditure for 1987-1988 over what was originally estimated, of some \$98 million or 13.7 per cent, and the large increase in the number of Supplementary Estimates causes me concern, and causes me to question the reliability of the Estimates of Current Expenditure of \$802 million for the year ahead, 1988-1989. I sincerely hope that the Current Expenditure will not exceed that amount.

Without trying to evaluate what we have spent and how we have spent on Capital Works, I would just like to comment that we have spent over \$100 million every year since 1980-1981, and the amount is rising.

Mr. Deputy President, it is fairly clear that when you are running a deficit on Current Account and Government is embarking on a large Capital Expenditure programme, the money has to come from somewhere. The figures I am quoting now, I am taking from the Central Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics. The National Debt at December 31, 1984 was \$955 million. If we estimate the deficit for the first three months of 1985 by taking a quarter of the deficit of that fiscal year, at least apportioning it, and the total fiscal deficit for 1986 and 1987, those amount to \$383 million, the National Debt should be \$1 338 000 000 by the end of 1987. In fact, it was \$1 320 000 000, very, very close. If to that balance at March 31, 1987 we add the fiscal deficit for 1987-1988 of \$271 million, and \$228 million for 1988-1989, the two of them together aggregating almost a \$½ billion, \$499 million, we can estimate that the National Debt at the end of March of 1989 will be \$1 819 000 000. It is therefore fairly safe to predict that by 1990 the National Debt will be over \$2 billion.

11.50 a.m.

Mr. Deputy President, let us go back in history. In 1973, the first year that statistics are available on the National Debt, it was \$133 million. By 1980, it had risen to \$493 million, of which 33.2 per cent was denominated in foreign currencies. By 1987, it had risen to \$1 483 000 000, with 47 per cent of that in foreign currency. That tells me that we have been able to quadruple the National Debt in the decade of the Seventies, and will quadruple it again in the decade of the Eighties, so if we project a National Debt of \$2 billion by 1990, by extrapolation it should be some \$8 billion by the year 2000. I am not saying that is going to happen, but I am following the trend of figures.

Mr. Deputy President, let us look at the charges of National Debt, that is the interest, the sinking fund provisions and the amortising of principal. In 1980, when the National Debt was \$493 million, the Charges of Debt were some \$52 million. In 1987, November, the National Debt was \$1 482 000 000, the Charges of Debt were \$161 million. What that means is that whereas in 1980 11.5 per cent of Current Revenue was used to service our National Debt, by 1987 almost twice that amount, 22.4 per cent of our Current Revenue is being used to service national debt. In fact, these Charges of Debt are now competing with what we spend on Education and Culture for the honour of being the largest single head of expenditure.

In 1986-87, the Charges of Debt amounted to \$141 million. In that same year, we spent \$139 million on Education and Culture. In 1980-81, we were able to spend almost twice on Education and Culture as what it cost us to service the debt. We spent \$90 million on Education and Culture in 1980-81 and it only cost us \$52 million to service our National Debt.

I would like to look at this National Debt again from another angle, in relation to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Here I am quoting from Barbados Economic Reports put out by the Economic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Office. Again, I repeat that the National Debt rose from \$493 million in 1980 and it is \$1 482 000 000 at November 1987. The Gross Domestic Product at market prices was \$1 730 000 000 in 1980 and I estimate that it will be \$2 730 000 000 by the end of 1987. I have taken the 1986 figure and added 2 per cent.

Our National Debt was 28.5 per cent of our GDP in 1980. By 1987 it will be 54.3 per cent of our GDP; almost double. The real growth in our GDP in the period 1980-1986 in constant dollars - I am eliminating inflation, using 1974 as the base year - was 0.44 per cent compounded, or only 2.468 per cent overall. During that period our population has been increasing at the rate of 0.3 per cent only. In other words, our per capita income has been rising, but not nearly as fast as our per capita debt. We are mortgaging the future very heavily. This is particularly dangerous for any small country with no mineral resources.

To summarise what I have been trying to say on the National Debt, Mr. Deputy President, my concerns are the very fast rise in the National Debt, the increasing proportion of foreign loans in that total debt, the increasing proportion of Current Revenue required to service the Charges of Debt, that is, the interest, the sinking fund provisions and amortising the principal, and finally, the worsening relationship of the National Debt to the Gross Domestic Product, the value of all the goods and services that we produce.

I must say that if these concerns are not addressed, and addressed now, our ability to raise new loans, especially abroad, will be jeopardised. Let us make no mistake about that.

Secondly, our dollar is currently tied to the U.S. dollar at two to one. That is not a magical figure, that can change. I do not believe it is inevitable, I do not believe it would be wise to change it at this time, but if we do not take the corrective steps, it will be changed for us. So I am concerned about the value of the Barbados dollar in the future in relation to the U.S. dollar, to which we are currently tied two to one, as well as its relationship to other leading world currencies. Any devaluation would automatically increase the financial burden of servicing the foreign component of our National Debt, and that component is rising, percentage-wise.

Regarding the economy, Mr. Deputy President, I think it is safe to conclude that our relative prosperity in recent years has not been truly earned, but has been based more on Government's ability to borrow. The Government alone does not have the financial ability

to expand the economy. These figures make that manifestly clear to me - I am not coming from any ideological position - yet we must recognise that our productive sectors operate in very competitive environments, regionally and internationally. I believe Government's primary role is to encourage and assist new private sector investments, both local and foreign, and create the environment within which those investments will take place.

The deposits in our commercial banks at the end of November 1987 amounted to \$1 310 709 000 compared with \$1 184 089 000 at December 31, 1986; in 11 months a rise of roughly \$130 million, and two-thirds of that increase was in personal accounts.
12.00 noon.

We have a new Securities Exchange. I believe Government would be well advised to offer additional incentives. It has already offered incentives for the purchasing of new shares of a public company up to \$10 000 so that a much larger proportion of our population would be in the mainstream of commercial life and would be encouraged to take their savings out of the commercial banks and invest in new ventures, or the expansion of existing ventures. In this regard, I can find no good reason or justification why interest rates have recently been increased by one per cent, not if we are looking to stimulate the economy, Mr. Deputy President. The prime rate was recently increased from 8¼ per cent to 9¼ per cent.

We have to look, as other Senators have already alluded to and commented on, at the social and economic waste of high unemployment, now estimated at 18.6 per cent overall, but I believe very much higher in the age group 16 to 25 years. Coupled with that is the problem of illegal drugs, which other Senators have already spoken of, a serious problem in this community.

While looking at unemployment, I looked at the Unemployment Benefit Scheme figures. Under the existing scheme, in 1986 our payments exceeded receipts by \$5.4 million. In 1987, the payments again exceeded receipts, this time by \$5.7 million.

I have also looked at the payments out of the Severance Payment Scheme, and here Government only pays 25 per cent and the employer pays the other 75 per cent. The employer pays 100 per cent and gets a 25 per cent rebate. In 1986, payments exceeded receipts by \$2.7 million, and in 1987, up to when the figures were available, receipts exceeded payments by \$222 000. But I have no way of knowing if all the payments are up to date, so I question that figure.

I believe that the Government needs to evaluate both the Unemployment Benefit Scheme and the Severance Payment Scheme. There needs to be a proper cost

benefit analysis. Somehow or other, they have to reconcile what is socially desirable with what is economically sound and affordable.

I am not going to attempt any sectoral analysis, Mr. Deputy President. Others have done that, and I am sure others will do it after I sit. I would like to add my voice, though, to what has been said about the occasion of our anniversary next year, our 350 years of parliamentary democracy. I think it is a fantastic opportunity. I was very pleased to hear what Senator Lewis had to say, but let us not wait until October or November, when we hope that magazine will be published. The publicity has to be done now, so I am only supporting what the Senator has said and what other Senators have said. It is an amazing opportunity, and I do not think that any other country would let it pass by and not celebrate and exploit it to the fullest for the benefit of their country.

Let us try to look ahead. I am not trying to be an alarmist, and I am not despairing at all, Mr. Deputy President. We can correct the economic situation if we take the necessary steps. It will not correct itself.

I agree with Senator Clarke that we must strive to develop a just, equitable and humane society. I think those were his words in his opening remarks when he addressed us yesterday. That type of society has to be built on a very sound economic foundation. Let us keep our hearts, but let us think with our heads.

I hope the Government's new Development Plan, for 1988-93, will reflect financial prudence and responsibility. Government has to demonstrate it. It has no choice. It has to demonstrate a serious commitment to reduce the fiscal deficit, notwithstanding what Senator Lewis has said about the bunching of repayment of loans. It needs to improve control over Current Expenditure and reduce waste in all its forms, whether it be material, manpower, whatsoever.

We do not need wage restraint, Mr. Deputy President, we need expenditure restraint. That covers the whole gamut. As the calypsonian says, we have to hold strain. I see no reason why we cannot cut back on certain capital expenditure. You do not have to have a thing if you cannot afford it.

In my opinion, Sir, it should not be necessary to increase taxes. But I recognise, given the situation that Government finds itself in, that marginal increases may be necessary for the short term while they make their necessary adjustments or fine tuning.

We do not need to stimulate revenue, we need to stimulate revenue collection. Nobody likes paying taxes, but I believe the vast majority of taxpayers in this country have become frustrated and feel cheated because the

vast majority pay their indirect taxes every time they purchase an item, or they have deductions made from their wages and salaries weekly or monthly, as the case may be, towards NIS and PAYE. They have no control over what they pay into the public Treasury, yet they perceive that there are far too many, and a growing number of persons in this community, who are not making their fair contribution to the Public Treasury.

I believe the tax burden would seem a lot less onerous and odious if all taxpayers felt that the load was being shared equitably in accordance with the law. I would urge the Government to strengthen the inspection functions of both the Customs and Inland Revenue departments. I believe Senator Lewis has already referred to this, and I support him totally on that.

I am sorry that I really cannot support these Estimates for 1988-89 that have been presented. I recognise that the Minister of Finance has a very difficult task ahead. He will be bombarded, both within his party and from the population at large, with requests to do this, that and the other. In the final analysis, he has to ask one question, the acid test is, can our country afford it? Any project, any request for expenditure, can be justified, but can we afford it? And if we do this, then we cannot do that. There is only so much money in the Treasury, and we cannot go on borrowing the way we have been in the last 20 years.

Mr. Deputy President, I wish the Minister of Finance well, and trust that he will study very carefully the constructive criticism made during the debate on the Estimates in both Houses of Parliament in preparing his Budget and the Government's Development Plan for 1988-93.

I thank you, Sir.
12.10 p.m.

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy President, in this debate last year, I said that I found Appendix G particularly useful in terms of making a judgement on Government's priorities. I also hoped that it could help form part of the future Estimates. I am saddened by the death of Appendix G. I, therefore, have to use my own judgement in assessing the priorities of Government.

The debate this year is dominated by concerns about the state of the economy of Barbados. Anyone who spends more than he earns, must have a clear understanding of how he is going to make good the short-fall. I am a little concerned that the Estimates project an overall deficit at the end of this month of some \$271.5 million, which is believed to be the highest overall deficit in the history of Barbados; the first time, it has passed the \$200 million mark. It therefore, follows that Government will

have to take whatever steps that may be necessary to correct this serious imbalance.

Mr. Deputy President, I am less concerned about how we got into this position than what we propose to do about it. I hope that partisanship will play a very small part, or no part at all, if that is possible, in making constructive suggestions or solutions to our economic problems.

I note from the Estimates, Mr. Deputy President, that the Ministry of Health will receive the biggest budget cut, with expenditure being slashed from \$126 million to \$117 million. I also note that the Ministry of the Civil Service will have a reduced budget, with its vote falling from \$17.5 million to just over \$14 million. Sorry, Senator Lewis!

Part of the country's economic problems has to do with the level of unemployment. But whatever new jobs have been found in the last year, we do not appear to have begun to solve the problem of high unemployment among women. In its efforts to find jobs, Government must seriously address the problems of women who are out of work. They benefit very little from the boom in construction. Closure of the firms in the electronic sector has not helped the situation. Government must cut its deficit, but it must also do so in a humane way, as Senator Dr. Clarke said, without damage to our social services and without creating greater unemployment, especially among our women.

I now turn to specific areas. I am still unhappy, Mr. Deputy President, about the level of the subvention being given to the Child Care Board. The explanatory note reminds us *inter alia*, that these funds provide and maintain child care institutions for the safe keeping of children in need and in care of protection, and it is the increasing number of children in need of care and protection which is my greatest concern.

Specifically, Mr. Deputy President, I am concerned about the increasing level of child abuse. The questions which I asked on the matter in November of 1986 were finally answered in 1987. The Honourable Leader of the Senate told us that a Family Court will be established, that there will be a new Offences Against the Persons Act, and that there would be mandatory reporting of child abuse and negligent cases.

I am not at all sure that it has gone home to the majority of people just how serious the problem of child abuse is. Just recently, there was a Queen of Song competition here in Barbados. The young lady who was eventually named Queen of Song presented the song "Who Hears The Child Cry". The ballad was written, and the music arranged by her. She has delivered a message in that song, and she does so with conviction and I recommend to all sitting at this table to listen to it.

None of us wakes up thinking that today I am going to abuse my child. Yet, abuse occurs and has reached epidemic proportions across the nation. Child abuse includes deliberate and serious physical or mental injury, or sexual abuse of children. It is also not generally recognised that those abusing children are not necessarily the poor and dispossessed. They come from all walks of life. Such parents were often abused as children. It also includes neglect, cases in which young children are left unattended or are deprived of adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care and the like.

Mr. Deputy President, it should also be understood that we live in a stressful society, and there are many parents who, without fully realising the damage that they are inflicting on their children, react with anger and physically or psychologically mistreat their children. I am not satisfied that this area is given the priority it deserves, and despite our economic problems, I feel that Government could be more generous to the Child Care Board in its efforts to deal with the problem of child abuse. The funds provided are hopelessly inadequate, and the board will not be able to survive without a supplementary during the coming financial year.

Usually three-quarters of the funds go towards the payment of salaries and the feeding of the children in day and residential care. This means that there are very little funds remaining to budget for things such as foster care, the daily educational programme and so on.

The Child Care Board is currently in crisis as far as numbers of children are concerned. More staff is needed to do investigations of referrals. The department is short-staffed and is going through its most serious crisis. It has not had a director for some time now. I see that the post has been advertised, but no decision has been taken. There is a need for the professional to be allowed to get on with the job of social work and for the board to get on with the job they were selected to do, that is, the matter of policy.

Policy needs to be addressed to such matters as foster care. This programme can succeed if funds can be allocated in sufficient amounts to employ professional staff to assess the prospective foster parents. Unfortunately, this has never been done by either party in government, and Government continues to try to allocate funding to support a large institutional programme when community care concepts can not only provide quality care, but can provide this care in a cheaper form.

It is my understanding that such a proposal has already been made to this Government and that all it needs is a sympathetic ear. Government must be cautioned since children being raised in overcrowded centres can have severe emotional problems. They tend not to have individual attention from staff which is overburdened by great numbers of children.

Staff at the Child Care Board Centre is doing a super-human job. It is often a thankless task, and we need to pay greater attention to staff morale and problems. They work long hours for low pay, and those who do not work the long hours are not paid monthly salaries but are paid weekly salaries which do not take into consideration their levels of training and the wealth of knowledge the staff has.

I still think that there is need for an S.O.S. Children's Village in Barbados. Such homes already exist in over 70 countries around the world, including the Caribbean. These homes are concerned to give orphaned or abandoned children a new start in life by providing a substitute for the family they have lost. But such a village cannot get off the ground without Government's assistance. This is an idea which I think a caring Government should explore. Assistance will come from many quarters, but Government must manifest tangible interest.

12.20 p.m.

The National Assistance Board, Mr. Deputy President, has been the subject of much controversy in the recent past. Last year, we received the Report of a Committee of Enquiry into its affairs. My only comment on the National Assistance Board is that it has traditionally been affected by far too much partisan politics. Whatever the criticisms of the Committee's Report, it is clearly recognised that there is a need for rigorous control of public funds. All the evidence pointed to a situation where the control of public funds, particularly in the run-up to elections, were less than vigorous.

Mr. Deputy President, this debate is once again taking place during the "Week For The Disabled", and once again, I must bemoan the fact that not enough is being done by Government for the disabled of Barbados. There is still the need for a sheltered workshop for the special children coming out of the schools that you support. There is no point educating children to a certain degree, and when they have to leave the schools, they go back into the same homes they came out from with nothing to do. We must address ourselves to that.

There should also be a special scheme for placing the disabled in suitable employment. I must pay tribute to those few businesses, particularly supermarkets, which have gone out of their way to help some of these people.

I now turn, Mr. Deputy President, to the subject of illegal drugs. I commend the Government on its efforts to fight this menace. We are all together in this fight against an evil which is having a serious effect on our young people. It is not only a matter of dealing with the perpetrators, the pushers and other dealers, it is also a matter of providing rehabilitation for those caught in the net, those who experiment with crack and rock and

all the other fashionable ways by which our youth are lured into the habit.

One agency which is worthy of the highest commendation is the Salvation Army, of which I have the honour to be an advisory member. They have plans to develop a rehabilitation centre in Bridgetown. Senators Miller and Fraser alluded to this yesterday, and I want to support them in their call for the support of this centre.

Government must stop dragging its feet on the Army's request for a lease of the feeding centre building in Reed Street, which has recently been renamed, the National Boxing Gymnasium. Numerous letters have been written, numerous meetings have been held. Government must treat this with the utmost urgency. Unless they do so, the project may well be lost to Barbados.

The Salvation Army first arrived in Barbados before the turn of the century, and it has done outstanding work in this country. I appeal to Government to cut out the red tape and permit the Army to accomplish the goal of erecting the much needed rehabilitation centre, which will contribute to the overall national effort in this fight against drug abuse.

Mr. Deputy President, during the last quarter of 1987, advertisements appeared in the press for guidance officers to be appointed to the 21 secondary schools in this country. The need for these officers in the schools today is critical, having regard to the many social problems such as drugs, attitudes to work and discipline which the youth today face. However, Mr. Deputy President, despite the advertisement which appeared in the Press late last year, I see no provision under Head 34, Education, for these guidance officers. My question to the Minister, therefore is, has Government policy on the issue changed?

Mr. Deputy President, this debate provides the opportunity for me to make a few points on Foreign Affairs. I note that this Head is unaffected by the pattern of restraint which seems to be the main feature in the Estimates now before us. I did not make a contribution to the recent debate on the foreign policy of Barbados. This resulted more from my frustration at the length of time between the start and the finish than from any general negative views about the operation of our foreign policy. I should, therefore, be grateful for your indulgence, Mr. Deputy President, while I make a few observations under the relevant Head in the Estimates.

First, I should like to congratulate Senator Tudor on his Ministry's document on Barbados' foreign policy. Whatever may be its weaknesses, it is a contribution to a greater understanding of our small state in a complex world. A further source of satisfaction, Mr. Deputy

President, relates to the fact that, looking at the Barbados foreign policy since Independence, we find that there has been continuity, and this has made for strength. There is really no need for political dissention about what should be Barbados' place in the world. We had, for example, a very progressive decision taken in 1976 or 1977 to recognise the People's Republic of China. Barbados, I believe, recognised China even before the United States did so. It made absolutely no sense for a mini state like Barbados to fail to recognise the vast People's Republic of China, with its nearly one billion people. Despite the change of Government, it is clear that this policy will not be reversed. In fact on page 47 of the review, which I believe is already a document of the Senate, it is stated:

"Barbados recognizes the importance of having a cordial and constructive relationship with China, a nation of enormous human and economic resources and above all, a major global power with permanent membership on the Security Council, and an important shared responsibility for guaranteeing world peace. Barbados will continue therefore to strengthen its ties with the People's Republic of China by identifying new areas in which bilateral, technical and cultural interchanges can be pursued. The dialogue will be continued at the highest state levels."

That dialogue must have continued, because I think we now have the gymnasium. That is a start!

I think, Mr. Deputy President, that increasingly, our embassies and missions abroad should pay greater attention to promoting Barbados in areas such as trade. A small country should not devote an inordinate amount of time and effort to the diplomatic trappings, which for one thing, we cannot afford.

I would also like to feel that the Foreign Service officers in the Public Service will continue to be given the opportunity to reach the top positions. There is room for political appointments, but great care should be taken in the choice of persons who represent us abroad.

Asides.

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: There are some other matters which we have to focus attention on. Terrorism is a prime example. Barbados, dependent as it is on tourism, is extremely vulnerable to terrorism. I know that the Foreign Minister has gone on record in emphasising his disapproval of terrorism, whether by state organisations or individuals. He has made it clear that this country could never condone such acts. We must co-operate with every agency and take every possible precaution to ensure that terrorism does not rear its ugly head in Barbados, and the region generally.

12.30 p.m.

