

Paul Harris

THE

SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

SENATE

Monday, March 26, 1990.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Monday, March 26, 1990, at 10.10 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office); (Leader of the Senate)

Senator A. MORRISON

Senator N. W. BOXILL

Senator D. A. COMMISSIONG

Senator Mrs. V. C. FRASER, B.S.S., J.P., M.C.F.A.

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS

Senator T. A. PRESCOD

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

Senator the Reverend Canon I. McK. JONES

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

Senator C. A. BLACKMAN, Q.C.

Senator Mrs. P. Y. FORDE

Senator J. S. GODDARD

Senator Dr. L. L. SHOREY

Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE (Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator A. W. A. McCLEAN

Senator Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

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

"His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable The Senate that –

- (a) in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister under section 39(1)(f) of the Constitution, the seat in the Senate held by The Hon. Sir James Tudor, KCMG, was declared vacant with effect from 16th March, 1990;
- (b) in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister Dr. Frank Walton Alleyne has been appointed under section 36(2) of the Constitution as a Senator with effect from 19th March, 1990."

Mr. DEPUTY CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Alleyne is in attendance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Will the Deputy Clerk usher him to his seat, please?

Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne was invited into the Chamber and escorted to his seat by the Deputy Clerk.

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to offer on behalf of the Senate the customary welcome to Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne on the occasion of his attending his first Senate meeting.

We believe from the professional competence which Dr. Alleyne has displayed in the field of tertiary education, that he has a useful contribution to make to the proceedings of this Honourable Chamber. We trust that not only will his

contribution be worthwhile, but that he will spend a lengthy period of service in this new endeavour which he has undertaken.

We would like in passing also to mention that he succeeds a man who has made a contribution for many, many years towards the political advancement of this country, and although we do not expect that anybody will fit into the shoes of another person, we will certainly miss the contributions of Sir James Tudor. The word I was going to use is "interventions", the timely interventions sometimes most of us on this side were not certain whether he was coming on strict partisan lines or whether old age had mellowed a parliamentarian. We will certainly miss those contributions, but we will also recognise that time has to pass on and new blood must be infused in every organisation.

With those brief words, I would like to welcome Dr. Alleyne to the Senate.

Applause.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I would also like to welcome Senator Alleyne, who is also a colleague of mine in another place, and I look forward to his contributions in the Senate.

Thank you.

Applause.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Alleyne, I welcome you and I hope that your sojourn here will be as interesting and fruitful as it has been in the other places you have served this country.

Applause.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I wish to thank you for your welcome. I also wish to thank Senator Lewis and Senator McClean for their welcome as well. I wish to assure you that I will try at all times to maintain the standard and, if possible, lift the level of debate in this Chamber.

I am very conscious, in accepting this responsibility at this time, that in Barbados we are at a critical juncture, that the forces of disinformation and chaos threaten to destabilise this country, and I wish to assure you that I stand for truth, for justice and for liberty, and you will find me an unrelenting opponent of those who challenge truth, justice and freedom in this country.

Once again I wish to thank you.

Applause.

10.20 a.m.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended in order to enable us to take the first reading and also proceed with the Bill known as the Appropriation Bill.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, 1990 be read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Order No. 1 was called – to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1990.

Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, today as we debate the Appropriation Bill, 1990, amidst devaluation of currencies in most of the major developing countries in the CARICOM region, amidst rising unemployment in those areas and rising price levels, we are also confronted here on our own ground with cries from the spectre of Church Village that the Barbadian economy is in crisis. We are also beginning discussion and debate on this Bill at a time amidst the cries of some alchemists; we hear that Government expenditures are much too high, and from the leading practitioner of this school we hear that the Government is engaging in squandermania. From the doomsday prophets we hear from some members of the business sector that there is a loss of confidence in the management of the Barbadian economy.

Before addressing these allegations, it would do well for us to restate the goal and objectives of fiscal policy. These, and all economists and all societies are pretty well agreed on these goals, and not necessarily in this order, we have a stable currency – these are the goals of all economies vis-a-vis the other currencies of the world – we try to generate high levels of employment and reduce levels of unemployment with the ultimate objective being full employment of all factors of production in the society, land, labour and capital; we seek stable price levels, that is, keeping price levels, the rate of inflation within single digits. We also seek through our fiscal policies to achieve an equitable distribution of the national income. Our further quest is to maintain equilibrium in balance of payments, and to sustain economic growth and wealth.

If the allegations of a crisis in the Barbadian economy and the loss of confidence in the management of the economy are indeed true, we would expect to find a depreciating currency, rising levels of unemployment,

double digit inflation, a more unequal distribution of income as people are laid off from work, and the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer in the economy. We would also expect to find disequilibrium in the balance of payments as reflected in rapidly decreasing foreign exchange reserves. Furthermore, Mr. President, if there is a lack of confidence in the management of the Barbadian economy, we should expect to find from the business sector declining sales and revenues and increasing losses from the business sector as we experienced around 1981 and 1982, declining gross capital formation or investment by the business sector, and widespread or rampant business failures as reflected in receiverships, foreclosures and bankruptcies. But in reality, what do we find? We find a stable currency whose exchange rate with the United States dollar has remained fixed at \$2.00 to \$US1.00, and I should add at this juncture, Mr. President, this Government is so committed to this rate of exchange that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has taken every opportunity to remind the Barbadian public that the Barbados dollar will not be devalued by him. In reinforcing this commitment, he has removed some of the obstacles which citizens encountered in obtaining even small quantities of foreign exchange from their commercial banks.

It can be safely concluded that although the maintenance of the stable currency rate has been usually left to monetary policy, the Government's fiscal policy as represented in part by its expenditure programmes has actually reinforced monetary policy in order to maintain the stability of the currency. The Barbadian dollar has maintained and in some cases improved its exchange rate value when compared with the currencies of many of our trading partners. We must therefore ask ourselves where do we find the crisis in our economy, and given the level of performance within the economy, why should there be any claim that there is a lack of any confidence in the Barbadian economy.

Let's begin to look at some of the goals we indicated earlier that fiscal policies will try to achieve. I would like to look at employment. Mr. President, employment is dear to our hearts, for it provides most of the disposable income for our families and our households. If the unemployment rate is increasing and the level of employment is falling, then we should expect the distribution of income to that factor of production to become more inequitable, but in reality what do we find? Data from the continuous household sample survey showed that the rate of unemployment for the period April to September 1989 was 15.7 per cent. A rate of 17.3 per cent was recorded for the corresponding period of 1988. I should add that this is the lowest rate of unemployment since the first quarter of 1987. Looking at the other side of the same coin, the number of persons employed during the second and third quarters of 1989, last year, rose to 101 700 persons up from 99 900 in the same period of 1988. The increase in employment in 1989 took place primarily in the construction and tourism

sectors which were the vibrant sectors during that period. The year 1989 is the only one on record in Barbados where employment exceeded 100 000 persons for three consecutive quarters. I will repeat that. The year 1989 is the only one on record in Barbados where employment exceeded 100 000 persons for three consecutive quarters.

The rate of unemployment of both males and females declined during 1989. Male unemployment rate dropped from 9 per cent of the labour force in 1988 to 7.8 per cent of the labour force in 1989, while the female unemployment rate fell from 13.8 per cent in 1988 to 12.9 per cent in 1989. At a time when we hear so much about rising rates and cost of labour in Barbados, I am happy to report that the real output per employee or the productivity of labour rose from \$8 752 in 1988 to \$9 046 in 1989.
10.30 a.m.

I must, therefore, ask, do these figures suggest a crisis in the Barbadian economy when compared with what has been happening with the other major developing countries within CARICOM?

Now, I would like, with your permission, Mr. President, to turn to prices and wages. We must admit, and we are the first to admit on this side, that price levels did not remain stable. However, we hasten to add there was no runaway inflation.

The average rate of inflation for 1989 was a modest 5.8% up from the 4.8% of 1988. In 1989 housing, food, medical and personal care were the major contributors to the increase in the overall price index. Because of the modest increase in the rate of inflation, the gains made by labour on the assets of those unfixed incomes were not eroded. The labour gains were greater and those on fixed incomes suffered minimally because of the rather low rate of price increases.

We now turn to the confidence within the economy and I shall rebut the allegations made here. It is reported that the Barbadian economy grew by a healthy 3.7% in 1989 compared with the rate of growth experienced in 1988 of 3.5%.