It is important, Mr. Deputy President, that every citizen knows, or has the means of knowing, what his country's foreign policy is. We are, after all, ambassadors in our own right. Our performance at the time of the Haitian crisis did not meet with universal approval, and I very much hope that we have learnt our lesson well.

I fully endorse the Foreign Minister's six point plan enumerated in his foreword to the review, that is to improve Barbados' foreign policy. The amount allocated under this Head in the Estimates is reasonable, and no Barbadian should be in any doubt because of the general soundness of our foreign policy since Independence.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

Applause.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move the suspension of this sitting until 1.45 p.m.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 1.45 p.m. was put and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
12.35 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to deal with a few areas of the National Debt. The National Debt comprises the two sections, as we all know of local debt and foreign currency. The local debt is something that we know that we Barbadians will have to pay. There is nobody else to pay it. And all of this foreign debt must be paid out of the earnings of the various sections of the economy that trade in the outside world.

First, there is manufacturing. Senator Miller said that the equipment used in the manufacture of clothing is inadequate and antique. Why cannot a loan be made, on the same basis as the Government guarantees bonds that it provides for the sugar industry, which could be used to upgrade the equipment? Then a small levy could be placed on locally-sold garments, as is done on locally-sold sugar, which would service the bond issue. The benefits that would derive from modernising the machinery with which they produce the local garments would be hopefully enough to pay the levy.

While on the subject, Sir, of money — what about \$120 million that Guyana owes Barbados, or used to owe? I do not know how much, if any, they have paid through the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility, but the interest on that money now, I am sure, if none has been paid, would exceed \$150 million. If this could be collected, it will go a long way in meeting our huge deficit between revenue and expenditure.

I have seen it reported in the Press that Guyana is now increasing its trade with Jamaica. Both of these countries have devalued their money and, perhaps, it is more beneficial to Guyana to deal with Jamaica than Barbados, although they owe us so much money. I would like to make it clear, Sir, that I am not advocating devaluation. I am only stating a fact.

The second area that I would like to say a few words on is sugar and other agricultural exports. Senator Clarke, in his introduction, said machinery must take the place of labour. We would need foreign currency to purchase machinery. Just one piece of equipment used for harvesting of canes, a combined harvester, costs in excess of Bds. \$300 000, and the ancillary equipment to go with it would be two four-wheel drive tractors and ten cane bins — the minimum that is used. About five years ago, when I had the experience of having them built, cane bins cost \$10 000 apiece. Today they would be more expensive than that, and two four-wheel drive tractors would run into some \$100 000. So you would be looking at another \$200 000 beside the cost of the harvester. So it is easy to talk about mechanization and reducing labour cost, but mechanisation has a foreign exchange cost. We do not build all those things in Barbados.

Diversification of agriculture, Sir, means hand labour. You cannot take a tractor and harvest tomatoes and cabbage and things of this nature. You must have people and, strange to say, Sir, the labour element in the cost of agriculture runs at over 50 per cent, somewhere in the vicinity of 54 per cent. And Senator Clarke in introducing this Bill, said that the Civil Service is costing 54 per cent of the Government's expenditure. So we find, Sir, that agriculture and Government are on similar basis.

Agriculture has been told to reduce the cost of agriculture. I would suggest to Government that, in-as-much as both of us have 54 per cent of labour cost, Government should reduce the cost of its Civil Service also. If you take 54 per cent of \$800 million, you are talking about \$430 million, and in my opinion, in an expenditure of \$430 million there is room for savings.

1.50 p.m.

Agriculture has a lot to bear. Let us take the acquisition of land. Some years ago, the Government acquired lands that passed through sugar estates. When it was coming up to the crop of 1987, not this crop, this

crop is 1988, the end of 1986, I know of an estate, in which I must declare an interest, that the road construction people went in and bulldozed the canes that were soon to be reaped, without notifying the owners of the plantation. They had acquired the land, but Sir, strange to say, no money has been paid for the land and the road now is coming up where curbs will soon be put on it and that sort of thing. The hard part of it, Sir, is that although the estates have been deprived of their lands for two years, no payment for the land that Government has acquired has been made. You still have to pay the taxes on that land, you cannot transfer that land to Government until you have tax receipts to show that you paid the taxes. They have had the land for two years and we are still paying the taxes.

Senator Phillips talked about the strength of the Barbados dollar, and I agree with him entirely that it creates stability with the outside world and people feel safe and secure when they come to Barbados to set up business. Jamaica and Guyana have had massive devaluations. This means that when they sell their sugar abroad, whether it is in world markets or protected markets, they get a lot more local money for their sugar. The foreign exchange needed by sugar industry in Barbados, and I believe worldwide, is not a large portion of the cost of producing sugar, so therefore, Sir, the quantity of their money that they have to spend abroad from earnings is small in relation to other industries.

Sir, every year we see in the Estimates a provision for the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation of \$3 million; last year for \$3.2 million; this year they have effected savings and dropped it from \$3.2 million to \$3 million. The name leads me to believe that it is an agricultural development agency. We never see or hear about what they have developed in agriculture. I feel, Sir, that the expenditure of \$3 million a year justifies the right to see what we are getting for that \$3 million. We never see it, and I think that at least once a year they should tell us of their successes or their failures. The taxpayers of this country who are putting up that \$3 million should know something of what they are getting for their \$3 million.

With regard to the condition of the sugar estates under their care, Senator Phillips was perfectly right when he suggested that the estates should go into housing, because they are no shining example to the agriculturists in Barbados. I understand that at River, that comes under the BADC, for three years they have tried unsuccessfully to grow cotton, and now they have given up and we are going back to plant sugar.

Senator Clarke said that they recognise that the sugar industry makes some contribution to the economy of the country. But the best remarks that put me to think were "that the sugar industry will continue, but with major structural change". The only thing I can say to that is that we will wait and see what is the major structural change.

Sir, I will not go on further in agriculture, because we had a long debate on agriculture in here two weeks ago, and I do not want to repeat and bore honourable Senators with what has already been said. So that is agriculture, Sir, and manufacturing.

The third thing, Sir, is tourism. We hear about visitor arrivals. They may be good statistics for the airport, but when it comes to the tourist industry itself, they are meaningless. I will give you a glaring example. Let us say we had 400 000 tourist arrivals and they stayed for seven nights each; we would have 2 800 000 bed nights. On the other hand, if we had a million, two and a half times as many tourists, staying only two nights, we would only have two million bed nights. So the number of arrivals coming to this country does not mean anything. They may be good statistics for the airport, but they are meaningless to the hotels.

When we come to Crop Over, Sir, you are going to get a lot of arrivals. But these are mainly Barbadians coming back home for a Barbadian spree, and they stay mainly with their friends and family. A small percentage go to hotels, not any quantity.

The American visitors, Sir. This year we were told early in the year by reliable agents, this is during the winter season this year, about January or so, when we were trying to get additional tourists from North America, to forget the North American market for any additional tourists. With the Wall Street problem that they had, and the electioneering in America, Americans were not travelling. They did not know what sort of Government they would get. Everybody was complaining about the deficit in America and whether the Government of America would try to close that gap, and the American people in the main, were trying to pay off their hire purchase debts and get back in a cash flow position. So the agents said, if you want to do business, look to Europe. But we still sent up to America, and Sir, too late.
2.00 p.m.

We also saw in the Press some time ago that the Jamaican industry, and I think, Bermuda, had serious fall-offs this winter season in tourists. These are countries which cater mainly to the American tourists. I think that Prime Minister Seaga said that they would be looking for business in the other areas, and the other areas, in my opinion, Sir, will be the areas which we are now

getting our additional tourists from, and that we got last summer, which would be Europe and Britain.

There is a publication called *Trends* put out by Pannell, Kerr, Forster. These documents, Sir, I can make documents of the House. This is dated February 8, 1988, but it is on the hotel industry internationally for 1986.

The percentage of room occupancy in Barbados was 67 per cent. The Caribbean average was 69.6 per cent. The worldwide average was 67.1 per cent. Barbados compares favourably with worldwide average.

The average daily rate per room — Barbados, US \$93.04; Caribbean average, US \$100.81; worldwide US \$64.53. So the hotels in Barbados have had a good occupancy, and when I say a good occupancy, I mean in comparison with world occupancy. The rate per room is way above world averages.

The average daily rate per guest — US \$48.83 in Barbados, US \$59.42 Caribbean average, worldwide average, US \$46.33. Again, we compare favourably with worldwide rate per guest, \$48 against a world average of \$46.

Average room rental per room — Barbados, US \$22 381; Caribbean average, US \$25 230; and worldwide average, US \$15 593. So we have done extremely well with average room revenue per room. This means good foreign currency for Barbados, because our earnings per room were very high. But we come now to the nitty-gritty. Income before fixed charges per available room — in Barbados, US \$1 237; Caribbean average, US \$5 264; worldwide average US \$7 705. So that shows up, Sir, the cost. Although we were one and a half times above, average revenue per room, we are only one-seventh of the revenue after paying for costs. On percentage of total revenue — Barbados, 3.2 per cent; Caribbean average, 11.3 per cent; worldwide average, 26.0 per cent. So what is happening is this, that the hotels are earning good foreign currency for Barbados, but they are not making any money.

This is what "Trends" says: "The most important item on this list is "income before fixed charges" and that was the US \$1 237. This item is the net income of the hotels before deduction of interest payments, depreciation, insurance and corporate profit tax. In the case of Barbados, income before fixed charges in 1986 was insufficient to cover those other expenses, with the result that Barbados' hotels will have incurred significant losses and also experienced severe cash flow and debt service constraints."

In other words, Sir, these hotels are earning the foreign currency for Barbados. But in spite of the reduc-

tion, which was mentioned by the Minister, on the reduction in property taxes, the hotels need some further assistance to earn that amount of foreign currency for this country.

Today, we hear that Light and Power, like everything else, is entitled to a profit. We hear that the Barbados Telephone Company is entitled to a profit. But when it comes to these areas where you have to go out and compete in the world markets for foreign currency and against the competition in the world nothing! They are not entitled to a profit!

Quoting from "Trends" again:

"Although occupancies in Barbados and the Caribbean region compared well with worldwide performance, and revenues per room were higher than worldwide averages, these advantages are *not* reflected in profit or return on investment. The resort hotels of the Caribbean naturally incur higher levels of operating costs since they must provide their guests with much more prolific entertainment, activities and amenities than the average city centre, highway or airport hotel. Added to this feature of resort hotels is the high cost associated with importation of many supplies, food, beverages and materials for maintenance and furnishings."

2.10 p.m.

Sir, I believe that approaches have been made to the Government for removal of the Consumption Tax on these things. There are supplies for the refurbishing of hotels that are necessary if we are to earn this foreign currency, the hotels must be kept in good condition or upgraded, and these things should be allowed in duty free. I quote again from "Trends."

"However it also recorded the lowest income after deduction of operating cost of any country included in the survey."

It is not only that we are below the average, the income is the lowest of any country included in the world survey.

"Only three per cent of Barbados' revenues was left after deducting operating expenses compared with a world wide average of 26 per cent. This has very serious implications for the future prosperity of Barbados' tourism sector."

Sir, I must admit that I agreed with Mr. Owen Arthur in the Other Place when he said that shops were being overbuilt in Bridgetown. In my opinion, Sir, he is perfectly right. But with manufacturing, I would put it, in a coma, sugar in a serious financial state, and the hotels operating at a net loss, who would put money in sugar or tourism?

I asked a businessman the other day — it was not Senator Phillips nor was it Senator Goddard — why do

you all that need foreign currency not put money in the tourist industry? He said, "Me? You mean you are asking me to put my shareholders' money in tourism, to throw it away?" But if you do not have the foreign currency, you cannot stock the number of shops that are going up in the malls about the place; you can build them, but they cannot stock them. And the more they have, Sir, to survive, the volume of business there is, must be divided amongst those shops. And it is going to mean higher and higher mark-ups or they will die.

Another thing is that our industry is a very young tourism industry. So the capital cost to put it there is at today's or yesterday's costs, whereas other tourist industries worldwide are very much older and the cost of putting them there was much less than it would be today. Government would know what it cost them to build Heywoods. It is still a secret. We have never yet heard what Heywoods cost. Therefore, Sir, the interest that is not included in that three per cent is bound to be much higher than the interest charged in older industries.

Finally, Sir, they are the three Heads to which I feel serious attention must be given. Manufacturing is, as I said, in a coma. It is not moving. Sugar is in serious difficulty. And tourism running at a loss. The Government is okay. The Government is getting its full share of foreign currency out of the tourist industry, higher than any other industry anywhere at all.

Mr. Deputy President, I would like Government to look at some way that it can further assist the tourist industry. It is too important for it to go. There is another serious thing that tourism is facing at the moment, and that is, harassment and drugs on the beaches. This has been going on, and being talked about, for, I am sure, more than five years. And this is as far as we get, Sir, talk. The hotels know the problems, the Hotel Association knows the problems, the Tourist Board knows the problems, the police know the problems, and the only body that seems as if it is not sure that they know the problem is Government. Government is now setting up a commission after all these years to find out what is happening on the beaches.

Mr. Deputy President, this industry is too important for Barbados to procrastinate with it. Another enquiry means commissioners to be appointed, time for them to sit, time for them to be told what I believe most Barbadians know, if not all, time to report, then time to consider. And all that time we will be bringing tourists to Barbados to prove to them that there is harassment and drugs on the beaches of Barbados, and we cannot do anything about it.

Sir, if these three areas that are earning the foreign currency for this country are not nurtured, because you cannot spend Barbados' currency abroad, you have to convert it, there is only one more source, Sir, and that is

borrowing. And when you go abroad to borrow, Sir, you are bringing back the IMF with you. They are the ones who will govern Barbados then, and not us.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Applause.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: Mr. Deputy President, yesterday Senator Miller accused the Government of tinkering with the economic problems that we presently face. The word "tinkering" struck a cord in my mind, because I knew that I had heard that used to describe politicians somewhere before. It was only last night that it came back to me that I had read it in Michael Manley's book, "The Politics of Change".

Manley begins by asserting that politics is the business of power, its acquisition and use. And he goes on to make the point that there are basically three approaches to politics and three basic approaches to the use of power. He says that there is one group of individuals who seek power as something to be acquired for its own sake. They see power as something that will either boost their ego or something that will bring to them the material benefits that power tends to bring. He says that this group of people constitute the great tyrants of history.
2.20 p.m.

His second group of politicians are those who see power as something to be used for the purpose of making minor adjustments in society. This group of people accept the social status quo that they find. They see it as basically reasonable and sound, and therefore, their purpose in acquiring power is essentially to make the society a little more efficient here and there. This group of people he describes as the tinkers, those who are the pragmatists of political history, the ones who basically accept the society as it is and seek to make minor adjustments.

The third group of people, Sir, according to Manley, are the idealists. These are the people who do not accept the social relationships as they find them, would like to see them changed, and believe that certain basic changes are necessary if the society is to be transformed.

I want to agree with Senator Miller, but not in the way she intended that there is a prevalence of tinkering in our political arrangements. I would go so far as to say that for the past 15 years we have been merely tinkering with our society and economy — a minor change here and a minor change there. There has not really been serious attempt to change Barbadian society or the Barbadian economy in any fundamental way. I think that the challenge that faces this present Democratic Labour Party Government is to make a change in that verdict.

Mind you, Mr. Deputy President, we have not always been a nation of tinkers. For example, Charles Duncan O'Neal certainly was not a tinkerer, nor do I believe was the late father of Senator Wickham, the courageous Clennel Wickham. O'Neal in the 1920s and 1930s sought to turn this society on its head. He came with a social programme that advocated trade unionism, black economic self-help, compulsory education, universal adult suffrage, the co-operative movement, old age pensions, health insurance, unemployment insurance, a programme that, if implemented in the 1920s and 1930s, would have transformed that society. It was only in the 1960s and early 1970s that the bulk of O'Neal's programme was implemented in Barbados, and it was implemented by another non-tinkerer. It was implemented by Errol Barrow and his lieutenants in the Democratic Labour Party.

In my estimation, Mr. Deputy President, the period from 1961 — 1973 was a period of significant change in Barbados, significant change in social relationships, in opening up avenues for social mobility and in our people's self image. I extend the period as far as 1973 because 1973 was the year of the Treaty of Chaguaramas that created the Caribbean Community. I believe that that was a development pregnant with possibilities. Unfortunately, after 1973 the political leaders in the Caribbean simply tinkered with the concept of regional integration. By 1976, in Barbados, we had fallen into the hands of the Great Combination, the great combination of tinkers, and the age of tinkering was upon us with a vengeance.

Mr. Deputy President, I can see from the expressions on the faces of other Senators that you will be asking — what does all this have to do with the Appropriation Bill, which will authorise this Government to appropriate nearly \$1 billion, that is both Current and Capital, and to spend a similar amount in areas that relate to just about every sphere of social life in Barbados? To my way of thinking, we should be asking ourselves whether this massive appropriation and expenditure will be contributing to a process of significant change in Barbados in the year 1988–1989, or whether it will merely be perpetuating the tinkering approach. That, I submit, is the context within which we should be analysing the Appropriation Bill.

Will the close to \$190 million that will be spent in Education be profitably spent in bringing about significant change in our educational system? I believe that there is a need for significant change. Not only do we need to impart the three Rs in the traditional areas of learning but I believe that we also need to develop in our young people, and I do not think that the system of education that we have now is making a good enough job of it, the skills, patriotism, sense of self-worth, identity, and of community that are so crucial to a developing Third World people who have to exist and survive in a very competitive and hostile world.
2.30 p.m.

Quite frankly, I do not believe that since Independence we have done enough to decolonise our system of education to make it really relevant to an independent people. And I would like to use the term "system of education" in a narrow sense that means that the basic school system, and in a wider sense that takes in the whole system of public education, the system of the mass media. I do not believe that we have made a sufficient attempt to really gear our people for independence.

A few months ago, I wrote a newspaper article in which I pointed out some of the deficiencies of the education that I received in secondary school. I made the point in that article that there were two glaring deficiencies: that there was not enough information imparted about our history, about the history of our race, about our identity, and that not enough was done to instill in the students at that school — and I do not think it just applies to that school, it applies to every school in Barbados — a sense of identification with our Barbadian community and a sense of responsibility to want to contribute and help develop our country and people. I think our schools are falling down sadly in this respect.

I think we have to be serious about who we are and where we want to go. If, as an under-developed country, we want to progress, it is essential that we inculcate in the minds of our educated young people a passionate desire to serve and contribute towards their country. I think that too many of our promising secondary school students, sixth form students, still see their destiny in terms of going abroad to be fashioned into some exquisite educational ornament rather than in terms of intellectuals in whom the society has invested dearly and who have a debt to contribute to and serve the society.

Similarly, I have a problem with the relative lack of information about our history and our racial history. Some people tend to get uptight about this, and they do not like you to talk about it or mention it, but speaking quite frankly, I think that there is a need for every black person to have an intellectual understanding of the historical processes that have created black and African under-development and poverty in the world today. I think it is crucial to our emotional and psychological well-being, and I am appalled that great Caribbean scholars, like Walter Rodney, for example, could have done such outstanding work and that work is never exposed to our students. I think this is an area in which we have fallen down and which we need to rectify.

At another level I share the concerns expressed by Senator Shorey yesterday, and by the headmaster of the Grantley Adams Memorial School, about the quality of instruction that our students are getting. I even get the distinct impression that large numbers of our secondary school students are merely marking time at school rather

than being exposed to, or experiencing, the type of impactful educational experience that they should be getting. I think we have deficiencies at that level, too. In addition, I think that in spite of the advances that we have made over the years, all of us would still agree that we are still some way off from putting in place the type of modern education curriculum that would place Barbadians on the road to industrial development similar to say, Japan or South Korea, or one of the newly industrialised countries.

Mr. Deputy President, one cannot rectify those types of deficiencies by tinkering. There is need for significant and fundamental change if we are to come to terms with those deficiencies. There is obviously a need for drastic improvements in teacher training, curriculum development, school administration, and this is one of my hobby horses, in television and radio programming. So I think that in scrutinising the expenditure in the Estimates for Education and Culture, the question that should be at the back of our minds is: are we making a firm determination that when we spend that \$190 million, that expenditure will really go towards bringing about genuine change and genuine transformation in education?

I want to consider another example of an area in which Government expenditure can, and should be used to bring about significant change in Barbados. This is in the area of our domestic manufacturing sector, and I want to ally to that the area of small business activity.

There is no doubt that our domestic manufacturing sector has gone through a very bad period in recent years. Yet, we all would readily recognise that if we are to really come to grips with that "elusive" unemployment problem, the instrument for doing that must be manufacturing. There can be no doubt about that. The investment to job ratio in manufacturing is much higher than the ratio in just about any other sphere of economic activity. In other words, if you invest \$1 million in manufacturing, you are liable to employ, perhaps, three times as many people as you employ with similar investment in tourism, in agriculture or in just about any sphere of activity.

I think we must all recognise that if we are really to come to terms with this unemployment problem, manufacturing must be the answer or a large part of the answer. I think agriculture has to play its part as well, but to my mind, Mr. Deputy President, Government must find new and novel ways of supporting both our local manufacturing sector, and — I go beyond that — our small business class as well. I am convinced that if we really make the determination that we are going to develop these two sectors of our economy, it can be done. It will call for hard work, it will not be easy, but it can be done.

I want to throw out one idea that I have relating to Government expenditure. Every year, our Government spends approximately \$250 million on goods and services in our economy. If we look at page 4 of the Estimates, under the Heading "Economic Classification of Current Expenditure" we would see Expenditure on Goods and Services, \$454 million. That is comprised of wages and salaries, National Insurance contributions, Transport Levy and the fourth item, Other Purchases of Goods and Services, \$95 million. I dare say the majority of that would be purchases of goods and services in our local economy. In addition to that, we intend to spend in 1988-89 another \$182 million on subsidies and other current transfers, and I daresay that the majority of that will go ultimately, towards expenditure on goods and services in our economy. So we are looking at approximately \$270 million in expenditure in this upcoming financial year.

2.40 p.m.

My point, Mr. Deputy President, is that that type of expenditure should be put to creative use by Government. If we make a determination that we are going to build up and develop small manufacturing, small business — I think that we do not have to make any apologies for this because small business can, and will become the harbour of employment generation in Barbados — there is nothing wrong with us making a conscious effort to so utilise the \$270 million that Government spends every year in the economy to make sure that a greater proportion than is now going to small business in future, goes to that business sector. In that way, we can give business to small businessmen and help them develop.

This is an approach that I certainly have used in the particular board that I sit on in Government. I do not want to bring secrets out of school, but I certainly have a bias towards small business, and if there is a possibility of giving some of your work to a small business and helping it to develop, of course, you would have to balance off the interest of the small business with the particular corporation that you are representing, but if the possibility does exist that a small businessman can do the work, and do it well, then I would be inclined to bend over backward to ensure that that small businessman gets a portion of that work.

Mr. Deputy President, it is very easy when Government is dispensing business to sit back and give it to the big businessman, the established big enterprise. In fact, most of the time you are safe, he already has a well-established reputation. But if we are really interested in developing the small business sector, we should be willing not simply to take the easy route, but to take, sometimes, the more difficult route. Sometimes, it may mean that you have to split the work that you are sending out between a number of small businesses. That is an approach that can be used.

It is not easy to facilitate a small businessman in that way, it calls for some effort on your part. But if you have made a determination, if you have made the political decision that you want to build up the small business sector, then you would be willing to put yourself to that trouble and inconvenience to make sure that you facilitate the small businessman, and this is the type of approach that we need to be taking towards Government expenditure. We must be seeking every possible opportunity to make Government expenditure work in developing this society and not just allowing the society to grow.

We must be creative in the way that we, as a Government, spend money. It is not just good enough to take the easy way out. We must make sure that with every penny of that close to \$1 billion that we spend, we are looking for creative ways of making it work to develop this economy and society. If we as a Government are really serious about developing small business, we can spend that \$250 million that we spend in the economy in such a way. It is not going to be easy. It will call for some research and some analysis. It will call for, perhaps, bending over backwards. It will call for thinking up ways of getting it done, perhaps, a splitting awards so that you can pass some of the business to the small businesses which would not on their own be able to take on a large amount of the business. But it can be done.

2.50 p.m.

This is the type of context within which I think we should be analysing these Estimates of Government revenue and expenditure. We should not merely be seeking to accept what is there and to tinker with it. We should be seeking to transform and to fundamentally develop this country. For us to do that, Mr. Deputy President, and I have made the point that I believe that this is the challenge ahead for this Democratic Labour Party Administration, calls for us to take the high road. Somebody spoke in here yesterday about the high road and the low road. It calls for the high road of much effort, the high road of political will. It calls for the high road of a party getting together and working out a coherent philosophy that will guide and motivate it, one that it will be perpetually working on, updating and redating and using to guide its programmes and its policies.

In essence, Mr. Deputy President, I want to agree with Senator Miller that we in Barbados have tinkered, and we have tinkered for a number of years now. Perhaps we have not tinkered in the way that she meant it, but certainly tinkered in the way that Michael Manley explained the term, that is, failing to attempt fundamental change in the society, failing to attempt a transformation. We have tinkered, and the challenge ahead for the DLP is to move away from the route of tinkering.

I know that the tinkering approach is one that plagues a lot of mass political parties throughout the world. It plagues them because so many mass political parties are really only vote-getting or election-winning organisations, and they do not possess the permanent intellectual structure of creative thinking, policy formation, philosophising that is so essential if the party is to engage in a long-term programme of serious societal change. That is the major weakness of a lot of the mass political parties throughout the world. The challenge for this Government is to rise above that — the verdict is still out, and let us put behind us those long years of tinkering.

Mr. Deputy President, even though I accept somewhat the tinkering charge, I certainly cannot accept Senator Miller's assertion that Barbados is in a state of chaos or that we are approaching ruination. I think we must give Jack his jacket. The programme that the Democratic Labour Party introduced in 1986, I believe, has by and large worked. I believe that both the Memorandum of the Estimates and the latest Central Bank Economic Review will support that contention.

I say the programme has worked, essentially, for two reasons. I think that we should all recognise that the programme has worked, in if not bringing to a halt, certainly giving us some relief from the traumatic experience that we went through three or four years ago with the closure of businesses in Barbados and the loss of thousands and thousands of jobs. I do not think there is any gainsaying that.

Secondly, I think that the programme has worked in that the major objection to the policy of tax relief, that is, that it would have a drastic impact on Government revenues, has not materialized. If one scrutinises the Memorandum of the Estimates, particularly the sections that deal with last year's performance, it makes very interesting reading.

Last year, fiscal year 1987-88, it was estimated that Government's Current Revenue would be \$698 million. Today, the total projected Current Revenue for the financial year 1987-88 is \$719 million. That is an increase of \$18 million. What this says, Mr. Deputy President, is that the Government managed to collect even in excess of what was estimated in 1987. Indeed, the total projected Current Revenue for 1987-88 of \$719 million is even in excess of the estimated Current Expenditure, which was put at \$716 million. Of course, we know that that figure of \$716 million does not represent the total picture, for it is now projected that Government expenditure will come in at \$814 million, \$95 million in excess of the estimated \$716 million. The point has been made that a large part of the rise in Government expenditure was an unavoidable rise that is related to salary increases that were backdated to 1986, and a significant portion of it would also be related to

the 21st anniversary of Independence celebrations. This is not to gainsay the fact that it is a disturbing statistic that we have gone \$95 million over what we estimated in 1987-88.

It was maintained all along that the tax relief would impact on Government's revenues and that has proven not to have been the case. Certainly this is borne out by the Central Bank's Economic Review. Even the Company Tax receipts were up. So when I say that the programme has worked, I am thinking in terms of revenue collection. 3.00 p.m.

I agree that we have to look very carefully at our expenditure. Indeed, this was always an integral part of the Democratic Labour Party's programme. We said from the very outset that we will have to be very, very careful about expenditure. But the point is that all of the doom and gloom prophecies about Government's revenues have proven to be ill-founded, for our revenues have grown. And the fact that our revenues have grown must be indicative of the growth in the economy, particularly with the type of tax structure that we now have, with great emphasis on taxation related to trades in goods and services. I do not think that there is any doubt about that. We have recorded approximately a 6 per cent cumulative growth over the past two years.

There is another interesting statistic coming out of the Estimates, that this year's Estimates project a 7.9 per cent increase in revenue over the projected revenue for 1987-88. This is again indicative of continued growth in the economy.

I will not be so bold as to say that the latest Central Bank Economic Review, for December 1987, paints a picture of a glowing economy. But at the same time, it certainly does not paint a picture of an economy in chaos or facing ruination. Based on the report, we have done reasonably well. We have done reasonably well in the area of tourism, particularly tourism during the summer months of 1987. In fact, I think that Barbados Development Bank has even noted that hotels are finally beginning to be in a position to repay some of the outstanding loans.

In the construction sector there has been strong growth over the past year, largely because of Government's Capital Works programme and because of the boom in private housing. Indeed, the Central Bank's Review notes that Government's Electrical Engineering Department inspected an estimated 40 per cent more newly completed houses in the first six months of 1987 than in the corresponding period of 1986.

The review also notes that mortgage lending has increased markedly. It attributes this to relatively low mortgage rates and the increase in disposable income. This certainly is not the sign of an economy facing ruination.

I agree the review is not all positive. There are some negatives, the continuing weakness in manufacturing and strain on the balance of payments. But I believe that, assessing it overall, one would have to agree that it has been a reasonable year for Barbados, and I would make bold to say that all and all the programme has been a success.

Mr. Deputy President, I do not propose to go on much longer. I merely want to end by once again drawing to the attention of our Government the challenge that lies ahead of us, and to urge it to really look seriously at ways and means of bringing about significant and fundamental change in this society, and more particularly to look carefully at using that massive Government expenditure of close to \$1 billion to bring about that significant and fundamental development in Barbados.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: We have heard much on these Estimates. I really cannot talk about the money part, we have the experts who can speak on that, but I do feel that there is one thing that we should be speaking about. It seems to me, Mr. Deputy President, that if we are not careful, we are soon going to have in this country a race of zombies as a result of this drug addiction. Some people are saying that it is not a very serious problem in Barbados. I live in Christ Church, and I can tell you that it is a very, very serious problem up in that area, and it is more serious in Bridgetown.

I think it would be an interesting thing if we could have a statistical measurement of the kinds of people who we find, the teenagers, who are in drugs. I would like to know if it is possible to find out how many of those young teenagers are people who have been attending Sunday Schools, Bible classes, or any place of worship. I think it would be very enlightening to find out that. I think you will find that few of those who go to Sunday Schools or Bible classes, or attend some place of worship, are in drugs, because it is my firm belief that anybody who really has a belief in Christianity will not have anything to do with drugs. I think we will find that children whose parents impress on them that there are certain spiritual values in life are not really into drugs. I think that is a very important point.

The majority of people who you find in drugs are those in the peer group. We know the peer group is very, very powerful, and although you may have children and try to tell your children what they should or should not do, peer group pressure is so devastating that sometimes they just go along and get into that group.

The second thing is that I believe a lot of people who are in drugs are the children of children. We have a lot of teenagers who are mothers. There are some as young as 13, 14 and 15 who are mothers, and I think that if we had a statistical survey, we would find that

many of these drug addicts are children of children, and the parents have not got the maturity to look after their development in life.

I was very heartened to hear from Senator Miller that the Salvation Army is anxious to set up a rehabilitation centre for those who are affected with drugs. I feel that any Government, I do not care which Government is in power, should do all in its power to see that this rehabilitation centre gets built, because we really need it, and need it badly, and the sooner we get it, the better it will be for the whole country. Not only that, we hope that some other places will try to build rehabilitation centres as well. That will be money that is very well spent.

3.10 p.m.

I think it is a problem we have got to face. You know that everything that happens in the outside world generally reaches Barbados. There was a time when on entering the Grantley Adams Airport, it was called Seawell Airport at that time, you would see "We have not got a problem with drugs, let us keep it like that". No longer can they say this, and whoever says this is just being ostrich-like, hiding his head in the sand. We have a very serious problem. I have been told by the headmaster of a primary school that some of the children in his school, some of them just aged around 9, 10 and 11, are already into drugs, and he has spoken to some of the parents and the parents do not seem to be able to control their children.

My next point has to do with tourism. I was told, and I read in the paper too, that 400 000 tourists came here in 1987, and I think I heard Senator Morrison say that there were 600 000 or something like that. I have also been told by some hoteliers that although we had greater numbers of tourists in 1987 than we had in 1986, the ones that came in 1986 spent more money than the ones that came in 1987. In other words, although they had fewer tourists, they made more money in 1986 than they made in 1987. A hotelier told me that. I do not know if he is true. It means that the number of tourists is not always the answer. It is the number of nights they spend and also the amount of money they spend.

I believe, Mr. Deputy President, that we have a wonderful opportunity open to us with this 350th anniversary in 1989, and with all due deference to Senator Lewis I still think we are too late in getting that thought across. We have this beautiful pictorial magazine here, and there should have been something in it about that 350th anniversary in 1989. Do not mind it is a yearly thing, this 350th year is such a monumental thing in the eyes of the world that we should do everything in our power to maximise everything we can get out of it. It has optimum benefit for Barbados. Can you imagine the numbers of thousands of people that would be coming to this little country because we are the third oldest

parliamentary democracy in the world? Can you imagine the numbers of people who would come to see this little Barbados, and especially if the Queen is coming to open Parliament on that day!

I feel that we are a little too late in our publication of this. Next year, 1989 is not as far away as some of us may think, it is just around the corner, and I think the preparation we have got to get on with, we hardly have enough time to do what we should be doing. I know they have a steering committee, but I hope we will not only have Members of both sides of the Houses of Parliament on the steering committee. I sincerely hope we have some of the people with the most creative talent that we can get to help us in finalising our plans for that 350th anniversary.

The next thing that I would like to touch on is the Water Authority. I notice that nobody talked about the Barbados Water Authority. I think that Authority is doing a tremendous job in this country. We can live without electricity, we can live without a telephone, but we cannot live without water, and I find that our Water Authority is doing a tremendous job. Last year, 1986-87, they laid down more than 7.5 miles of three inch, four inch and six inch pipes, taking potable water to over 90 per cent of our population. We have a population of 250 000 people, and over 90 per cent of the people can now have water in their own homes. That is a wonderful achievement, and nobody seems to say anything about this. We take it for granted. I feel that the Manager of the Water Authority should have a national honour presented to him, whoever is in charge of the Water Authority. We should congratulate them for their achievement.

I was glad that Senator Phillips referred to sport and he said that our cricket is declining. I agree with him on that. I feel that nowadays people seem to be losing interest in the two main games we used to have here, cricket and football, and because of this CNN that we are getting, we are seeing basket ball and volley ball and baseball, and soon some of our children will grow up and not even know much about cricket. Why can't we have on CBC-TV some instances of our cricketers playing cricket at a high level instead of having all this basketball? That is not our national game. Our national game is cricket, and do not let us fool ourselves, we are tops in cricket in the Caribbean, at least we were. But I agree with Senator Phillips that in the not too distant future it is going to be difficult to find one Barbadian in the West Indies side.

I hope that all the schools and all the coaches will see to it that all school children get an opportunity to view the video on "Cricket The West Indian Way" with Sir Gary Sobers, Rohan Kanhai and so on. I have seen it, and old as I am, it has taught me a lot about cricket that I did not know, so you can imagine what it would

mean to those young boys — the girls play a little too — who are getting ready to get into the First Eleven clubs and so on. I hope that all schools will see to it that they have a copy of the video and that Government will see in whatever way they can help to get this going in the schools.

There is one other thing I want to touch on. I heard Senator Goddard say that we have to be very careful about how we are spending our money from now on, that things are rather tight, and that if we have to buy this, we must see if we can do without that. I feel that, bearing this in mind, we should pay some attention to what is happening at Ilaro Court. As far as I am aware, Ilaro Court is the official residence of the Prime Minister, and I do not think it is fair to ask the taxpayers to pay \$1 800 a month for him not to live in the place which is the official residence of the Prime Minister. I feel he should be living there, and I really cannot agree with taxing people \$1 800 a month for the Prime Minister to refuse to live in the official residence of the Prime Minister.

I read and heard him say that he will go and live there if the members of his constituency insist that he goes there. This is a very strange remark to me, because I always thought that a Prime Minister was a Prime Minister of a country, I did not know that a Prime Minister was a Prime Minister of a constituency. If the people in the country feel that the Prime Minister should be living in the residence, what is it to do with only the constituency members? We are members of Barbados, too, we are Barbadian citizens and I really do not think it is fair. As a matter of fact, it is unreasonable, and I think it is unethical, to be extrapolating from the taxpayers for an official residence where the Prime Minister does not live and he is paid \$1 800 a month for not living there.

Asides.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: I do not mind what Tom did or what anybody else did. If Tom did that, Tom was equally wrong.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: He was equally wrong. I do not care who did it or does it. In my view, it is untenable and unethical.
3.20 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us hear Senator Eastmond, please.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: Mr. Deputy President, I thank you.

Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. That brings to mind, this afternoon, a very special person, and I did not get up earlier to speak because I was more or less very sorrowful because of the death of one of my teachers from the elementary school who will be buried this afternoon. I knew I could not face that funeral and I had to warm myself up a bit, which I did. She taught me most of what I know today, and she has made me the type of citizen that I am, and I wish that often we could see in this community more teachers with the guts, with the spirit and with the determination, ones who will make the sacrifice that such a person as Mrs. Lyte has made.

Today I witnessed some well delivered speeches in this Honourable Chamber. I would like very much to compliment Senator Morrison and Senator Lewis, both Government officials, and all the other speakers. I think this debate deserves a lot of praise.

I was hoping to speak immediately after Senator Goddard who did an excellent job. It is a pity that he says that he is not supporting the draft Bill. We have to have money to run a country, definitely. Just as he and I, two business people, although he is a bigger business person than I am. I am not using the words "man" and "woman", because we are both persons, and I suppose they do not mean much when it comes to who you are, what you are. And I feel that this country needs our support, because this is our country and we have to look seriously at what is happening in this country.

How many people are seriously loyal to their country? I will ask this question over and over, because what I see in my society today is that people are interested in the physical things of life, in the amount of jewelry and clothes that they have. There is nothing wrong in having these things, but we belong to a country.

I have no quarrel with people who are going to criticise constructively, because constructive criticism is necessary. We need it. Even in my household, often my little grand child can criticise me, or most of my grandchildren. I listen to them and I smile, because they are going to be the men and the women of tomorrow, and I am getting older by the day. So we can learn, and we can learn even from a child.

But, sometimes, I often wonder if a lot of us are really loyal citizens of Barbados, because there is so much and so much that everyone wants Government to do. Who is the Government? The Government is the taxpayers. It seems to me as though people think that money is coming from the skies. I am a heavy taxpayer. I am taxed to the hilt. I do not shirk paying my taxes, because I know that Government, without my money, without other people's money, and most of us in here, I think, are taxpayers, cannot provide the type of services

that are absolutely necessary. But the time has come for most of us to start walking in the highways and hedges, and stop getting in the pulpits and preaching, and preach the gospel to the people and let the people understand, this is your country, get up off your backsides and do something for it, make it a better place to live in! We are not prepared to do this.

There is a Minister of Religion here. In days gone by, I know the priests used to come to your homes and community places. I got a lot of inspiration from their talking, especially to parents. If the parents had a quarrel, they would try and patch things up, and if people were poor, they took from the people who had and gave to the poor. But today, in my society, what I hear and what I see is Government's help is needed, and even if you have the various community organisations.....

Asides.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: I am not talking about the women right now. I am coming back to them.

I appreciate every organisation which is trying to do something. But what people do not understand is that business people can only do so much, too, and let me tell you, this country is in a very serious state. Who will be the first person to get up and make sure that something is done about it? Are we going to sit down in this Honourable House and talk about this Appropriation Bill, money that is appropriated for certain things in these Estimates, and we are going to bring in other things that we do not have the money now for? Also, I am now hearing that it is not being supported by one Senator in here who has his reasons, and perhaps, if I were in his shoes, I might have done the same thing. Who knows?

We have to understand that business houses cannot always be taking the load and being asked to supplement this and that for everybody who wants to get into an organisation. Everybody wants to say they are doing this and they are doing that, but how many people are prepared to make jams, to do a trade, to start work on something.

I would start an organisation tomorrow, but not an organisation that I have to go and beg somebody to give me some money to supplement it, because I am not going to Government. I am now on a committee for the 60th anniversary of the St. Michael School, and it hurts my heart to think that I have to beg somebody for anything. I do not like begging. But I give, and I will give, but there is a limit.

This is our country. We see our country in trouble, in dire need. We see agriculture not performing as it should. We see the sugar industry in trouble. We see so many things in trouble. Where is the fairy? I look around. I do not see any. We have to look at figures, dollars and

cents, common arithmetic. We have to look not only at the dollars and cents, but we have, as a people, a duty. As people who have been selected to this Chamber, we have a duty to make sure that people out there understand what is going on in this place.

3.30 p.m.

As a woman, I am appealing now to the women of this society, because honestly, I love men, but the men, my dear men, I feel the time has come when the women are going to be better housekeepers when it comes to the Treasury of this country, because they have had to pinch and scrape. They are the ones who know how hard it has been. I am one who felt that, for I am one who knew how hard it was to feed six children. But I came out.