For comparative purposes, Government's share of consumption expenditure as a percentage of GDP was 35 and I am dealing here with the question of runaway Government expenditure and squandermania, was 35.8% of GDP in 1985, 27.3% in 1986, 22.7% in 1987 and 26.7% in 1988, the last year for which I have figures.

Government's share of the gross capital formation in GDP as reflected in its public building activity was 1.98% in 1985, 4.28% in 1986, 2.70% in 1987 and 2.78% in 1988.

I think at this point it would do us well to compare the business sector's contribution to gross capital formation

over that period and the reason for attempting to juxtapose these two things would be to address the question of whether or not Government through its spending policies, especially in its capital works programme, if it, indeed, has been crowding out the private sector from carrying out its own investments.

We find, again, over the same period that the private sector's contribution to gross capital formation as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product was 14.9% in 1985, 19.3% in 1986, 15.9% in 1987 and 17.6% in 1988. These figures would suggest that the private sector was still able to undertake – and this is the area to which we look for most of our gross capital formation – that Government's activity in that area did not crowd out the private sector from investing.

I think I should repeat here that if the business share of gross capital formation was as I read out, it appears that the private sector investment is increasing. Certainly, had there been a lack of confidence in the Barbadian economy, capital works planning or investment opportunity scheduled by the business sector would not have been undertaken but would have been deferred and we would have expected to find a decline in the level of the private sector's investment. The hard data will not support the accusation.

I would now like to look at the performance of the companies listed on the Barbados Stock Exchange to determine the effect of Government's fiscal policy on their operation, if Government is overspending, if we are making more demands on the factors of production, if we are crowding other people out of the market etc.

The performance of the 14 companies listed on the Barbados Stock Exchange: of these 14 only 1 recorded a decline in sales over the year 1988, that is, for 13 of the 14 companies listed all had increases in their sales over 1988 and the rate of increase in sales for most of them was greater than the rate of increase in the price level so it could not just have been the illusion of money that caused that.

In addition, all of the companies trading on the Stock Exchange in Barbados have been profitable in 1989. I am sure that Senator Goddard is well aware of this. They had a very successful year again last year and I would like to congratulate him on the strong performance from the Goddard Group of Trading Companies.

These rates that I will quote here are profits before tax as a percentage of sales. A. S. Bryden reflected in 1989 6.97% as compared with 6.35%, an improved performance. Banks Breweries reflected 22.39% in 1989 compared with 32.43% in 1988, down slightly but a significant performance.

10:40 a.m.

Barbados Dairies Ltd. reflected 4.71% compared with 6.97% in 1988. I believe in 1989 they were experimenting

with new lines and what have you. Barbados External Telecommunications reflected 39.74% compared with 41.16%. Barbados Shipping and Trading had a 4.79% down from 6.15% in 1988. BARTEL had a 10.62% up from the 7.87% in 1988. BICO reflected a 13.63% almost double the 7.24% in 1988. Cave Shepherd 4.53% compared with the 6.33% in 1988. Courts 8.57% compared with 6.97%. Goddards 6.09% compared with 4.81%. Plantations Ltd. 0.83% compared with 2.25%. West India Rum 18.14% compared with 18.73%. And West India Biscuit 5.93% compared with 9.84%. With these sort of profit margins I strongly suspect that anybody holding shares would have been treated to some fairly handsome dividends in the period.

Mr. President, the level of private sector investment in the economy, the profitability of all businesses, all the companies listed on the stock exchange, the modest rate of inflation, less than 6%, the stable Barbadian dollar and the growth and development taking place in the economy, the increase in productivity of labour are all factors which generate confidence in a rational decision-making economic environment. It is against this background that I invite Honourable Senators to review the Draft Estimates which form the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill for the year 1990-91. I should like to remind Senator Jones at this time that it affords him an opportunity to review over 80% of Government's spending for the next year.

In these Draft Estimates which are broken down into three parts, we have the current expenditure which I think should be looked at in terms, if we want to compare it with the business sector as you would look at the income statement. It is an expense and we expect those expenditures incurred in that part of the Draft Estimates, the current expenditure to be used up in the year. We next come to the current revenue. Current revenue is the figure that is projected based on the Budgetary Proposals from the preceding year. These figures are tentative figures because, whatever is decided when the Budget is presented – and in our system, we generally present the Estimates of Expenditure first and then we present the Budget – whatever recommendations are set out in the Budget will affect current revenue. But I should like to add that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is firmly committed to the review of the revenue structure in Barbados, that is the incidence of taxation as it is divided between direct and indirect taxes, who bears the burden of taxation, et cetera? This is under review and hopefully will be addressed in the not too distant future. The problem here is that over time we have just kept on adding, adding and making amendments. No one has taken the time to sit back and look at the overall tax structure to find out who is bearing the greatest burden of the taxation policy.