It is not the big businesses that are going to make this country what it should be. We have to look at all those small people out there in the society who are going to sell even from their front doors, if they have to open them, even with their few sugar cakes. Some can take in darning or pressing or do something else.

I am appealing now to my women in this society to strengthen the backbone of this Government, strengthen the backbone of this country. I believe Senator Rev. Jones perhaps would ask the women to come together, and ask God for guidance. Well, I am asking them now to come together and please think of Barbados, because it is in a serious financial state.

It is not easy, and everybody is still looking for more. If it is not the union, it is either the workers not working, not giving of their time, but robbing. How can so many people be dishonest, Dear God? Oh show them the way and save this country. They think only of what is within their household and what they can provide for their people and families. But what about other families out there who are suffering?

Our people have been educated to such a high standard that today they only want certain jobs, only certain jobs. They do not understand it is not the type of job you have that makes you the person. As long as you can be paid an honest dollar for an honest job, as long as there is respect and honesty in the job, I feel that people can do any job and feel good about it.

I think last year I spoke about the menial jobs in this country for which people should be paid more money than some of these white collar jobs. If I were a man, I would think about doing the hardest type of work to get the most money. Because if you want money to keep your family, and to keep your family, as it should be kept, I feel that you should take the highest paid type of job as long as it is decent. Why could people not put on gloves and go and sweep the streets? If tomorrow they ask me to come out there and cut canes with them, I would go and cut some, too. I am not afraid of doing that.

When I hear that we can export labour to the United States and Canada, but people in Barbados find it degrading to cut their own canes, something is wrong with the system. This is the system that we have created. It was not always this way. I am telling you, our children are going to take us to task for what we have done to them. My mother taught me how to work, and my mother taught me if I wanted something, I had to work to get it. But today, we have children and we are teaching them that because we have money, a motor car and a house, and we can walk about and feel good, they do not have to work. But tasks are good for children. It keeps them out of mischief.

We talk about drugs in here. Let us talk about home life. How many men stay in the home and help the women with those children? Most of them are sweet boys. The woman must be the one, but today the woman wants to go out and work as well. Therefore, I am appealing to both sexes who have children, for the love of God, think first if you have young children, think about how you can protect those children. The answer is not day care centres. No! The answer is that both parents must share the responsibility until the age when the child has to go to nursery school. The mother perhaps, can do something in the house. If she is more qualified, the father can stay in the house for a short while and then go out and work at night. But we have to learn to share.

We have to learn that it is the family which is important. The family is not that important today because a lot of parents are teaching the children the wrong values. I know, I see it and I pray to God. I think several values are gone. Just look at how they do the school books, how they behave even in play, even their school clothes. I go among them, I have been to the schools. All are not that way, but I think home training is very, very important.

We must be able to set examples, and we must be able to see after the young generation. People say, oh, they are not my children, I am nothing to do with them. Oh, they are snotty, I do not want to see them. But every child belongs to us. We are all sisters and brothers, whether we are white, black or grey. I do not care what colour we are, we are all God's children, one Father. Glory be to Jesus. If we could get that in our heads, we would not scorn other people's children, and we would be able to do something to help them. But how often are we doing this? You see, there is too much politics being played. Politics is the God today. Politics is the know all, the see all and everything.

Look how much money is being spent in Education. The second highest amount in the Appropriation Bill is for Education. What are we producing from that education?

(Aside: Short-changed.)

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: Short-changed! And that is some of my money. Why not let the parents pay something to all that. I tell you, if they had to pay something, they would respect it. But they are not going to respect it as long as they get something free. Everything is too free.

(Aside: Cave Hill.)

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: Up to university level. And when some of them come out of the university, the jobs are not there. Where are the jobs?

I am proud and pleased when I see people like my good friend here and other people who have not gone to university, I am not thinking about me, because as far as I know, I went to Brumley. I should not have said that, because my St. Michael's people will be vex with me.

3.40 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: Well, it is a pity that I did not go there because I do not know much music.

Mr. Deputy President, I want to turn my attention to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There was a time, and that was in my day, when the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and this was from 1971 — 1976, was allotted the greater part of the budget. Health, in my opinion, is one of the most important areas in these Estimates. The health of a nation means a lot. It can save your children and us adults; I do not have to tell you all the other things. I am amazed to think that at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital there are so many senior persons in acting positions. I think this should be remedied. People who are insecure in jobs are not going to feel good and are not going to do their job properly if they have been acting for long periods. I feel that persons will not give of their best unless they are appointed. And these are nurses, these are women like me. Something needs to be looked at there, and I am speaking to the Minister of.....

Asides.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: No, that one. Well, the Civil Service. He is supposed to look after these acting appointments and put them in permanent positions, and he had better try and do it, too. Take care of my women.

What do I see at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? Now this is constructive criticism, mark you. The cleanliness of the hospital has fallen completely! Gone down! I like the people there, I like people period. But do your work, do your work! Clean, clean, clean! The hospital is a place that should be an example for all other institutions. Therefore, if those cleaners are not doing their work properly and you have appointed people there in senior positions, let those people decide that they are going to

bring in contractors to clean the place. I have been there recently and I know what I am talking about, so do not tell me that I do not know what I am talking about. When they come in and they bring a mop and they just mop around the floor and they do not sweep, I tell them, 'sweetheart, leave,' and I get somebody to come in and sweep my room and clean my toilet and mop my floor. You see the tail is wagging the dog. We have got to be serious. The Ministers cannot see everything. They are trying, but they only know certain things. You actually have to experience what is going on.

Now do you want to tell me in a health institution that the health habits are not maintained? From 1971 — 1976, the hospital was shining. The morale of all the staff in there was high. They are still nice. They are still trying. They are patient. There are dedicated nurses and other people there, but they need assistance. I am sure that friends of the hospital are trying. But there are some other people there, and this is what I am telling you about some of our people in this country. Some of our people in this country are not patriotic because they want to stop the wheels from grinding and they want to put some spokes in the wheel or something. They want to stop things because of politics, they being in this party and in the next party. We have to get out of that sort of thing. This is a beautiful country. This was given to us by God. What is wrong with us? Have we gone crazy or what? We forget that our taxes are paying these people.

Do you want to tell me, even if it was my own sister who was working there and did not clean properly, that I would not tell here where to get off? When you are sick, you are sick, and you want all around you clean, spick and span. Therefore, the first step I want to see taken is most of the 10.00 p.m. people who are acting put in permanent positions. Get that straight. And the next thing is let the Administration look at the hospital as they should look at it. We have good people there. Untie their hands and let them work.

Asides.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: The Hospital, Director. Do you think that I am frightened for the Hospital Director? I can talk to him. I can talk to anybody. As far as I am concerned, I am a Barbadian first. This is my country and nobody is going to frighten me out of here. They tried to frighten me a few months back in December, but they cannot frighten me anymore. Tell them to come again. I am cognisant of the affairs of this country. I am very serious about it.

The spending of money in various Ministries must be disbursed to the advantage of our country, and I am saying this because I have had complaints about the sort of reception you get sometimes in some of the Ministries, where it appears as though we have too many people. Everybody wants to work in Government. That is a fact.

But everybody cannot get in. Therefore, the feeling that I get is that people feel that they can sit down when cricket time is on and listen to the radio and they can do whatever they like. Some of them are very loyal. They do not want anybody to watch them. Tourists have come here and had to go to some of these various offices and they have complained, and even our own people, but they do not know who to go to. Sometimes they are talking to a civil servant when they go to pay a bill, and people just say: "Now wait nuh," and this sort of attitude. I feel that some more training classes should be given to civil servants to make them understand that the public is important. I do not care if it is a barefoot person or a knotty-head person, the person is important. I am sure Senator Goddard will tell you that in his business and mine we were taught to serve all people. All people, as far as I am concerned, are equal.

3.50 p.m.

Getting back to taxes, when I hear about all these different things that certain people would like us to do as a Government, I really wonder if some of us are prepared to pay more taxes. I feel that if we were asked to pay more taxes, you would see so many letters written in the newspaper, the newspaper would be inundated with letters, because people do not want to pay more taxes. I would say to the Government that we are in hard times, things are not what they should be, a certain amount of direct taxation should be taken off and there should be more indirect taxation. If we want all the glorious things evident in foreign places, like big cars and different types of food, different from what we have here — we cannot eat the bananas and pumpkins, and we hear that the tourists do not like that sort of food — then we have to pay for them. I go to other destinations and I eat the eddoes, the dasheen and everything, and I make do with what I have, but here in Barbados they tell you that you have to import so and so. Let us come to our senses, because this is foreign exchange that we are losing.

Sometimes we talk, but the spit goes in the air and comes back and hit us. I do not think that some of us are really serious. Some people just think that we put on clothes and come here for the sake of coming here, but I have enough to do with my time. I am serious about anything I do, and I am going to more serious later on, because if push comes to shove and things become worse, I am going out there and get on a soap box. Mr. Deputy President, I love this little place too much and nobody is pushing me out of it, nor is anybody going to kill me.

Governments come and Governments go, and costly mistakes were made by the past Government, but the present Government has to take the blame, and you never hear anyone say that they really should not have done this.

Let us look at all these highways. These call for capital expenditure. Senator Goddard is a big businessman and I am a small fry, but he will tell you that in any business you have to provide for repairs and maintenance every year, and you have to be limited in your capital expenditure. When we are finished with all these highways, when my grandson gets to the age of sixteen and wants to drive a motor car and starts to speed on these roads, the next thing you know is that I will get a telephone call telling me that his neck is broken. We have to constantly repair them.

It would be advantageous to my Government to give every Senator here a trip to Bermuda to see how that little country is run, for they have no deficit. That country is run off tourism, offshore banking and offshore insurance. It is clean. You can take up anything off the streets and eat it. Here in Barbados you have neighbours who cannot put the garbage in a bag and put it where it belongs, but you see bottles in your garden beds and all over the place. Is this what we have come to? Is this progress? If this is progress, I do not think I will live to see what progress really should be like, because I am telling you that the next generation that is coming is going to be worse off, because with the debt which we will be putting on, since we have to appease people and give them what they want, things will be worse.

Mr. Deputy President, I am afraid of debt, and I wonder if the Russians are going to come in here and take over! I wonder if Reagan will come! This sweet beautiful place was once called a heaven, a paradise, where we should all be living in peace and loving each other as brothers and sisters. Now, our overseas credit rating, Mr. Deputy President, has been termed as reasonably good, but do you think we can go on borrowing to pay debt? When we finish borrowing to pay debt, and then the other roads need fixing and you have to borrow again and create another set of debt, we are going to find ourselves in trouble. We therefore have to set an example to the youngsters in this country, as well as the oldsters, who want retraining. The oldsters have to get up and make every effort to do something for their country.

Last Sunday, I was coming from a church service and I was surprised to see a few people reaping some canes. It was on a plantation, and I enquired why they were working on that day, and they replied that they could not get enough people to cut the canes. In a country like this, where there are so many people breaking into your home, you do not even know when you get home if you will find somebody in it, they do not want to work because we have educated them in such a way that the type of job they want, we do not have for them, and they are prepared now to do anything to get hold of dope and of money to feed themselves. We are going to shed tears because this thing is escalating, and it is serious.

I remember speaking to two Ministers and saying I would like to participate in discussions with some school children, either by going to the schools or after school — I would pay their bus fares and let them come to my home. But nothing ever came of it. I do not think that some of our Ministers are serious about people who want to help. I do not want to help to gain any glory, I do not want to get any honours, my honours come from Christ. This is my country, I am not looking for anything. I went so far as to say that I would be prepared to build something above the concrete patio to the supermarket to have the children over there and get resource people to come in to help them.

4.00 p.m.

I was prepared to go ahead with this when certain things happened. Sometimes you have to wonder. Sometimes you talk and people just feel you have nothing to offer. But if I have nothing to offer, why am I here? I want to work. I want to help children, but I do not want it to be an expense to Government. I want it to be my expense.

I am not going into any school, I am asking permission. I think that teachers need support. They have too many children to teach, and little children need love. As much as they would be in schools and you are teaching them and showing them things, they still want a little touch from you, and a little wink of the eye and, maybe, a little kiss. They need that, and we have some able women in this society. There are two here in this House who I can take with me, and there are several others. We can go into the schools and we can help alleviate the problems.

Asides.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: Oh! Senator Miller! I am sorry.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: There are three. Please, I am sorry. Senator Miller is very important. Get that straight. It has nothing to do with who is a B or who is a D. She is a woman, and I have a strong feeling that all women love this country.

How much more time do I have?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Twelve minutes.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: As far as social services are concerned, I was in the Ministry of Health from 1971 — 1976, which most of you know, and I had responsibility for Social Services. I know that we, as a Government, have a responsibility, but yet I would like to see more people who have reasonably good homes, clean homes, take some of our children out of the homes and help them to develop in a family life situation.

I never liked the homes. There is some stigma about them, and it lives with that child through life and it stops the child from developing the way it wants to. I am not talking about adoption. I am talking about taking them, knowing who their parents are, perhaps, asking them to come along, and then giving back the responsibility where it should lie, to the parents.

We are not thinking about these things. I remember going into these homes. Sometimes I see the parents. The parents are well dressed, most of them. They look as though they are working for good money. But yet they want to see the child or children under those circumstances. We need, the four women who are here, to start something so that we can get the youngsters, boys and girls, to see what a real family life is like, even if we have them for weekends, and show them things that they should do. I am not saying that the help service in the homes do not like the children, but how can a few people who are just doing a job give the love to all of these children, tuck them in bed and see after them?

You have to ask Government. Sometimes you ask Government, and what do you get? You do not even get an answer because I would like to know that some weekends I can take a child or children from a home with my grandchildren and let them see other children and relate to them and the other child's thinking. Life is not only for us, or for those who have paved the way, who have had hard days and who have seen the light.

When we have seen the light, we have to always look back and give a helping hand to someone along the way, and often that someone along the way that we should give a helping hand to is a child of our nation. But the red tape has to be cut. Through this debate, I hope the Ministers that I spoke to about going into the schools, and about the situation with troubled children, about whom I would like to do something, would understand that I am serious.

I have enough time. When God is ready for me, he will take me. But a lot of people think that the more they rest, the more they do their nails and polish them, maybe the longer they will live. I do not have to polish my nails and do all of these fussy things. I feel that I have to do something to help the nation's children, because they are the ones that will be the men and women of tomorrow, and it is such a pity that we are going to burden them with heavy debt.

We have to look at this debt situation very seriously. I am not making any sport. We have to cut out a lot of things. If we have to reduce the Civil Service and put more people into the private sector and let other people get jobs, we will have to do it. The time has come for this. Turn around the wheels! Move things! Start shaping up! The Civil Service is too big. My taxes cannot afford so many people there.

We need to have more teachers. But I say produce, and even if the President was in the Chair, I would have to tell him today, let the unions understand that this little country Barbados cannot go on paying the high salaries that we are paying. We cannot! We are going out of breath. There is only so much, and I know, and I have heard, of the flight of money out of this country. A lot of people sit down and say, "I love Barbados. This is my country", but how many people are really patriotic? They love it to rob it, because when people are dishonest in their work ethics, they are dishonest to their country. You were born to a country, ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

4.10 p.m.

I am going to wind up, and in winding up, I want to appeal to every woman in this society who has been the bearer of children, who have grown to be men and women. Some of them think they are second class citizens and some have everything holding in the palm of their hands. I say the women have the strength, they brought them here, they sent them to school, they nursed them, they fed them, and it is such a pity that when some of the men grew up, they felt they had all the power and all the strength and they knew it all. But my dear women, they do not know it all. We taught the men some things, we taught them ethical standards, and I expect that they, in turn, will take time to stay by their wives or their women, if they have children for you, and help them along the right path that the Minister was just talking about. As a father, you should teach your children honesty, that poverty is no crime, to stay away from drugs, to be as sincere as possible, and, most importantly, respect the child or children and they will respect you.

Thank you.

Applause.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy President, I feel and share the same commitment as Senator Eastmond to the young people of this country. But what troubles me is that Senator Eastmond is moved, like the vast majority of people in Barbados, by disillusionment and disappointment with the serious financial state of the country, and by the declining standards in the Civil Service. The Ministry of the Civil Service has been criticised for the situation in relation to the staff at the hospital, the morale of public officers and the way in which they treat the public, and Senator Eastmond has made a heartfelt appeal for something to be done by that Ministry to bring around those people who work in the Civil Service to acceptable standards of behaviour in this country. It sounds to me like that has been a signal failure on the part of the Ministry of the Civil Service. But more of that later.

I also share her disappointment with, and pain at the Minister of Health for the terrible condition in which

the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now finds itself, and the way in which people like Senator Eastmond, who go there after very serious trauma, are made to feel that the standards are not really what they used to be. It really pained me as I listened to her *cri de coeur*.

The Minister of Finance also got criticised for the very serious financial state in which this country finds itself. I will also speak about him later on.

The Minister of Labour and Community Services also is at fault. Because when Senator Eastmond or anyone else responsible wants to bring the children in the children's homes, the underprivileged children, into their homes for assistance, and to give them the feeling of family, that kind of request should not be unanswered. It grieves me to hear that that was happening. The Minister of Labour really has to think about these things.

The Minister of Education, I would say shame on him, because if there is one thing that is clear to all of us who know Senator Eastmond, it is that she is a woman of powerful conviction, with a genuine concern for the underprivileged people in this country. And when she writes the Minister of Education and asks him to allow her to talk to school children, to bring them to her home or to visit them in schools, and to pursue the kind of activity that she has articulated today with such feeling, I think it is a disgrace that he has not responded.

This debate this year, however, Sir, has been far more subdued than the one last year.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: On a point of explanation, Sir. I am sorry to interrupt, but it was not the present Minister I wrote to. It was a past Minister. It was a past Minister, and I spoke to him at my home.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Thank you.

I was saying, Mr. Deputy President, that the debate this year has been rather subdued. I liken it to a situation where the carnival is over, all the carousing, merry making and the drinking have passed. That was last year. Sir, the feeling of victory, the euphoria of forming a new Government. We heard some things in here last year that made us believe that we were on the brink of a New Jerusalem, that before the end of the year, we would see a transformation in the quality of life in this country that was not conceived by anybody before the miraculous happenings of just under two years ago.

I well remember, Sir, that we on this side repeatedly pointed out to the Government that their financial proposals for this country were a recipe for disaster. When we said it, we were subjected to a lot of heckling and uninformed comment from that side.

Things are changing, Sir. Suddenly we hear the Government saying that the National Debt is not a dirty thing any more. Could you imagine, Sir, that Senator Lewis said in here today — all they said, Sir, I was writing down — that borrowing enhances the facilities for social services and must be borne by generations yet to come? We were not hearing that before. We were hearing that National Debt is the nastiest word in the Barbadian lexicon, and that the Barbados Labour Party Government had imposed a National Debt on this country, to the state in which it was, an incurable albatross around the necks of the people of this country.

I heard Senator Clarke yesterday morning. He was wetting his feet. His introduction of this Appropriation Bill shows that he has a passing acquaintance with the principles of public finances. That is all I can say. But he, yesterday morning, also spoke of the National Debt in more sensible terms than we have heard from the Government in a very long time. And all he was doing was echoing the words of his Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in introducing the Appropriation Bill in the House of Assembly, spoke in measured and sensible terms about the need for National Debt. You cannot develop as a country, particularly one like ours, unless you borrow, just as you cannot develop as a person unless you borrow. You cannot buy a house cash. You cannot buy a motor car cash.

(*Aside: SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I did.*)

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Well, Senator Boxill is distinguished for doing a lot of things many of us cannot manage.

Laughter.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Borrowing is the way by which individuals, businesses and Government develop.

I will deal a little later on, Sir, with the contribution made by Senator Goddard today. I will put it in the context of my political philosophy.
4.20 p.m.

As I said, in respect of a lot that the Government was warned about last year and in 1986, and cared to ignore, and indeed, to make fun of, we are not hearing that kind of language anymore. For instance, Senator Comissiong was blowing hot and cold. He disappointed me today. He started off with a philosophical treatise. Do not mind that it was premised on the rather facile statements of Michael Manley. I am familiar with the book of Michael Manley, and it is a very poor treatise. And you do not have to read Michael Manley to divide up the kinds of people who want to get into power in a country. I think it is a little bit facile to tell me that

they are megalomaniacs, the ones who are hungry and greedy for power. The pragmatists, I think, was the second category that he gave us, and the third was the idealists. I could give you one or two more, you do not have to go to Michael Manley for that. You can go from Plato and travel through 2 000 years after that and find the history of political thought throughout Europe, the East, and the Americas, and you would find a more sensible and more incisive analysis of power than you get from Michael Manley.

I only ask one question as I move on from Michael Manley. What is the result? History will judge what was the result of these fundamental changes that Senator Comissiong so admires in Michael Manley.

I think Senator Comissiong has matured in the past one and a half years, that he is less given to reckless statements, although he did slip in one. He said that the agenda of Charles Duncan O'Neal included things like trade unionism, factory legislation, adult suffrage, old age pension, unemployment insurance, all of that, and he moved on to say that the late Errol Barrow was the great mover and shaker. Not one single measure that Senator Comissiong mentioned was introduced in this country's legislation during the period in which Errol Barrow was Prime Minister of this country. All the labour legislation, adult suffrage, holiday pay, Factories Act, Education Act, was passed during the period of the Barbados Labour Party regime.

I well understand what he means when he says that one of the deficiencies in our education system is that we do not teach our people about the history of Barbados. If he were taught about it, he would not have said the things he said.

He went a little further. I am not going to be very hard on him, Sir, because I really think that what he has succeeded in doing, that I have not seen with the Democratic Labour Party Government, is to try to elaborate a political philosophy, something that he believes in. We do not have to agree with it. It is his entitlement, as it is mine or anyone's, to work out his own philosophy. At least, I am beginning to understand what is the philosophy of Senator Comissiong. I cannot get any worked out about the Government yet. But we will talk about that.

Senator Comissiong, after making what I consider a reasonable plea for the development of small business and manufacturing, and rightly concluding that this economy is not going to move unless Government makes massive investment in small business, manufacturing and industry, then went off on the tired, old DLP policy statements about the 1986 Budgetary Proposals and so on. He said that, in his view, those policies worked. Well, he is the only person left in Barbados who thinks that they have worked. It underscores the rash, helter-skelter

approach of the Democratic Labour Party Government, that its members are now distancing themselves from those unfortunate policies — those policies that are pauperising Barbados today. Senator Eastmond talked about the serious financial state of Barbados. That is what I am talking about also. You cannot wriggle out of it. Government wants to take credit when they do things, so it must take the licks when it goes wrong.

If Senator Commission had continued along the line he was taking, I would have got up in here and praised him. But he said that the \$22 million was good policy and had worked, the \$22 million in concessions that were made to the distributive part of the private sector.

I want to make it quite clear that there is no monolithic group called the private sector. The people in distribution are different from the ones in manufacturing. The ones who manufacture are different from the ones in sugar or agriculture. They are different from the ones in tourism. The hotel people are different from another section of the tourism industry. Indeed, the minibus people are also private sector.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: But the Democratic Labour Party will make the minibus operators the pariahs of the private sector. I am going to talk about them. Time is going to be short, but I am going to deal with all of this.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Do you want me to declare an interest? I will talk. You listen to me. You do not worry about me declaring any interest. I will tell you what my interests in minibuses are. I do not now own, and never have owned, even the dust on a fender of a minibus. That is my interest. That is your business.

Mr. Deputy President, the problem with the Government is that they are a little bit hard-ears. I heard Senator Eastmond talk about this country belongs to all of us. She is dead right. Whether in Government or Opposition, this is our country, and even though we will be engaging in partisan political debate, I do not believe that we have ever been accused of doing anything that undermines the economic foundations of this country.

I was in Government, and I need to talk about this, because I am one of the tinkers. I understand that for 15 years, including the ten I was in Government, I was a tinkerer. When I was in the Government, members of the Democratic Labour Party opposition used to go overseas and hold interviews with newspapers and radio stations, and they were bitterly critical of the leadership of their own country and many of its policies. I am hearing on tape the voice of the now

discarded Minister of Finance, the man who was the glory boy until recently, the one they now do not want to touch with a 10-foot pole. The vicissitudes of politics! One day you are up and the next day you are down. I see Senator Lewis over there smiling. He certainly is not his buddy. I heard the voice of the former Minister of Finance on a radio station in southern Ontario saying the most alarming things about this country, and he called that politics. I heard the late Prime Minister, Errol Barrow, who went out to the west coast of the United States and Canada giving his views and saying that the leadership of the Barbados Labour Party was riddled with drug dealers. I have a copy of the article. I am sorry it appeared not to have come here. That is the sort of thing they used to do. We do not operate like that, and will not support, by word or deed, anything that will undermine the political or economic stability of this country. But we will criticise the Government, especially when the Government has been so feckless as not to understand that we are all in it together.
4.30 p.m.

Do you know what is happening in this country, Mr. Deputy President? There is a pervasive drift in Barbados, there is a feeling that there is no direction, and the figures in the Estimates in themselves are meaningless unless we see them against the background of the mood and the environment in this country. People feel that this country has no proper leadership, that it has no sense of direction. They fear that there is a tremendous gulf between the promise and the performance.

You talk about children going after drugs, dropping out and being disillusioned. It happens because they were hoodwinked by the Government. The Government went out there and told them come unto me and all your burdens are over, and the young people looked forward to a change in their lives and existence. You are telling them about cutting canes. You did not tell them that in 1986. They are all around the street corners. The unemployment between the ages of 16 and 25 is in excess of 40 per cent. Forty per cent of the young people under the age of 25 are not working. These are the problems, Sir, not only the figures in the Estimates this year. I do not have any time to deal with those. That would take about five or six hours.

Mr. Deputy President, what did the Democratic Labour Party promise them? They promised them new paths. The new paths are dingy back alleys. That is what they have delivered instead to them.

I do not intend, Mr. Deputy President, to over-politicise some of these very troubling things. I have already said that the National Debt is no longer a dirty phrase. We used to hear that all the time, but no longer. That is not what they are saying these days. Senator Goddard has said that he expects it to be \$2 billion

before they demit office in 1990 or 1991. This Government has borrowed more money in two years than any other Government in the history of Barbados. And these are the people who came into Government with a cry that the previous Administration had borrowed too much, that they would borrow no more money overseas, and that they would cut down the National Debt! So do you want to know why the young people out there are disillusioned and turned off? They are dealing with moral schizoids!

Wage restraint has now become a fashionable word in their mouths. When the Barbados Labour Party was the Government, all you used to hear from the Democratic Labour Party was "no wages suppression." That was the term of art they used. When the Barbados Labour Party was the Government, civil servants got 42 per cent increases, 38 per cent, 28 per cent, 22 per cent, and 15 per cent. But the Democratic Labour Party put it out to people that they were being exploited by the Barbados Labour Party at the time.

Now, the word "restraint" is in everybody's mouth, including the union DLP people. Three MPs of the union in the House of Assembly are talking wage restraint. The President of the Barbados Union of Public Workers is talking wage restraint and says that he is willing to sit down and talk about it. The President of the NUPW is saying he is not worrying about wages this year, he will put that on the back burner and will talk about conditions.

All this is part of a conspiracy. It is 1984 all over again. I do not mean four years ago, Sir, I am talking about George Orwell's 1984. All the conspirators meet all around this country and sit down and work out how they are going to divvy up these things for the people. They have the unions in their grasp. The union leaders have a responsibility to draw the line between their political affiliation and the representation of the people who pay their money as union dues week after week, month after month. But I see clearly where they consider their fidelity lies, and it is with the Democratic Labour Party. This country, Mr. Deputy President, is not going to take this kind of thing very long.

I quickly, because I want to come back to that, because the Government really does not deserve the slightest bit of kind consideration today, want to deal with some of the things that Senator Goddard said. Senator Goddard is a businessman, and a good one, and a man who brings business principles to the management of the business he is in. There is a quintessential difference between a business and a Government, and you cannot bring business principles too strictly into the running of a Government. There is no welfarism in business, it is profits. There is a large number of people who must be looked after by the state. Business is balancing books and making profits, and although I have great respect for the business acumen of Senator Goddard, and indeed was

impressed with the way in which he put his contribution from the point of view of a businessman, I must say, with the greatest respect, that it does not bear too direct a relation to the realities of political life in this country.

Mr. Deputy President, you can cut expenditure. That is fashionable now. You could not cut expenditure when the Barbados Labour Party was the Government, because you would hear everybody crying out for services. The call-in programmes were hot with it, everything was wrong. One of the newspapers used to carry pictures of the potholes in the road and give prices for the biggest pothole. The Barbados Labour Party had to find money, falling like manna from heaven, to do every conceivable thing in this country. And alongside that was the constant nagging criticism of the then Opposition that we were taxing too much. We must give the people everything, but we were not to levy taxation.

The chickens have come home to roost. The level of taxation in Barbados is higher now than it was during the time of the Barbados Labour Party Administration. They do not know what to do. One moment they are boasting about the lot of revenues they are getting in, the next moment they are saying they are easing the people with taxes. How can you be taking in more revenues with lighter imposts on the people? The people are more heavily taxed now than they have ever been taxed during the time of the Barbados Labour Party. They do not know how to deal with these things, so they are appealing to the Opposition, 'keep quiet, do not hit us too hard.' But we will not be doing that. As a matter of fact, we are speaking softly in here. We are going to make a barrage of noise out there, because the people have been sold down the drain.

Mr. Deputy President, they talk about wage restraint. There are more people unemployed now than when the DLP took over. I do not think anybody is disputing that. Senator Phillips is now for a little more Corporation Tax. He said that it was too generous.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL. I thought that was what Senator Phillips said. I thought Senator Phillips said that you should add 1.75 per cent.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Oh, Employment Levy. I am profoundly sorry. Senator Phillips is my friend and I do not like to tell lies on him. I thought that was what he said. I withdraw that.

He said add some to the Employment Levy. Oh Lord, he is telling the workers that they must pay some more! That is his proposal.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: On a point of explanation, Sir: I think the records of this Honourable Chamber will show that what I did say was that the business houses would contribute the 1.75 per cent and the worker would contribute 0.25 per cent.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Yes, 0.75. I was being kind to him and saying that he said the workers should put 0.25, but it is 0.75 per cent.

Last year, you slapped on these extra levies on the workers. My God, are you going to kill them? Do you really plan to kill them? You gave \$22 million to the high-flying business and took back \$60 million from the workers last year, and raised their levies higher than the Income Tax which they were paying. That is a nasty trick. And do you mean you will come this year and even add more to the workers?
4.40 p.m.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: On a point of explanation: I think the Honourable Senator seems to have misunderstood what I said. The figure I mentioned, I just want to make it very clear. It is a quarter of one per cent, if that makes it any clearer to him.

Thank you.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I cannot understand. One minute it is .75 per cent, the next minute it is one quarter. When I went to school, a quarter was .25 per cent. What I am saying is that 1.75 per cent will be paid by employers and he is asking the workers to have another 0.25 added to theirs, and I am asking if he intends to kill them. You see now what happened last year?

The Training Levy, Transport Levy and Health Levy, all these levies the workers are paying, were introduced, and the Democratic Labour Party promised that if they got into Government in 1986, that they would have abolished the Transport Levy. Instead of abolishing it, they increased it, without even blushing. And now a Government Senator is recommending that people pay even more!

I am going to tell you, Sir, where they failed the people again. In Defence. That is why the young people are turned off. They fooled them. They know it. They said that they were going to shut down the Defence Force and all kinds of foolish nonsense to get votes.

They said that the Light & Power Company had taken \$39 million from the people in accumulated deferred taxes, and that they were going to start the discussions right away to get the \$39 million paid back to the people and to the Government. We have not heard anything more about that, Sir.

They said that they would make a lot of concessions to small business people. I really cannot get into this small business discussion this afternoon because of time. Can you intimate to me at this time how much more time I have, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Half an hour.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I have time. I will get back to manufacture and small business, but I will wipe off the Estimates, because I really cannot spend much time on them.

There are two documents that come in a financial year to determine what the Government is going to do with the people in terms of services, taxes and so on. One is the Estimates and the second one is the Budget. You can glean from these Estimates what the second one is going to do.

These Estimates are, obviously, framed to cause a cut in social services in Barbados and to cause job losses. I am sticking my neck out on that. For you to implement those Estimates there must be job losses in the public sector in Barbados, as indeed, there will be job losses in the private sector, because if you cut back on capital works, you are going to cause loss of jobs in the private sector. There is no doubt from the figure that there will be loss in services.

There is a cut-back in Education. From the university they have cut over \$2 million. I do not know what that means, whether you are going to ask them to start paying part of their fees, or whether they are going to put a little influence on the powers that be at Cave Hill to take in fewer students. I do not know what they are going to do, Sir.

Teacher Training — cut back! You used to hear all this talk that we stopped training. They cut back on teacher training at a time when they put three-year-old children in primary schools. The toilets are too big for the three-year-olds, and one of these days you are going to have to call for one of these sanitary engineering companies to draw out one of these children out of a toilet. The toilets are too big for them. They cannot use them. They have not provided the facilities for under-Fives, yet they are allowing them in the schools.

In nursery schools, you have like one teacher to five children, or something like that, because little children need a lot of attention and looking after. You cannot pick up children of that age and throw them into primary schools with 30-odd children in a class. As Senator Eastmond said, they have too many children to a teacher and expect the teachers to look after them.

Two things are happening, Sir. One is that these kindergarten or nursery school children are being made to suffer in those circumstances, because they are going to school too long, and they are under a pressure environment in a classroom. It is not the play school atmosphere that is required by kindergarten children. The second thing is that they are putting an unreasonable burden on the primary school teachers.

I expected to see more money in the Estimates for Teacher Training. I am not one of these people who is not pragmatic. You cannot have everything one time. Still I feel that the 3-5 should be in a school system, or a learning system, or a socialising system, whatever you care to call it, only if the Government can find the resources. I was in Government, Sir, and I am not going to be unreasonable and think that the Government is going to pull money out of the air like that to provide all the resources one time, but I certainly would have expected that they would have some money in the Estimates to do two things, if they are starting this thing. One would be to provide facilities for these under fives, and the second would be to train more nursery school teachers so that they would be able to deal with these kids in the normal primary schools. But none of that!

When they talk about cutting back on social services, they cut back on welfare. I see they are floating around a National Assistance Board report, a scandalous waste of Government money. I went before the Commission. I do not know why they did not put my name in it. I wanted a pick. I went before the Oliver Jackman Commission, the most inept commission you have ever heard about, that produced a report which, if you had given fourth formers to put together and they had done it, you would have given them a C+.

Do you know what happened, Sir? The Barbados Labour Party, whatever the criticism, and I have heard some in here today and yesterday, was fixing over 400 houses a year for old people. The old people are not interested in any politics, in any DLP or BLP politics. All they want to know is that they do not get wet in their houses when the rain is falling, and those of us who know the country and get around, know that there are many old people still in Barbados who have holes in their roofs so big that their fruits fall through. The Barbados Labour Party repaired over 400 a year and was raked over the coals for it. The Democratic Labour Party is doing about 50 a year, and now cut back on it, because the vote for Welfare Housing has been hit.

The other thing is the Welfare Vote. Senator Clarke got up in here — he does not know any better, he was not around them long enough to know — and talked about a humane, equitable and just society. How can you have a humane, equitable and just society when women out there, who do not have any men and have

four or five children, now find that they get chased out of the Welfare Offices when they go by to ask for a meal, or a pair of pants for their boys to wear to school, or a dress? That is happening now in the Welfare Offices in Barbados, and the vote for that has got cut even more. And then you are going to talk about a just and humane and equitable society?

The Government has not heard anything yet. But I am not going to spend all my time on this. We know what is the situation in the hospital. I just want to say one thing before I move off this business about cutting the social services.

4.50 p.m.

The stories that came out recently in the newspaper about the Psychiatric Hospital are true. I mean the first stories, Sir, I do not mean the rebuttal. Senior staff people in the Psychiatric Hospital are saying that the conditions in respect of food are deplorable. Now you would expect a sensitive Minister to quietly go and check it out, talk to the people, quickly change the regime and make sure that these people do not suffer any more. There is nothing wrong with that. As a matter of fact, the Minister would score high marks. If he had gone in and done that, told the people of Barbados, 'I went in, I saw, things really are not up to mark and I have given a directive that they be changed immediately. So I can give the assurance, as of now, that situation is changed.' People would applaud from Pie Corner to Oistins. Instead, the Minister's response was to abuse a few senior members of staff and to point out that they were dealing with mentally sick people for too long and, therefore, they, themselves, seemed to have caught the disease!

That is in the vein of the late Errol Barrow, when you could say the most outrageous and insulting things about the Public Service and get away with it. I tell you, Taitt is no Barrow, and he is going to hear about that statement for a long time. You cannot treat people in that way.

I want to get into manufacturing. Someone, I do not remember, it must have been Senator Comissiong, said that we are not going to go anywhere in terms of economic growth in this country, nor are we going to go near licking the unemployment problem, unless we give greater attention and assistance to manufacturing. I agree with him, Sir. Manufacturing industry at the moment is in the doldrums. When the Barbados Labour Party went through the most savage international recession known to man, and it began in 1981, that cat-spraddled the economies even of industrialized countries, much less little dependant ones like ours.....

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I am getting heckled all the time. Can you not protect me from Senator Boxill?

I am going to pay him back when he gets up, so that is all right.

When the economies of countries were seriously dislocated and, therefore, markets were at a premium, the Barbados Labour Party tried its best to explain that the fall-off in manufacturing was the result of that phenomenon. You cannot produce goods if you do not have anybody to buy them. We used to sell a lot of goods in CARICOM. Trinidad was living high on the hog for a long time. They had oil money, and they used to buy things and spend money like if it was going out of style, and they used to buy a lot of goods from Barbados. But then Trinidad fell on hard times. And all we tried to explain to the people of Barbados – not to the DLP, the DLP knew better; they knew the facts but they were just interested in fooling people – that that was the situation, the DLP went all across this country telling the people that the reason we were not selling to Trinidad and Tobago was because we fell out, as if we are two village girls, we did not speak to each other or some such foolishness. They hug up and kiss them! They are good buddies, according to them! But the sale of manufactured goods to Trinidad and Tobago from Barbados has dropped by over 60 per cent since the Democratic Labour Party became the Government!

Sir, I feel strongly about the development of our manufacturing industry. Senator Eastmond said do not give all destructive criticism, and I will give a little constructive one. But I am not in any mood to do anything constructive for the Democratic Labour Party, because they do not listen.

We see this week that there is a little civil turmoil in Panama, and over 20 companies registered in Panama have moved to Barbados. I predict that in the next few weeks the number is going to multiply three or fourfold.

The situation obtains in the Far East that Hong Kong will revert to some kind of a hybrid status with the People's Republic of China in 1997, and there is a great feeling of unease among the business and financial community in Hong Kong. I was in Hong Kong last year, Sir, and I moved around and got introduced to a few people in that field and listened to them, and they are uncertain because they do not know whether to take the assurances of the Government of China that it will allow Hong Kong to remain an independent financial enclave untouched by the communist economic system.

I believe that the Government of Barbados should move boldly in the Far East and establish a presence there. I do not mean like the kind of people they have been appointing Deputy High Commissioner to London. I mean people of genuine class and ability. By class, Sir, I do not mean social class, because I know they will be glad to misquote me on that one. When I say class, I mean people of genuine ability who know about these

things, who should be put to stay and sojourn in the Far East and to work through a number of agencies. There are many international agencies, there are a number of agencies in the United Kingdom, for instance, which would be willing to establish the liaison between our people and companies in Hong Kong. So we could seek to bring to Barbados a greater share of the world's financial business.

We introduced a lot of legislation – I want to talk about law reform before I finish – in relation to offshore business, and I am amused when I hear people get up and talk about it as if it is some creation of the Democratic Labour Party. We were roundly abused by the Democratic Labour Party for introducing offshore legislation. We had international business companies legislation on the Statute Books from the time the DLP were in Government and nothing was done about it. We revised that and we introduced foreign sales corporation legislation, exempt insurance and offshore banking, because we saw that with the decline in agriculture and sugar, and with tourism subject to the vagaries of weather, political climate, money and those kinds of things, and with manufacturing having a rough time finding markets, we should try and find another prop, instead of having a tripod. What is four? Now it is four, Sir.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: A quadruped. I know you would know that!

Laughter.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: The only trouble is that you do not know the meaning of riparian. You bring the dictionary!

So we introduced offshore financial service to be an additional prop for the economy of Barbados. We were told at the time that we were getting into a Mafia-style operation, and that there was going to be a lot of money laundering and all kinds of associated crime. We tried patiently to explain that that was not the nature of the operation, that Barbados was interested only in reputable business.

Now, there are over 200 foreign sales corporations in Barbados, a few exempt insurance companies, IBCs and, I think, three offshore banks, and they have made a significant difference to Barbados' international profile. These things are important. The Minister of Foreign Affairs would understand that. Those are the intangibles, you see. But while we have done this to create a new area of economic activity, to improve the quality of the life of our people, we do not always get the credit for it.

Someone mentioned today the Securities Exchange Commission bringing a new kind of dimension to the activities of companies and the buying and selling of shares. But we reformed the whole area of commercial legislation. We had the new Companies Act. It had one of the longest gestation periods in the history of Barbados, over 20 years. We brought it to fruition, and it has changed and modernized business in Barbados. We also introduced legislation in the area of intellectual property, patents, trade marks, and industrial design to meet the demand of a new industrial society.
5.00 p.m.