I have discussed two parts of it that is current expenditure which is treated like current expenses, like expenses in the income statement. Current revenue should be treated as income on the income statement. Capital

expenditure should be treated as an investment. It has a life, all of them will have a life beyond the period for which the expenditures are incurred. We should recognize this when we talk about runaway expenditure and squandermania that when we make investments they do have a life beyond the period in which the expenditure was made and were it a private business, these would be reflected in the balance sheet and not on the income statement and will add to the overall network or capital of the company.

The current expenditure in 1991 is \$987 188 526 or 0.2% higher than the \$985 134 292 in 1989-90. The reason for this modest increase as you review the Estimates is the marked decline in the amortization. I should add it includes the salaries adjustments which were made last year, but the figures here for current expenditure do not include the reclassification or the regrading exercise that is currently going on.

Current revenue based on last Budget's presentation, if left unchecked, is expected to reach \$1 200 682 535 in 1991 or 10.8% higher than the \$905 194 430 estimated in 1989-90.

The deficit on current account was estimated at \$79 939 862 in 1989-90 and I am comparing like periods before the Budget was introduced. But a surplus of \$15 494 009 is expected on current account as things now stand in the Financial Year 1990-91.

I should now like to turn to the economic and functional classification of current expenditure in this year's Budget. Again the largest provision within the Budget is for wages and salaries. These represent 39.9% of the total in 1990-91 compared with 38.85% in 1989-90. Minor change.
10.50 a.m.

National Insurance Contributions – 2.6% compared with 2.52% and these were maintained in about the same relationship. So too, Transport Levy is constant 0.1% in the two years.

Other Purchases of Goods and Services – These have increased slightly as a percentage of the total up from 9.7% in 1989/90 to 12.1% in 1991. The major reason for this increase is that adjustments were made to the travel allowance of public officers in the financial year 1989/90 and this reflects those changes.

Interest Payments were 4.33% in 1989/90 and 4.1% in 1991 on the domestic portion of the debt compared with 6.38% in 1989/90 and 5.8% in 1990/91 on the foreign portion of the debt. Amortization payments were 14.56% of the total budget in 1989/90 compared with the 9.4% of the total in 1990/91.

Subsidies and Other Current Transfers have gone up from 23.6% of the Budget in 1989/90 to 26.3% in 1990/91. On the functional classifications we find that Education, and I will just highlight the major ones, accounted for 19.82% in 1989/90 compared with 20.4% in 1990/91, Health 12.43% in 1989/90 to 13.3% in 1990/91, Economic Services, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Lands and Survey up from 13.81% of Total Expenditures in 1989/90 to 15.6% in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1990/91.

From the figures I have just read out, we tend to think only of the economic services as trade, industry, roads, infrastructure for economic development. But ever so often we overlook education and health as they contribute to the improvement of our primary factors of production as they have an impact on our most important resource and that is our human capital. I would prefer to think and consider health and education rather as social services, more so as infrastructural development for our human capital resources. Once we do this we begin to have a new perspective on our spending in these two major areas. If we are in any doubt at all, the recent recruitment drives by North America for some of our nurses will tell us what sort of resources we have available to us and the commonly so called brain-drain as our trained citizens leave Barbados and make their mark in other developed countries of the world.

We have looked at the Income Statement side, if you will, of the Estimates for 1990/91. We have compared these with the Income Statement figures or General Expenditure for 1989/90 and there has not been any significant change in terms of Government's spending programmes.

We will now turn to the more important aspect as far as I am concerned, because based on Current Expenditures we are pretty well locked in to what we can achieve. We have discovered that, excluding subsidies and grants to Statutory Corporations, that Fixed Expenditures, that is wages and salaries and other payroll expenses related thereto plus debt service and amortization, account for well over 66% of the Budget, that is, flexibility within the Budget is reduced to about 34% on Current Expenditures and there is a minimum level below which you cannot cut other than personal services and things without having an impact on the delivery of services which we in this society have come to expect as a given.