I remember that, before I left the Ministry of Trade, I set up to look at bankruptcy legislation in this country, a committee of about 15 people — a judge as chairman, a number of accountants, a few lawyers, and a few business people.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Well, the Government changed shortly after that and, like everything else, that came to a standstill. I would like one of the Ministers to really take a look at it again. It is not in my interest. I have no plans to get bankrupt.

Laughter.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Not at all, Sir. But I think that bankruptcy legislation has to be brought in before a long time, and must operate in tandem with the other commercial legislation that has been brought by the former Government.

We were committed to law reform. You can judge the efficacy of a Government by the kind of legislation it puts on the Statute Book. The legislation is a message of what you want to do. If you want to change the system of land holding in Barbados — legislation. If you want to change commercial activity — legislation. Whatever you want to do as your policy, it is necessary to have legislation in place. That the Democratic Labour Party in two years in Government has not brought to Parliament — Sir, not two — one single piece of important legislation is a matter of great shame for them, if they got any left. Nothing — not a single piece!

What did we do, Sir? We transformed all the property legislation, land holding. We get criticised for the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. But Senator Comissiong has seen the error of his ways and has recognised that there is some redeeming social value in the legislation.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I am the only speaker so far in this debate who has been interrupted by abuse. If you want to interrupt me again, I will sit down.

I thought that is what Senator Comissiong said sometime ago. Senator Lewis will not recognise that. Any man who is so full of himself as to say that he has made a more significant contribution to public life and

public service in this country than anybody else is a man who is so blinded by his own egotism and arrogance, as to be a man totally.....

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS rose.

(Aside: SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Man, sit down!)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: The comment made was, "than the two persons who are making the asides, Sir", not anybody else in this country, than the two persons!

SENATOR L. R. TULL: If the honourable Minister chooses to castigate Senator Boxill and Senator Clarke, that is a matter for him. If they are making that type of asides, shame on them!

I do not think, Sir, that anybody who really has got a little quality of character could get up and say, 'I am the great I am.' All this "I" talk is Rasta talk, and it Senator Lewis thinks that he has made a greater contribution than anybody else in here, he had better walk through the corridors of power. What happened when the Government change is that they put a few sawdust Caesars, like Senator Lewis.....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Tull, please.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Well, he is a sawdust Caesar, Sir! What do you mean, "No"?

These sawdust Caesars are walking through the corridors of power and creating a climate of fear in the Public Service. People in the Public Service are afraid. That is other evidence of the 1984 George Orwell's novel. Big brother is watching you. Big brother is having his human ciphers going around Civil Service departments spying on people, reporting on them, and causing a great deal of fear. Let the Minister get up and deny that he instituted one such witch-hunt in the Public Services Commission, or the Services Commission, whatever they call it, and that when the Chief Personnel Officer was on leave, the high and mighty, great I am, Minister, Senator Lewis, did not initiate an investigation inside the Chief Personnel Officer's department and encourage his subordinates to tell stories on him. There is a climate of fear in the Public Service!

Senator Lewis got in here today and said that there was a Ministry of the Public Service before his time, that is true. The problem is not the Ministry of the Public Service, although I hear my colleagues knock it all the time — we can part ways now and then — the problem is the appointment to that position. You have got to be concerned about people. He reminds me of another man

in the National Union of Public Workers who tells me that he is more skilled in public administration than anybody else in Barbados.

(Asides: You are speaking of Nigel.)

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Well, who else but Nigel would say that? He tells me so all of the time. You know why they do not like me? Because I am more skilled in public administration than any of them!

Senator Lewis falls into that category. So do not get up in here making those kinds of pejorative remarks about people, the laces of whose shoes you are not worthy to untie. I would think that the sooner Senator Lewis understands that he is anathema not only to the Opposition, but to Government Ministers, a large section of the public of Barbados and the bulk of the Civil Service, the better. The moment he realises that, we know that the scales are falling from his eyes. But I believe he is beyond redemption! I cannot waste time on him, Sir!

I want to go back to manufacturing, because I did not spend enough time on it. Some \$22 million in tax concessions were given to the people who are selling soft drinks and cloth, and that kind of thing. I heard Senator Ward say that they are building too many boutiques and shops. Barbados is becoming a boutique, mall and shop-keeping community. If that \$22 million was put into manufacturing, I am submitting, Sir, that there would have been a net increase in jobs that would have been staggering in March 1988. But no, you put the money in a sector where you will get big profits! All that I am hearing in here now is what I was saying for two years, Sir, you are sitting there in the Chair very benignly, and you could attest to the fact that I did say that the concessions made to the distributive trade principally was a wrong priority.

If that money was put in the manufacturing sector, not only to pay wages — I am going to talk about that — it could be put into research and development, which is badly needed in the manufacturing sector. You cannot keep competitive in industry unless you are constantly involved in research and development. You have to research not only new product lines, but you have to study to create the proper niche for Barbados' exports, you have to do a lot of things.
5.10 p.m.

We need to set up a proper research and development agency for manufacturing in Barbados. Some of that money could have gone there. The manufacturing industry needs to be retooled and it needs new plant. They have a lot of archaic, antediluvian machinery — obsolete is a kind word, and that is why I said antediluvian, Sir — and the manufacturers cannot compete anywhere internationally or regionally unless they retool. Trinidad and Tobago has done it with remarkable success.

Everybody knew that Trinidad had some very bad work habits, that their productivity rate was lower than almost any other country in the English-speaking Caribbean. Trinidad took time to put in new plant, retool and retrain, and now it is a fierce competitor in many areas, particularly garments, with places like Barbados.

The problems confronting Barbados today, and I do not only mean the financial problems, because all things seem to flow from them, are the result of a proclivity by Barbadians to accept quick fixes. We had a glib-talking, itinerant medicine man walking about shaking up something in a bottle and telling people it will cure arthritis, high blood pressure, everything. That is what we were told in 1986.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Do you want to challenge me on it, Sir? I have not identified anybody. Everybody knows who was the glib-talking medicine man shaking up some salt and dye and water in a bottle and telling people it would cure all their ills.

People fell for that. There is no political elixir, there are no easy nostrums, there are no easy panaceas for the problems confronting this country then or now, and I think it is a great disservice for anybody on either side, or anybody in a responsible position, to come along and sell these quick fixes to the people of Barbados. The old people say that what sweeten goat mouth does some thing to him after. We are at that stage now, Sir.

Even the revered Leader of the Senate got here and told me one day, "Tell me, if you got in, what would you all do? Would you take away the concessions?" I looked him straight in his face and said, "Yes Sir." We would take them away, but we would put them somewhere else.

Now, Sir, you have the fallout. The people in Barbados are suffering. These Estimates are telling the people to fasten their seat belts, we are cutting back on services, we are going to lay off staff. That is what is going to happen, and the Prime Minister and his Minister of State have confirmed that they are going to give us a dose of taxation later in the year, next month, the same Government who said that this country was over-taxed.

I remember Senator Tudor talking about the taxes that the Barbados Labour Party imposed for ten years, so many billions or whatever it is, some big, big figure, and he said that as if that was the last word on it. Well, now all we are hearing is taxes. Sixty million dollars in taxation last year, the highest level of taxation ever in one year in the history of Barbados! And now they are coming back and talking about more taxes! Let my people go!

Mr. Deputy President, this is my last point. It is in relation to the shortage of carpenters and labourers. It is not because they are not trained. I deal with them. St. George has historically been the main area for artisans, olumbers, carpenters, masons. For 50 or 60 years St. George has been the place that produced the highest per capita number of artisans of any parish in Barbados.

The problem is not that there is any shortage of those skills. It is that people have got into the general drift that the Government has initiated. They want easy work, they tell me that. They are tired of being out there in the sun on a building with a hammer and putting up blocks, so they want a job as a security guard and these soft jobs. That is what is happening at the moment. So I want the Government not to fool itself that, somehow, it has licked the problem in certain areas.

I am willing to concede, and we get no concessions from the Government, that there is a building boom in Barbados. There is a lot of building going on.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Tull, your time is up.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for 15 minutes.

The question that the sitting be suspended for 15 minutes was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. Deputy President suspended the sitting accordingly.
5.20 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Deputy President, this Chamber has been accustomed to a very high level of debate. Today, the previous speaker, Senator Tull, began to fantasy about being returned as a member of another place. It is very ironic that only two years ago the honourable Member was rejected by the people of St. George, but he can return today and speak without fear, requesting let his people go.

It is strange to me that Senator Tull can come before this Chamber and attempt to misrepresent certain areas, which I intend to highlight as I go a little further in my speech. But I believe he has drawn the matter from the Greek mythology which deals with a character called Sisyphus, that as long as a rock is still rolling, the effort is not neither sterile nor futile.

He believes that if he comes here and makes pronouncements in a vociferous manner, that is enough to keep him before the public forum and to give him great recognition in this Chamber as a person who is likely to be returned to another place at a later date. I am not going to dwell on the Senator too long this afternoon. I will wait until he returns to his seat so that he can receive some of the body blows which he distributed this afternoon.

Many persons spoke this afternoon on the various aspects of the Appropriation Bill. Some of them, in my view, did not deal specifically with all of the things within the confinements of the Bill, because they shifted away from the public interest and began to speak, clearly, of self-interest.

I heard a member in this Chamber speak about tractors, namely Senator Ward. I heard Senator Miller speak about boutiques. That is self-interest. I heard Senator Tull speak about the small businessmen, and he spoke in very strong and adamant terms about minibuses. He denied having any special interest in minibuses. But I am sure that present in this Chamber there is a lobby which is advocating something completely different to what their Government advocated in 1976. I am going to deal with that matter a little later when I get down to the Transport Board.

We have some fundamental problems to deal with in this country. There have been all types of variations in philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party, and all of a sudden you are hearing voices talking about being nationalistic. You are hearing them talking about democratic socialism and all the different areas of philosophy that they never advocated before they were forced into Opposition. And what is surprising, from my observation, is that there are certain ostensible entities whose voices are making the same sounds as the members of the Opposition in this Senate.

Senator Tull has agreed that a deficit is axiomatic. It is accepted as a given in any modern economy like this. He has inferred that clearly. He has made reference to a micro position of a small man going to borrow money. He said that if a small man wants to progress, he has to borrow. So I am surprised to hear the same Senator and Senator Miller condemning the deficit of the Government, on the one hand, and then saying in general terms that a deficit is accepted.

I do not understand that type of confusion. I do not know if it is political confusion or if it is a lack of the capacity to be lucid at certain periods. I am a little confused about their direction, this same party that is talking about philosophy and direction, the Opposition.

The whole point, Mr. Deputy President, is they have a superficial knowledge of the subject matter. They know very little about economics. Most of them are conditioned to a monodiscipline, but they want to make us believe that they can pontificate on every subject under the sun. It is not true. Rigid economics is a more complex subject than anyone of them could understand. The authorities on the subject are on this side. They speak from a completely different theoretical orientation than the Democratic Labour Party. When we are saying that a glass is half full, they are saying that the glass is half empty. It is confusion. They just oppose for opposing sake, because they admit that the deficit is expected.

Deficit financing is nothing new. You would believe that there is some mystique surrounding deficit financing, that the Democratic Labour Party came into power and all of a sudden we instituted policies that have created a great deficit in Barbados, and that this is the first time that the people of Barbados are hearing about a deficit. The problem of deficits had to be arrested. From in the 1930s, when Keynes was looking at the classical economists, when he recognised there was a great depression and he had to find solutions, he felt that deficit financing was an essential, and he developed theories so that we now can use that same deficit financing to make progress.

Where the problem lies with deficit financing, as well as economic growth, is if that deficit does not represent a proportionate level of economic development in the country. If you have economic growth, one expects that economic growth to be translated into economic development. That distinction has been clearly made before. It has to manifest itself in economic development.

You just do not come in here and say the deficit should not be so high, despite knowing what you did prior to 1986 to cause us to be faced with the deficit today. We do not have to come in here and reiterate it over and over again, if we are honest persons in here. The deficit was created as a result of the bunching of projects by the Barbados Labour Party. Must we tell them that over and over? If we create additional sums on the deficit, it is because we are trying to give the country some economic development.

That party that is speaking so much about the deficit and saying that the economic growth is only 1 per cent – 2 per cent, was last year saying that there would be no economic growth and the economy would collapse within nine months. Last year the economy grew by 5 per cent, this year between 1 per cent and 2 per cent, moving at an average of 3 per cent per year. That is economic growth.

They continue to give the impression that the Democratic Labour Party is responsible for all the ills. We have to be honest with the general public. It reminds me, Sir, of the words "truth forever on the scuffle, wrong

forever on the throne; yet the scuffles sway the future and behind the dim unknown." I believe those words clearly illustrate the characteristics of the Barbados Labour Party. Wrong is always on the throne. They cannot continue to fool the public.

I heard a lot of talk in here yesterday about Transport and Works. I intend to deal with that a little later. Senator Comissiong spoke about education in a philosophical way. I am going to speak about some of the disparities in a structural manner. About education, Senator Tull was talking about toilets and children going through the toilets and having to bring the Sanitation Authority to pull them out. Another triviality! We have to bring this debate back to some lucid understanding.
5.50 p.m.

The Appropriation Bill is embodied with the authority to examine expenditure, and the schedules and so on stipulate the manner in which expenditure should be dispensed. We have to come in here and examine it within that context. Persons spoke about economics in the rigid sense. But we are politicians, do not hide it, all of us. And when I say that the interest that one represents in here is an indication of his political interest, if the political directorate is not moving in the direction which is favourable to a person's personal interest, he gets involved. I once described it as the pursuit of one's interest, and I am still firm on that belief.

Current Revenue rose by 8.5 per cent at the end of January. Current Revenue moved at an average of approximately \$60 million per month. Despite the criticisms of the tax adjustment by the Opposition, our revenue exceeded what was estimated. So you cannot question the tax policies of the Government. I can understand one wrestling with the Current Expenditure. But if you say that the Current Expenditure will be kept down, then give us reasons. Do not just come to us and give us the factual exposition. Give us a sound, analytical critique. Let us know what you feel is wrong, what methods you think should have been implemented, so that we can see that the criticism is genuine and that you can provide for the country an alternative programme. But you are not saying anything by criticising. They keep criticising over and over again, but they can never offer an alternative programme to the public of Barbados.

I do not believe I should stay in that general area any longer. I am going straight down to a couple specifics. I did not want to go into them in this manner this afternoon, because I believe there is going to be another time. I wanted to stick strictly to the expenditure side and deal with very little about revenue. I felt that that would come up at a later date. We might not have the privilege to debate the Budget here, but I am sure that other items would come before the Senate and we would be able to deal with those issues.

I am going straight into the area of transport. Questions were asked about the subsidy, I think Senator Miller asked about the supplementary vote for the Transport Board. But the reality is this. In 1976, the Barbados Labour Party came to the electorate in this country with two paragraphs in their manifesto about transport, no clear policy on it. This has been repeated before. The Minister who was responsible for Transport then decided to take over the buses from the private owners. In other words, they were denouncing private ownership, 1976, but there was no indication in the two paragraphs in their manifesto that they had any clear transport policy. They rushed and they took the buses away from the private owners, not having enough rolling stock at the Transport Board, not taking over the kind of buses that you can put in a national transport system, because half of the buses were in need of repairs, and as a result the Transport Board found itself in great difficulty.

I believe that as a result of that initial move in not being clear on what their policy was on transport, they found themselves in difficulty and decided to bring in the same private ownership in the form of the minibuses. The same position that they were condemning, they turned around and used it as a corrective measure. Members of that party recognised, and I believe that one of them sits in this Chamber, that if they systematically destroy the Transport Board service, their personal interests would be consolidated. They are made up of that stock. And they systematically moved the Transport Board buses from the lucrative routes and placed minibuses on those routes.

Today, the Transport Board is finding it extremely difficult to raise enough revenue even to cover the wages of the workers there. So you can understand the difficulty that this Government is facing. But they want you to believe that we took over the Government, the Minister had all the administrative staff intact, the rolling stock was there, and despite all of that, the transport service went down. And they are attempting to make the electorate and the masses of Barbados believe that the Democratic Labour Party is incompetent in even running the Transport Board system. They are trying to impress by saying all types of things would be coming in the Budget because they know in advance that what they did systematically before 1986 would cause any ensuing Government to find itself in difficulty in running the transport system as a national transport system. The very opposite of what they intended to implement in 1976, they succeeded in doing. And then they are speaking about competence! They were going to nationalise the transport system!

You hear voices in here, two major voices on the opposite side, and some of the allies as well, asking questions about the minibuses. The answer is clear. In my preamble, I pointed out that they had special interests in here, but despite that, we have a responsibility to look at the broad national interest. Every time the Senators

on the other side spoke, you heard the emphasis being placed on self-interest. And it is not surprising to me that members had to disassociate themselves from ownership of the minibuses, simply because we do not have any evidence in here to prove it.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President: Senator Prescod, either wittingly or unwittingly, is attributing to me some very base motives. I stated quite categorically that I never in the past, nor present, have ever owned any interest in any minibus in Barbados. And he has to accept that. Do not put any improper motives in my head. Come again!

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Tull. Senator Prescod.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Deputy President, I never at any time called any person's name, nor did I impute any bad motives to the statement made by Senator Tull.
6.00 p.m.

I probably should have said Tull's interest. The dynasty of the Tull family is clearly represented in here. Do you know what a dynasty is?

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us hear the Senator please. Thank you.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Deputy President, I will not be diverted from the position that I took. It is a strange thing. If Botha should come before the public of Barbados and say to them tomorrow morning, 'I love black people,' and anybody chose to believe that, it is totally up to him. It is strange to me when persons who never spoke in the interest of working class black people recently began to speak in credible terms and started to talk about brotherhood of black people.

I am not surprised that he would go before a commission like the NAB and make certain statements, and then, because the report did not include his name, condemn it as inept. He is fortunate of the negligence of the persons who produced the report, because if that report was not inept, probably today some member of the Barbados Labour Party would be incriminated. They know about the Director of the NAB, who bought a car from the Minister indirectly. He had two loans at the same time.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President: I think that the Senator is entirely out of order. The floor of the Senate is not the place for making those kinds of attacks on public officers without

serving proper notice, and I think he should be asked to withdraw it.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Senator Prescod.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: All I am trying to point out is that Senator Tull always says to us in this Chamber that he has said so many things in life that today he feels ashamed of. But I wanted to justify, when I said wrong is on the throne when the Barbados Labour Party speaks, that the admission of Senator Tull of himself is not wrong. He is ashamed of many things that he has said. The party, in general, should be ashamed of many things that it says. The Barbados Labour Party, and I hate to draw this debate straight down to this restricted area, but I have to take it there, which is talking about this side, which is the Government now, when they built that Central Bank building over there, we heard all types of predictions about the Central Bank building would bring in \$950 000 a year for rent. From the then Prime Minister, all of that we heard. They were talking about having proper premises and a room for the Prime Minister and so and so. All of a sudden, they are interested in housing for the poor, welfare programmes, all of this new interest that only came since their defeat. The electorate spoke decisively. There is nothing that they can do now, unless they want a coup. They have to wait, and that is in the long future, about 20 years from now.

What did they do? After building the Central Bank building and talking about priorities, they took over \$2 million, initially, for the renovation of Ilaro Court, which was supposed to be a cultural centre. Then after the late Mr. Adams died, you had Prime Minister St. John. The former Prime Minister St. John went into there having no social control. He found himself making additional changes for the coverage of his family, the St. John dynasty, of a couple hundred of thousands of dollars. You were not concerned at that time with the 12 000 applicants at the National Housing Corporation, who were calling on the phone, lining up on the steps and all across Country Road and asking for mercy. Those poor people had, on average, about three other persons living in the house that they were renting in areas where they were probably squatting and so on. That means that over 40 000 people, poor black people, were asking the Government of the Barbados Labour Party to help them in the area of housing. In addition to what was happening at the NHC, we had a number of applicants asking for assistance at the NAB. They were not concerned about that. How, all of a sudden, this humanitarian interest? These political charlatans must be stopped when they attempt to misrepresent the truth!

Asides.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: I would expect you to be surprised when I call a word like that, because you have always indicated in some way that working class people never had any intelligence. In fact, you came from a strange area. I will get to that, too.

Asides.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: Senator Tull, I will answer you now about this same working class interest that you manifested. Senator Tull, who isolated himself from the people in Carrington Village and now is socialising with the middle class sector of the community, is telling me now that I am envious because he has money and that I will not say anything about Senator Goddard and Senator Ward. If Senator Ward clearly represents his interest in an honest way, I respect it. But I know he is representing his interest. So when you are impressing on us that you are representing the interest of the black race, that is when we will come in conflict with each other. You cannot mislead us anymore. We are not going to believe you. The position was decided long, long ago. The accounts are settled.
6.10 p.m.