Turning to the Capital Expenditure which I prefer to liken to the Balance Sheet Items rather than the Expense Items, I like to consider them investments rather than expenses. We have Capital Expenditure estimated at \$227,822,465 in 1990/91 compared with \$220,665,267 in 1989/90 or 3.2% higher in 1990/91 than they were in 1989/90. The overall estimated deficit to be financed is \$212,328,456 in 1990/91 compared with \$300,605,129 which had to be financed in 1989, a decline of 29.3% in the

deficit to be financed in this coming financial year when compared with 1989/90.

A glance at the classification of the Capital Expenditures will show again that Education has \$49,512,571 or 21.7% of the total Capital provision in 1990/91, Health \$26,250,832 or 11.5%, and Economic Services \$96,590,238 or 42.4% of the Capital Budget from which we expect to have jobs generated.

In spite of those figures of the significant contribution in the economic sector and in the area of the infrastructural development of human capital if you will, it has been reported in one of the local newspapers that these Estimates would not contribute either economically or socially to the development of Barbados. I think that this statement needs to be considered in the light of the provisions being made in the Capital Estimates. What I would like to do is to go through the Heads and look at a few items and see what these are intended to do.

11.00 a.m.

Head 17, International Transport, there is a total provision of \$3 million and of the \$3 million, Subhead 1, Construction, 23 – Structures, we have \$2 292 000. This provision is set out to meet the expenses of the taxiway rehabilitation of the airport and the installation of a Category 2 runway lighting system, install security fencing and upgrade radar and communications equipment. In short, the provision here is intended to ensure that the airport, which plays a critical role in the promotion and development of tourism in Barbados, remains among the most technically advanced and safe in the world, a *sine qua non* if you will, for the further development of our tourism industry.

Capital, Head 74 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. We are looking at the provisions here amidst the problems which the sugar industry has been encountering, and the steps being taken by Government for structural changes within the agricultural sector. We are not, and will not, have economic development unless there are structural changes taking place within the various sectors of the Barbados economy, not only doing new things but finding new ways of doing old things.

Subhead 2, under the Government Analyst, we are providing \$95 000 to equip a laboratory with equipment and chemicals to determine the level of pesticides in food and water, and to keep on monitoring the quality of our food and our water.

Subhead 4, Crop Research and Development, we have provision of \$371 164, and this is to meet the cost of planting materials and supplies, as well as equipment for onion research, variety trials, the peanut industry, banana and plantain development and the eradication of the wild cotton.

Subhead 7, Irrigation and Crop Water Research. There is provision of \$501 400 provided to investigate the feasibility of developing the irrigation water resources, to support the agricultural development programme and to formulate proposals for utilising available irrigation water for such crops as vegetables, root crops, cut flowers, foliage and fruit.

Subhead 12, Livestock Research and Development. There is provision of \$1 265 000, and this programme provides for the construction of an abattoir, a meat packaging complex and storage silos. The meat industry in Barbados has suffered severely, especially in training within CARICOM because of the inadequacy and the primitive state of the existing abattoir. We have experienced problems in having the animals killed there certified by Public Health Inspectors from other CARICOM territories, so it is critical that the abattoir and meat packaging plant come on stream as soon as possible. It will provide an outlet for our livestock farmers to have somewhere to have their animals slaughtered on a timely basis, and also to improve the quality of meat by having an aging room set up within the meat packaging complex.

Subhead 13 provides for fisheries research and development and a sum of \$1 372 701. This provision is to improve the fishing facilities at Consett and Skeete's Bays and also to provide smoking silos.

Capital Head 75. Again I must remind you that these expenditures are, in cases where we are undertaking developmental work to be viewed as any company would view the research and development undertaken as they look at new products, etc. within their operating enterprise.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs. Here there is a provision of \$8 679 000. When this party came to power we found and inherited many police stations in various stages of dilapidation and there have been cries from those serving in those stations that something needs to be done. We are happy to report that for Police Stations under Subhead 1 we are providing \$3 million for the continuation of the work at the Police Band Headquarters and for work at the Bridge and Harbour and in addition, at District D and District A Police Stations. These works will cost \$3 million.