Sir, I want to move off Senator Tull and go to education. Senator Comissiong spoke in a very lucid manner about education. He started off his debate by making reference to a book by a great socialist Michael Manley, former Leader of Jamaica, "Politics of Change". I believe that we have a responsibility to follow some of the suggestions made by Senator Comissiong, and I believe that, some time ago in this Chamber, Senator Wickham, Senator Boxill and myself had asked the Government to look at the Richard B. Moore collection, which is at the University of the West Indies. I understand that the books there are in a very bad state, and I would be happy if the Government could take the suggestion into consideration.

I am not going to be strictly critical. I will try to make some simple suggestions that fall within the limits of my capacity. We need to know, and I reiterate what Senator Comissiong said, more about our history, and then our philosophical directions could be worked within a given framework. But if that history is not available to us, it makes it extremely difficult for us to be cultivating the kind of human beings who would be able to respect our heritage and the strength of the innovative nature of the indigenous people of Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: Hoyos would probably speak about the Arawaks. You would probably learn from the history of Hoyos. I deal with the more contemporary historians.

We would like to have the opportunity to use that collection, because I believe that there are books there by Rodney, Beckford, C. L. R. James, Franz Fanon, Edgar Mittleholtzer, a lot of West Indian writers, both in the French and English areas. I think Franz Fanon was from Martinique, and we also have some good authors from Guyana and so on. I think it is necessary for us to have access to this kind of material, including George Lamming, of course. If we can do that, I believe that the young people in our country would be able to appreciate the worth of the contributions made by some of the patriotic Barbadians in the days that have passed.

There is very little knowledge available about Duncan O'Neal. There are not enough books to be circulated among the school children. There is very little knowledge about many of the great black political activists as well as historians, or those who contributed in other spheres of life to the development of Barbados. I believe that if we can make the start by using the Richard B. Moore library, we would be moving in a direction that would bring about the changes that are required in Barbados, and then they would even be able to respect the contributions made by politicians in this Chamber and in the Lower House.

Another area I am concerned with is the Public Library. The Public Library, in my view, closes a bit too early. Many persons, who after work, would like to do some research, cannot depend on the Public Library. They have to go there early in the day and get the books and go home, but it would be good if they can get into the atmosphere of the library, which would be a more conducive environment. I would be happy if the Ministry of Education, or whoever is responsible for it, would look at extending the hours of the Public Library so that we can have access to it. I believe that all of these suggestions are valid; they might not be valid to some persons.

There is another thing I am concerned about, the Associate Degree at the Barbados Community College. At present, the Associate Degree is restricted to full-time students, and I think it is a two-year course or something like that. There are many persons who are at present working during the day who would like the opportunity to go to the Community College, or to have access to these courses at the Community College, so that they can attain the Associate Degree. The system needs to be extended some more so that we can allow those persons to have the opportunity to go there and get involved in the opportunities that are available.

I want to get to a parochial matter that is of some interest to me. It is in my area — I cannot say my constituency, because I am just a constituent of that constituency, but I want to declare my interest in the people and the institution in that constituency.

The Government, I believe, is moving in trying to solve some of the problems that were neglected at the

Belmont Primary School during the period of the two former Ministers of Education, who are at present in this Senate. The Belmont Primary School originally had about 200 pupils; it now has approximately 450 pupils. There was a slight extension, but there has been no improvement in the facilities. The old structure is there, and as a result, last year there had to be some emergency repairs, which I believe, had some bearing on the Current Expenditure, due to your negligence. All of the toilets had to be replaced because they were in a bad state. The entire playing field at present has a lot of rocks protruding, and there is need for regrading of that playing field. There are basically primary and pre-primary children there now, so we cannot leave the playing field in the state it is in. I believe we have to work hard and get some of these things done as soon as possible.

Mr. Deputy President, the projected Estimates are justifiable. We have a lot of work to do that was neglected during the last Administration. Belmont School is of special interest to me and I will keep close to the Minister of Education on this matter, and I will try to see that this Government goes on record in that particular constituency for doing something progressive and helpful to the vulnerable people of the Belle Gully and My Lords Hill area. I would hope that Senator Tull shows some interest in the Drax Hall area and areas of St. George which probably face the same problem which probably was there during the ten years of the Barbados Labour Party.

6.20 p.m.

I do not think he said he supported elitism, but he said he accepted that elitism existed in the schools. I do not think that I am misrepresenting him although he always says that persons misrepresent him. Even though you hear his voice on the radio and you read his articles, you hear that people misrepresent him. Whenever he rushes into an area and he finds himself in great difficulty, he says that he is misrepresented.

I am not going to talk about the areas of education that he loves so much. Since 1986, when we came in here, he was telling us about the children in elementary schools cannot read, cannot write, and he keeps repeating the same old tune over and over again. But we have patience with him.

Elitism as it stands at Harrison College has been perpetuated. Whenever a student in the other Government school shows any potential of development, he is transferred to the Fifth and Sixth forms of Harrison College, almost to give the impression that Harrison College is producing the cream of the crop. Therefore, the label of elitism stuck on Harrison College. The history is clear about the school and its attitude towards black students in the early days. I am not going to elaborate on that now. The information is clearly in a book called

"The Quality of Life" by Dan, from the University of the West Indies. I just want to make the point that, by design, that form of class stratification which, in my view, is synonymous with elitism, is perpetuated by the persons who are responsible sometimes for advising Government, probably the headmasters, because we once had an accusation that headmasters were letting the children in through the back door. Probably some people, to get the elitish image, went through the back door. But I am not going to go into that now.

The Government cannot be condemned for not looking after the vulnerable groups. We have sustained the position — I will give you some credit for this — now that you have left government. The Welfare Office, the National Assistance Board, the National Housing, the Ministry of Education, Health, all of these, which I consider to be social entities, are still standing as stabilising units in the society to cushion any difficulties which the vulnerable groups may be facing as a result of any fiscal or monetary adjustments in the economy. So we are in full control. To tell us that the party is not on the right track is to distort what is actually happening in the Government today. The Democratic Labour Party's philosophy is clear. We are not confused about direction. We know exactly what we are trying to achieve, and we are going to achieve it. I can assure you of that, Senator Tull.

I want to get to Housing. First of all, yesterday Senator Miller spoke about \$11 million, which was inclusive of a \$8 million supplementary vote, in the area of housing. She gave the impression to this Honourable Chamber that that money was voted for a specific purpose, only for the payment of the acquisition of lands by Government, knowing well that over \$6 million out of that total sum was for the payment of the St. Joseph Hospital. There are a number of areas as well that that sum of money had to go to, but only \$2 million out of that total sum was actually for the acquisition of land. Despite being in possession of this knowledge, she deliberately attempted to give the impression that she knew nothing about it.

The Government is very concerned about making things easier for working class people and, as a result, we are about to sell all of the single units to those tenants who are willing to purchase these units. We will make conditions easy for them through Mortgage Finance and other lending institutions.

We are also examining the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, and the amendments to that Act will be made some time, I hope, in the near future. But we have an imperative before we make that amendment, in my view, because I am of the opinion that many landowners might take the opportunity, when that Act is amended, to evict tenants from their lands. Because I believe that

the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act created some serious difficulties, not only in terms of potential tenants, trying to find house spots, but also serious social implications where persons, initially having given the opportunity to other persons and friends to live on the lands because of their state of distress, eventually, though this pile of legislation, found themselves to be the greatest enemies.

It is against that background that I believe that provision should be made before we amend the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act to absorb the evictions, if they should come. That is why I can agree with Senator Phillips that in respect of the plantation owners who owe the Government large sums of money and are in possession of rab land, this Government should move to take over those rab lands and use them for housing development. This would assist the Government in solving many of the difficulties that we are likely to face if the present landlords react in a negative way to the amendments to the legislation.

6.30 p.m.

I would not like to see that all the rab land that is available at present purchased in large estates by wealthy people, and then we see large mansions being erected on these properties. Therefore, I believe that it is an opportunity for us to defray the outstanding debts in some way, taking over those rab lands from the plantations and using them for low income housing. We do not have to do it with all, but I believe that you can do that.

There is another point that I want to make, and this is in relation to Senator Tull. Some time ago in this Chamber, you queried what was the Government's position on Parish Land in Christ Church.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair, Senator.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: I am addressing the Chair, Sir. The shift of the body is part of my style.

The problem with Parish Land is that there are applications in to the Town and Country Planning, but permission has not been granted. It is what you call the noise effective forecast zone, that is, the area that is the flight path for the planes going into the airport. I believe that is the main reason why Town and Country Planning would not grant permission for any development in that particular area.

We are looking at many areas of Government, in particular housing, because it is an area that is very dear to the present Minister of Housing. We are not only looking at those changes in housing, but we have also made some adjustments in the area of administration. In the Other Place, one of the members on the Opposition side suggested that a property management unit should be

set up in the Ministry of Housing. Surprisingly, he being the Leader of the Opposition, he should have been fully aware that his Government set up the Property Management Unit. The Property Management Unit was set up by the Barbados Labour Party. But the leader in the Other Place for the Barbados Labour Party is so unaware of what transpired during his time that he is now asking this Government to set up a property management unit.

The problem was that when the unit was set up, they only employed two persons to look after about \$400 million in property belonging to the Ministry of Housing. This Minister, who has greater conviction, probably because of his origin as well, decided to improve on the management structure of that unit, and he now has in place a number of para-legals looking after all the difficulties in the Ministry of Housing. So soon from now, all the problems surrounding the payment for land acquisitions, and all the lands of the Ministry of Housing that there are no proper records to tell us exactly where the land is, or how much it is in some cases, will be solved. So as a result of the change in the management of housing, in that same unit which the Member in the Other Place is not aware of, we are going to have some improvement in the Ministry of Housing.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator, you have five more minutes.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: I want to go further on parastatal bodies, because I believe that these quasi areas of Government need to be examined. It appears to me, and I believe other persons in some way indicated the same interest, that some of these corporations are not fully aware of their social responsibilities, and we have to crystallise the position of Government to them in such a way that they understand quite clearly the intention of the Government. This is a Government with a clear social conscience. It is manifested in our commitment to social development. The pronouncements and the behaviour of the members of Government are clear indications of our interest.

In Education, the money we are spending there would be supported by the efficiency and a reduction in wastage. It is another clear indicator of how we intend to see that all of these structures remain in tact, and that we sustain the level of development and comfort for the vulnerable groups in Barbados in the future.

Mr. Deputy President, I give my support to this Appropriation Bill, and I look forward to the clear implementation of these policies in the ensuing year.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, what we have been discussing for the

last two days, as Senators know, is the Appropriation Bill for 1988. This is nothing unfamiliar, this is an exercise which has to be done every year, and it cannot, I admit, be separated from larger questions of the economy, the progress which the country is making, generally, and the specific matters which Government, indeed, both Houses of Parliament, whether Government or Opposition, must be concerned with from time to time, and certainly every year. The Appropriation Bill, however, is nothing more, in some respects, than the attempt to forecast what the country has to spend and what it has a reasonable hope of taking in to balance that expenditure, if it is lucky, or, as more often happens, to take in by projection less, it appears, than it wants to spend. So from time to time, on concepts like deficits and shortfalls or whatever comes up, this is not in any way different in intention than the comments of the speakers. It is an attempt to grapple with the realities of the country's position from time to time.

6.40 p.m.

I noticed, with some puzzlement, that in the Other Place they divided on the Appropriation Bill. I cannot understand why this should be so. I would have thought that while it is perfectly proper to express dissatisfaction with any or all aspects of Government's policy, nobody is called on to make a gesture which appears to deny the country the supplies which are needed. I do not know, and I cannot presume, to forecast what Senators will do in this respect, but I want to emphasise that no matter how strongly we feel on certain aspects of policy, we are only asked to approve supplies for the services of the country.

I must also say that while we have good reason to be anxious about the drift of things, and in particular cases about how much money we are spending on this, that, and the other, it is still fair to point out that there are certain inescapable commitments of Government and that these are to be met. So even if it were possible to cut away the things that are not inescapable, the inescapable commitments would be the majority of the commitments we still have to meet. All this is common knowledge, and I think that the debate has been very useful, and I say this quite sincerely. Although we have disagreed across the table on many aspects of it, I think it has been very, very helpful to all of us.

A lot of questions were asked in the course of the presentations this morning. I am taking the opportunity to make specific replies. I do not know in all cases who asked the questions, but as only one other person will speak after me, I am taking the bulk of the questions.

A question was asked about guidance counsellors in our schools. I am informed that the posts for 25 guidance counsellors have been created. The officers will be appointed by the Ministry of Education and assigned to secondary schools. The duties which they will carry out

will deal directly with the counselling programme, and when these people start to work, they will be answerable to the Headteacher. Interviews are presently being conducted by the Personnel Department of the Ministry, and it is expected that appointments will be made and will take place as soon as possible after the interviews. I am informed that the heads of the schools are fully participating in the interviewing exercise. Each school has included funds in Personal Emoluments for payment of salaries to the guidance counsellors for 1988-89.

There was a question on drug abuse. During 1987, a Special Assignments Officer was attached to the Ministry to deal with the problems of drug abuse, and plans were in progress for the development of a curriculum in this matter in the schools. There have been seminars for head-teachers and senior teachers to acquaint them with the various types of drugs which children are influenced to use, and to help them recognise certain symptoms of persons under the influence of drugs.

The Psychologist attached to the Ministry works closely with the schools in this particular area. During the period of 1981 to the present time, 40 children have been referred to the psychologist by the schools, children suspected of being under the influence of drugs. There were 25 boys from the ages 10-15 and 15 girls, ages 13-15. The drug which was mainly identified was marijuana. There was one case of cocaine among those 40. I am advised that in all cases, users were strongly influenced by their immediate home environment.

Questions were asked about the staff ratio of graduates in older and newer secondary schools. The figures appear to be as follows. In respect of the older secondary schools, the total staff is 410, total graduate teachers 355, which is a percentage of 86 per cent. In the newer secondary schools, the total staff is 759, total graduates, 420 percentage, 55.3 per cent.

One has to take into consideration the purpose of establishing the newer secondary schools and the type of curriculum devised to cater to them. There was a heavy bias towards vocational and technical education, and, consequently, teachers with specialist skills were hired to cater to these needs. The Ministry also emphasised that it placed emphasis on training for non-graduate teachers and that is why the number of trained teachers, that is now graduates, is consistently high and has been kept consistently high in the newer secondary schools. In recent years, many of the trained non-graduates have gained graduate status. They emphasised that the important fact is that in the newer secondary schools, the majority of teachers, whether graduate or non-graduate, are trained.

There was a question in respect of the reading problem in primary schools. The salient point is that from

1984 to the present time the Ministry has implemented measures to deal with each of a certain number of recommendations which had been made to it in respect of this problem.

In respect of materials, schools were provided with information about the best reading schemes, and combination of reading schemes, available for the teaching of reading. They were also advised on which texts were best suited for the above average and below average. Next, an inventory of the texts in schools was done, and this revealed that the discrepancy was mainly in the area of texts for average and below average. In addition, language master cards, listening centres, tapes and tape recorders were provided for each primary school, and this represents some of the most modern equipment available.

In the area of teacher training, at Erdiston a series of training programmes in remedial reading were conducted, and by 1987 there was a trained remedial reading teacher assigned to each primary school. The implementation of this programme is being monitored by the Education Officer with responsibility for the Language Arts.

Then, there were some other questions dealing with general topics. One was a comment from Senator Jones in respect of Ilaro Court, and more than implied criticism of the Prime Minister, that he was being unreasonable for not living in there. I do not want to give a partisan answer to this, but there are some of us in politics who knew the Labour Party before it got converted. So while we accept that they are converted now, I will still remember some of the things that they used to say and do before conversion overtook them.

One of the late Prime Ministers, the first late one, if you would like to put it that way, chose not to live in Culloden Farm. Our understanding was that he held the view that it was not a suitable residence for a Prime Minister. Yet, one had lived in it for 12 or 13 years, or thereabouts, and it would have been an insult to the prestige, or whatever you like to call it, of the one who lived in it, Mr. Barrow, to say that it was suitable for a Prime Minister, as if there was anything wrong with the house. It was taxpayers' money.

6.50 p.m.

The point I am making is that Mr. Adams chose not to live in it, and he had every right to make that choice, and nobody should quarrel with him for choosing not to live in it. So if now the one who has succeeded Mr. St. John chooses not to live in Ilaro Court, you cannot call him unreasonable and think that it is untenable of him for not living there. In any case, if Mr. Sandiford is prepared to listen to his constituents, as he has said, at least I understand Senator Jones has quoted Mr.

Sandiford as having said that if his constituents tell him to live in it, he will do so, I do not see that this is anything that should be held against him, because if it were not for his constituents, he would not enjoy the office of Prime Minister at least. So he owes some attention to them and if he says he will listen to them in this respect, we will wait for that consultation to take place. But, please, do not attack one Prime Minister merely because you may not agree with his policies, when perhaps another Prime Minister has exercised the same option in that respect.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Except that I would have attacked the other one if I was here.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: There is no point in attacking either one of them. If you become Prime Minister tomorrow and you choose not to live in it, we should all have to abide by that. That is not an area to make any contention about.

Senator Tull raised several points. In the course of a wide-ranging presentation, he attacked Minister Taitt, I think, for some statement which Mr. Taitt made in connection with the recent happenings in the Psychiatric Hospital. My understanding is that the point was not that the diet was poor, or that the food was inadequate, but that the food was being stolen out of the place. I do not know, therefore, if Mr. Taitt was responding to that or if he was responding to something else. But the facts are that they had been having some trouble there with the food being taken out of the place, and that one of the consequences of that was that there were certain shortages from time to time.

In respect of the Civil Service and the unfortunate attack, if I may say so, which was made on the Minister, my colleague, I know that in politics it is very difficult for people to restrain feelings that they may have against other personalities in politics. I try myself to conduct my politics above that level.

Asides and Laughter.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us hear the Minister, please.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: I think that one ought, at any rate, to try to search for the principle at stake and deal with that. In 1986, the Cabinet directed that a study should be done on the operations of the Services Commission Department, and the study has been carried out by a team headed by the Head of the Civil Service and other competent officers. The report in draft was scrupulously examined by the Chief Personnel Officer, so any suggestion that anything was done while he was on leave is not exactly

true, and may be a fabrication of someone who really does not know what has been happening.

I am not, either by implication or in any other way, ascribing the fabrication to the Senator, because I think the Senator, if he had known this, would have said that he personally knew it. He did not say that he personally knew it, he talked as if it had been relayed to him. It is not true. Nothing was done behind the man's back while he was on leave.

Senator Tull also made a point about denigrating the country when abroad. It is something that I have never done, and therefore I do not know from whom he would have heard this. Of course, he did not say it at the time. He said, I believe, that a former Minister — by implication it was that — but I do not like to get into family quarrels; I do not think I should.

Here again, one has to say that there was a time when the Barbados Labour Party was not the converted entity it is now. I wonder if he knows that at the time of the change of Government in 1961, Sir Grantley Adams referred to the incoming, at the time DLP leadership as communist and wild people. And this did us a considerable amount of damage. It was said and it was said in England at a time when we had not even found our feet. I do not think the Government was more than probably two or three weeks old, none of our programmes we had been able to start, except perhaps, the thing about free secondary education, but this was said by a man who, obviously, was well-respected inside and outside of Barbados, whose words carried great weight.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Why don't you quote Mr. Barrow? Barrow said some worse things.)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us not have the asides, please.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: I should think Senator Boxill was referring to Sir Grantley in 1948.

I want to give the Senate some factual information about the Defence Force. A lot of misrepresentations are put about our policy in respect of the Defence Force. What we are aiming at, and what the Force is being targeted chiefly at, is the promotion of the surveillance of Barbados' coastal and territorial waters, the provision of air and sea search and rescue, fisheries protection, the provision of law enforcement at sea and the continued participation in the Regional Security System. Far from wanting to disband it or to scatter it, certain capital works are being undertaken, which would include the renovation of the Iron Barracks, security, lighting and fencing, renovation of the West India Barracks, the Armoury, Operations Room and the head-

quarters building, the preservation of St. Anns Fort's walls, refurbishment of roadways and things like that. In addition, specialised works will be carried out at Willoughby Fort, Paragon and Harrison's Point. So I do not think it is really substantial to say that we are getting rid of it or doing anything to it other than making it more efficient.

Senator Ward, whom I am sorry to see is not in his place, asked a question about property acquisition, for which he said the owners had not been paid. My information is as follows. Some negotiations over property acquisitions may take some time to reach an end, owing to disagreement or continuous bargaining in determining a fair market value. All of that we know. In specific cases where taxes had been paid and money has not been paid over, delays are occasioned, in some cases, to the failure of property owners or their attorneys to respond to the Crown's officer in a reasonable time. There are also delays in making payments which are occasioned by difficulties sometimes in getting survey plans, which are, sometimes, no fault of the owner or his attorney. But the point that has to be made here is that taxes paid by a property owner on a specific area of land being acquired by the Crown are refunded when the acquisition process is completed and the survey plan available, which would, also, show the precise area of land acquired. The refund of taxes relates to the period from which the owner was deprived of the use of his land.

7.00 p.m.

When my colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Morrison, was speaking today, there was some difficulty in understanding what he had said in respect of the volume of produce exported in a certain period. I am to emphasise that it was a two-month period, January and February, in each case, and that the totals in respect of each crop were: sweet potatoes — 58 000 pounds, hot peppers — 22 210 pounds, okras — 210 pounds, breadfruit — 7 036 pounds, coconuts — 250 pounds, pumpkins — 630 pounds, eddoes — 400 pounds, eggplant — 3 530 pounds, yams — 10 160 pounds. The total for January and February, I must emphasise, was 102 426 pounds.

I am also to state that the BMC is pursuing its export thrust in the recent trial shipment of Barbados flying fish to the United Kingdom, and they look forward to this breakthrough materialising to produce benefits to our fishermen. They are pushing hard, also, to expand the ginger lily exports, and a trial shipment was recently sent off to Europe.

Lastly, Sir, I want to spend a few minutes on what, I think, is the central issue which has cropped up in this debate. It is not a new issue, because we have heard it for the last 19 or so months, at any rate, since the change of Government, the point being that, somehow or the other, the Democratic Labour Party deceived the people of Barbados in respect of their fiscal projections and the policies which we put in place when we were in Government.

I do not believe, and I am giving it as a personal view, that we needed that as a gimmick to capture votes. The Barbados Labour Party was beaten long before that, and I think I could truthfully say that the majority of the people in this island accepted that there was going to be a change of Government. What surprised even me was the weight of the change. But I think that while it may have increased the majority, it made no difference at all to the fact that there was going to be a change of Government.

I say that to say this: in a very strange way, the difference between us in concept as to what was done then is a real difference. It is even a philosophical difference, and it ought to be taken to the public platforms for the widest and fullest possible public debate between the two parties, because those who say that nothing divides us and we are all the same ought to be happy that we are so bitterly divided over this issue of our fiscal programme.

Let me see if I can very, very briefly say what the philosophical difference is. We on this side believe that all the money in the Treasury, however it gets there, is not the property of any Government of the day, that it is the property of the people and what we did, or wanted to do with that Budget, the one which we put in the manifesto as a projection and implemented in 1987, was to give the people the right to spend some of their own money, because we genuinely felt, and still feel, that Governments do not know better than the individual citizens how to spend the citizens' money.

If you are telling us that we were wrong, we are willing to debate that in public with you, and you must then say to the people of the country what you would do when you come back to power. You must tell the people of the country whether you are going to impose Income Tax in respect of the pensioners, including, I must say, Mr. Deputy President. The retired Prime Minister, are you going to impose Income Tax on his pension? But not only to him; come lower down the line — all the school teachers, policemen, all the civil servants who have retired, everybody, my friends over there. I do not know if there are any others who are pensioners but every one of us in the country who are, or shall be. At any time go out and join this debate with us and say what the Democratic Labour Party gave to you, we are going to take it back. Then we can have a proper debate. This is how I see it.

It is as if this table was a river and some people were on this side and some were on that, and then a lot of people came and shoved them in the river on that side and we on this side went and jumped in and pulled them out. There is bound to be dissatisfaction when you pump the water out of them. Somebody is going to say, I cannot find my left foot shoe. Somebody else is going to say I have lost my sun glasses. And a third person, although he is glad that you pulled him out of the water

and saved his life, is going to say he cannot find his ball point pen. And there will be somebody who will have the shamelessness to say, 'You saved my life but I lost the bottom plate of my false teeth.' This is what you get. There is bound to be some dissatisfaction when people have started to recover from the trouble that they are in. It is possible that you are right — I cannot accept that, I do not believe it — and a great mistake was made. But if a great mistake was made, it was made on the basis that we believe people should have the right to spend their own money. You are telling us that the money belongs to the Labour Party and that the Labour Party is the best judge of what people should have in this country. If that is what we are to debate, let us debate it.

(*Aside:* SENATOR L. R. TULL: What kind of sophistry is that?)

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: It is not any sophistry. It is important. Senator Tull himself said so. It is on record, and it will come out in Hansard, that you said that you would take back some of the concessions. You said so!

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: All right. I know you made a distinction. You said that you would prefer to see the concessions left with manufacturing and you did not want it to go with retail and distributing, all of that. But even so, you will have to tell them that you propose to take back things from them. We stand on the principle that the money belongs to the people and the people should have the right to spend some of their own money and Government should not spend it for them.
7.10 p.m.

(*Aside:* SENATOR L. R. TULL: Sandy is going to take back some from them next month.)

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Now you are saying that there is a clear line of division between us, that the Barbados Labour Party thinks that the people are not sensible enough to be able to have the spending of their own money. It is a fair division of opinion, and you could be right. But if you are to be right, we must argue it out in front of the people. And you must say to every voter in this country, 'If you put me back in power, what they have given you, you are likely to have taken back from you.' If that is the issue, we can debate it.

(*Aside:* SENATOR L. R. TULL: No! You have taken it back already. Sixty million dollars last year in taxation!)

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: I want to draw the attention of Senators to something which the Prime Minister said in the Other Place, and which I thought that Senators might like to think over, to see, in the terms and conditions of our operation here, whether we can make use of that suggestion.

He has taken the view that, in the course of an Estimates Debate in the Other Place, a lot of important bits of public policy were not debated because of the time pressure and the guillotine being applied on the last day of the Estimates Debate, and that provision should be made for important public policy issues to be debated after the Estimates, and a Resolution was so introduced. If Senators would like to have opportunities to debate more fully some of these Heads in the Estimates as time goes on, or within a specified time, I think we ought to consider how we can do this. Because we really would like full public discussion on these matters, and we would think it important enough for us to be able to take up these matters, if the Senate is so inclined.

Thank you.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, on a point of elucidation. May I enquire whether passage of this Bill tonight implies acceptance of the Schedule and all the allocations contained therein? To debate individual matters after might call in question this decision we take here tonight. I wonder whether the effect of debate on an individual matter arising out of the Estimates confirms or denies the decision which may be taken, certainly implied, by passage of the Appropriation Bill tonight.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: I do not think it can confirm or deny it. I think the issue is that we are doing the Appropriation Bill now. But I am asking members of the Senate whether they would like to consider a proposal, adapted, of course, to our situation, which was made in respect of the Other House, to the effect that in respect of all those matters which Members of the Other House, as it would be with us, have not had opportunity to air in debate, or to have elucidations made on, whether they would like opportunities for them, as aspects of public policy, to be debated on separate motions being introduced in this Chamber from time to time, in other words, so that things which were not covered, but which have obvious importance, can receive their due attention. I do not know how you feel about it. Perhaps you might like to consider it.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy President, the Opposition welcomes the opportunity to discuss any head of Government expenditure at any time. One of the things that we feel very constrained about is the new Standing Orders in the Senate that restrict members of the Senate from speaking for more than a certain time on

these measures. I spoke this afternoon on the Estimates and had to give up and go to the pavilion long before I was ready to do so. Therefore, what the Leader of the Senate is suggesting, that we can on a regular basis debate all areas of Government policy, we certainly will look forward to it.

We have our points of view, both in relation to our own policies and in relation to Government's policies. And we would not mind engaging in serious debate with the Government, rather than coming in here and just discussing land acquisitions and the occasional loan. We will be glad to discuss any area of Government, without exception, any time, with due notice.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, in winding up this debate, I would like to respond to some of the questions and statements made by the various Senators throughout the last two days of debate.

Senator Miller, following closely on my presentation, indicated that there was negative growth within the economy in the year. I have before me some data going back to 1984 on the growth rates within the economy. In 1984, the growth rate was 3.5 per cent, 1985 — 0.3 per cent, 1986 — 5.0 per cent, 1987 — 2.2 per cent. In my presentation, I projected a growth rate of between 2 per cent and 4 per cent, and these statements here suggest a growth rate of about 2.5 per cent.

There was a question about the reserves for March, 1987 and March, 1988. Total reserves: 1980 — \$154.8 million, 1981 — \$178.7 million, 1982 — \$164.4 million, 1983 — \$210.7 million, 1984 — \$241.3 million, 1985 — \$314.5 million, 1986 — \$320.3 million, 1987 — \$339.9 million. The estimate for the banking system was not available. The total reserves include the reserves held by the Central Bank and Central Government, plus the commercial banks.

On unemployment, when I spoke about the elusive variable, I was saying that in developing the statistics on unemployment the methodology tends to discriminate against people who are self-employed, and at times there are many people who are self-employed who somehow do not get into the statistics. I have discussed this with the Statistical Department and they are looking at ways of correcting it. Certainly, there is not an attempt to pad the data, but rather to make sure everyone is captured in the net.

We are aware of the importance of the self-employed and those employed in small businesses, because in developed countries, these will account for between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of the work force.

I shall deal with the deficit later. Senator Morrison dealt with Caribbean Airways. Senator Lewis, I think,

dealt with the question on not advertising abroad, nor in the United States, since April, and this was applicable only to TV advertising.

Inflation. I think I stated that inflation was under 4 per cent. I think Senator Miller quoted me as being over 4 per cent. The figure I have is 3.4 per cent, which is under. I think I did say under in the initial stages.

Senator Phillips raised the question of whether or not Government was collecting all the revenues that it should be from mines and quarries. Looking through some data last night, I was surprised to find that, in spite of the building boom in Barbados, output from mines and quarries fell in the year. That would seem to bear out Senator Phillips' observations. I do not have those figures before me, but I think we shall see them again, and I believe that Senator Phillips should bear that in mind.
7.20 p.m.

Senator Phillips also talked about moving goods from Barbados. If we must develop at all the export of goods, we must make provision to move the physical goods, that is, to provide safe utility for the goods. There is no point in constantly taking people on missions. What we really need is to take goods. This was discussed with the board when I was a member of the Board of the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation, and I know that it is receiving their consideration at this time.

The foreign debt, apparently, was the all pervasive issue. Nearly every speaker addressed that, and I will talk about that as a final.

Senator Blackman asked about the Central Purchasing Unit making purchases outside of Barbados. This has come to our attention. We have been striving to ensure that, wherever possible, with 25 per cent of the budget, where the Government has some discretion, we will make every attempt to funnel those resources into the local sector, that is if they are manufacturing products or any other services that could be bought locally. This will be the first claim on these funds during the coming year.

Senator Shorey talked about the Grantley Adams School. I was there at that speech day, and if my memory serves me correctly, I think the headmaster was talking about students coming to the school with reading disabilities. I think it is dyslexia or something — you reverse words or something like it. I am not one of those in that position.

The Minister at the time responded to that question, and I think he said, if my memory again serves me correctly, that teachers should be prepared to meet students at the levels which they come to the schools. Somehow, there is a feeling that there are these distinct

segments between primary, secondary, and tertiary education, and at the secondary level the student must come prepared, otherwise you cannot do anything with them. If I understood the Minister correctly, what he was saying is that you should reach the student at his level and try to bring him along.

I am sorry that Senator Goddard is not in his place, because he talked about the deficit, and then he went on, and again Senator Tull picked this up. Senator Tull was at pains to point out the difference between budgeting and accounting in the private sector, where the bottom line is profit, and in Government, where the bottom line is the provision of services in areas which nobody else is willing to produce those services, because the profit margin is not there.

Furthermore, there is another problem in the accounting system. I alluded to one before, the cash basis accounting in Government as opposed to the accrual basis of the private sector.

There is also another one, and this is also reflected in the deficit. Had Government elected to capitalise some of the provisions that it has made now in the Current Estimates, items such as repairs of buildings and maintenance of roads, which could be easily capitalised, because the life of them will be over some extended period of time, then, of course, the same expenditure would be moved from the current section to the capital section. So it is a treatment of items around, and it is the bottom line. Are we prepared through this exercise to develop a better country for us to live in, and if we are doing this, who will pay the price for it? Is the burden equitably distributed among the citizens of the country?

Senator Forde asked about the deficit on the one hand, and on the other hand, immediately asked about an increase in the subvention to the Child Care Board. This is what I am talking about when I talked about the provision of services. We cannot have it both ways. We cannot have guns and butter. This is a problem: it is all right if you do not cut my own pet project — cut it somewhere else and let us keep the budget within limit.

Senator Forde also asked about the foreign offices for the promotion of trade. This is an area that I know the Minister of Trade is looking at, and should be meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss, to ensure that people who go out there can perform the dual role of the diplomat and also trade promotion. More developed countries which can afford trade attaches have a particular officer assigned within their Foreign Offices.

Senator Ward is not here, but he queried using tourist arrivals as the bench mark for our failure or success within the tourist industry. I would like to refer him to a study I did at graduate level back in 1978. It

is available at the Cave Hill library and at the Central Bank; I think they have a copy of it. It is the analysis of the determinance for tourism in Barbados, and in it we use the variable of bed nights, because it is more indicative of what is happening in the tourist industry, rather than the number of people. The example I gave was quite explicit.

He also mentioned Barbadians returning home who do not spend any money in hotels. I would hope that Barbadians are always welcomed home. I know that they spend more money than most of the other tourists buying curios and presents to take back for other Barbadians who were not so fortunate to make the trip home.

Asides.

SENATOR DR. C. D. CLARKE: Okay. That is correct and we make rum locally. So there is no foreign exchange leakages.

Senator Commissiong asked about the position of the fiscal deficit of February 1988. These are the figures I have: Current Revenues — \$612.6 million, Current Expenditure — \$722.4 million, Current Account Deficit, Gap, Shortfall — \$109.8 million, Capital Expenditure — \$157.8 million, Overall Deficit — \$267.6 million, Capital Revenue — \$194.4 million, other financing required to bridge the gap — \$73.2 million.

Senator Tull mentioned that taxes have increased tremendously in spite of what he alluded to as a sleight of hand in the last budgetary process. I am sure that Senator Tull is aware that if there is growth within the economy, the tax base will widen, and given a specific rate without any change in rate and a larger base time of fixed rate, the absolute dollar amount will increase. I think that this is what has happened. Growth within the economy will generate additional revenue without changing the rate or even changing the base, just the growth within the base. So you do not bring any additional people into the net, just through success and prosperity you will increase the tax revenue.

7.30 p.m.

Senator Tull also mentioned that exports to Trinidad declined about 60 per cent during the last year. I have some figures here, taken from the Central Bank of Barbados, Economic and Financial Statistics, February 1988. Exports to Trinidad 1981, \$52 million; 1982, \$80 million; 1983, \$79 million; 1984, \$68 million; 1985, \$45 million, — these are rounded — 1986, \$21 million; 1987, \$14 million, and this is only for 11 months. In 1986, from January to May, exports to Trinidad were \$8 million, and the rest of the year, \$13 million, for a total of \$21 million.

Senator Tull has been trying to pre-empt the Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement by indicating that taxes will be increased. He drew this inference based on the size of the gap. There are ways in which the gap can be closed; one is by increasing revenues, the other is by reducing expenditures. Since Personal Emoluments constitute about 54 per cent of the overall budget, for a total of about \$358.6 million. If somehow, we could effect savings within that, not by laying off people, through the route of attrition, of about 10 per cent, we should be able to effect savings without any loss of jobs of about \$35 million, just about ten per cent, within the budget.

There is also another way of looking at it. Junior staff in the service, I believe, get acting allowances after acting for about four to six weeks; senior staff generally get it from the first or second day. I think that if this is looked at carefully, at least some savings can be effected there. But this is a matter that we need to look at along with the implications for the unions.

Senator Tull and I were at one that the Public Debt is necessary for managing a modern day economy. There is no question about it. The question is, from whom are you borrowing? Is it local as opposed to foreign?

It is true that, to the extent that there is a foreign debt, there is the danger over time that you might not be able to service it. Given where we are, and Senator Lewis touched on this earlier, I believe, we have a bunching of debts coming, and all of our export earnings sectors are not firing. Tourism is the only one that has been keeping its head above water. It would therefore seem necessary that we will have to go back into the foreign exchange market to roll over the debt, not necessarily to service it, the principal that is outstanding at that time.

To that extent, our credit worthiness becomes a question. We will need to carefully marshal and husband our resources to ensure that the foreign component of the debt is brought within manageable levels. It is not at unmanageable levels, but it is an area that we need to keep our eyes on.

In regard to the local component, there is no problem. We owe it to ourselves, we pay dividends to ourselves, the funds are retained in Barbados, so there cannot be any problems with that. Debt is a tool of policy which, as I pointed out earlier, sits comfortably between monetary and fiscal policy, but we will do all in our power to control and keep under tight scrutiny the foreign component of the debt.

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

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

BARBADOS TELEPHONE COMPANY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1988

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Bill to amend the Barbados Telephone Company Act, Cap. 274.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I am asking leave that this be taken charge of by Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Morrison.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Leave has been granted.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, the purpose of this Bill is to give the Minister of Telecommunications the power to make an Order for the sharing of revenue that results from overseas telephone traffic between the Barbados External Telecommunications and Barbados Telephone Company.

Cabinet made a decision last March 1987 that the revenue accruing from these international telephone transactions should be shared between the two companies on a 60/40 basis in favour of the Barbados Telephone Company. There was an agreement in force between the two companies for carrying out that decision. That agreement comes to an end on March 31 this year, and there is no provision in the Barbados Telephone Act that would give the Minister the right to make an order, as was done in the Cable & Wireless, so we are seeking this amendment to give the Minister the right to make an order for the sharing of revenue between the two companies.

Before I move the second reading, Sir, I should like to move a slight amendment to paragraph 3, "A.(1)" by inserting the words "and other transactions" after the words "telephone calls".

This amendment was moved in the Lower House, Sir.

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

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: I think that should read "and other transmissions".

SENATOR A. MORRISON: I am sorry, "and other transmissions".

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I want to raise one brief question. I understand that the telephone directories are printed in the United States of America, and I am wondering – I do not know the reasons, and on this occasion I am not making any criticism, I am just enquiring – what is the reason for this. Why are they still printing the directories in the United States even though there are a number of top-class printeries in Barbados that are doing printing for United States companies? I

wonder whether the time is not ripe for us to take up with the Telephone Company the rationale for that continuing practice to see if we can bring that work to one of the companies in Barbados.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. Deputy President, just to give a kind of reply to what Senator Tull has said, it seems to me, I have heard, that that has taken care of itself, because an initiative to produce another kind of directory locally is forcing the Telephone Company to look in the direction of local printing.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I thought, Sir, the Telephone Company was taking the cue from the Democratic Labour Party, which prints its manifestoes in the United States.
7.40 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the Bill, the Barbados Telephone Company Act, Cap. 274, as amended, be read a second time.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Deputy President, but that amendment came from the Lower House, so it is not "as amended". The Bill, as presented to us, has that amendment in it.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I thought you had moved in the amendment, and he made another.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: No.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it the same amendment that it came with?

Asides.

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

On the motion of Senator A. MORRISON, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, it is getting late and all of us want to go home. Can we deal with this in block and pass 1 - 7 one time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are only three.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: All right, we pass the three one time.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Senator A. MORRISON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the Deputy President, the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Senator A. MORRISON, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Sir, I thank Senators for their attendance and co-operation in the passage of the Appropriation Bill. I do not think there is anything to require us to come back soon.

I have taken some soundings and it seems to be the wish of Senators that we should adjourn *sine die*. I now so move.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Speaking on the adjournment, Mr. Deputy President, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of all Senators, to thank the Staff of Parliament, in particular, the Clerks and reporters.

I regret that the Estimates debate this year has been a dull one. It does not appear that we ever reach a high point. I do not know why. Maybe, because as Senator Boxill said, he did not speak. We have not even managed to reach the third day.

The debate tended to drag, and if we were feeling it, I am sure that the reporters would have felt it a hundredfold. So we want to say, "Thank you." We know that they have had a gruelling time, because they have worked all last week in the Other Place. To the other staff of Parliament, those who looked after our catering and other comforts, we are grateful.

I would like to take the opportunity, Sir, bearing in mind that we are not likely to meet until after the coming season, to wish to all Senators and the staff of Parliament a blessed and warm Eastertide.

The Barbados Labour Party is celebrating its Golden Jubilee on March 31 this year, and on Palm Sunday, March 27, we are going to have an ecumenical service at Kensington Oval. We are, indeed, the oldest party of this kind in this region. I make bold to invite all Senators, who, by this time, have received written invitations to join all Barbadians in celebrating this historic event.

Thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for your kind wishes on behalf of all Senators, Senator Miller.

The question that the Senate be now adjourned sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
7.50 p.m.

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