Under Subhead 3, Fire Service, there is provision of \$415 000. This recognises the changing demographic patterns in Barbados, the development of the St. Philip area, the housing areas going up in that area, the proximity of the oil fields there and for the continued safety of our citizens, it was decided that a new Fire Station should be constructed at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip and we plan to bring this on stream in this current financial year.

Subhead 7, there is provision for \$1 020 000 for the construction of a long overdue and much needed Judicial Centre. We have heard the comments of the practising

attorneys about the conditions in the courts, the tardiness in getting cases heard, and it has been said by my lawyer friend – I miss him over there – that justice delayed is justice denied. This is an attempt to improve the working conditions of the Judiciary, and hopefully we can have more expeditious resolutions of cases before them.

Subhead 8, Hometown Complex, there is provision of \$2 500 000, and this provides for the construction of a Police Station, Magistrates' Courts and other public offices at the Hometown Complex.
11.10 a.m.

So under Legal Services we do find an upgrading and renovation of some existing police plants, a new fire station being installed and a new judicial centre coming on stream. Under the Ministry of Education and Culture, Capital Head 76, the total provision of \$50 532 571, subhead (1) Improvements to Primary and Secondary Schools, this provision is designed mainly for improvements to certain primary and special schools. In addition under subhead (2) the IDB project, there is a provision of \$7 051 578 which is designed to renovate and construct certain primary schools and further outfit and equip them. I am sure Senator Dr. Shorey on the other side would agree that primary education is the building block for the educational system and he, I am sure, will laud the Government on recognising this fact and making adequate provision for it. So that is a \$7 million provision out of \$50 million for education.

In addition under subhead (8) Construction and Improvements to secondary schools, there is the provision of \$1 567 000 and this programme is designed to carry out urgently needed construction, renovation and improvement work at selected secondary schools. Subhead (9) Secondary Schools, again, the IDB sub-project, this programme seeks to carry out work on secondary schools which are being constructed, renovated or rebuilt. We do honour our pledges in our manifesto, and these schools include the St. Thomas secondary school, the Wotton-Kingsland school and work is already underway at Queens College, and the Springer Memorial School. It is also to purchase furniture and equipment, not only for the schools which I just mentioned, but also for Harrison College. The total cost of this programme will be \$12 758 042.

Subhead 15, Tertiary and Training Institutions. This programme is designed to meet the cost of training and specialist studies for the Ministry of Education and Culture: the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Barbados Community College and the National Training Board. It is also designed to provide for extension of the Barbados Community College, the construction of a skills training centre at Sayes Court, Christ Church, and at Harrison Point, St. Lucy – the construction of a skills training centre at Sayes Court, Christ Church and at Harrison Point, St. Lucy are new – the furnishing and equipping of the Sayes Court skills training centre and the Samuel Jackman Prescod

Polytechnic. The total cost of this programme is \$5 261 213. Subhead (16) the Barbados Community College, a sum of \$415 000 has been provided mainly for the construction of a new fine arts building. The Sherbourne Centre, subhead (38) a sum of \$12 million has been provided to continue construction work on the Sherbourne Centre at Two Mile Hill. I believe I should take a few seconds to say something about this, because much talk has been floating around about the Sherbourne Centre. As I said, it is part of our capital works programme; it is not an expenditure, it is an asset to the country which will have a life of well over 50 years. The purposes to which this centre will be put are several; (1) it will be an examination centre so that all students will have an opportunity to take their exams under the best conditions possible, so that they themselves can give of their best. We are terribly short of convention centre facilities as a support to the tourism industry. The Dover Convention Centre does not fully answer the question and this will augment convention centre spaces, in addition to which there will be a centre for cultural activities there. Everyone is trying to have everything at the Frank Collymore Hall, and there would be provision in the Sherbourne Centre for cultural activities. So it is not just an examination centre, but a multi-purpose centre which is intended to enhance the quality and standard of life for all Barbadians, and not only for today but over a period of time. Ever so often we build and put up structures that become obsolete long before they come on stream.

Computers in Education, subhead 39. There is provision of \$573 315 and this is to introduce computer education into the schools. It is designed to purchase computer hardware and software. Subhead 40, there is construction of a new headquarters building for the Ministry of Education, and a sum of \$1 146 756 has been provided. The headquarters building for the Ministry of Education and Culture is planned for the old Queens College site in Constitution Road. Under subhead 41 there is \$3 million and this is provided to meet the cost of the consultants fees for the construction of the secondary school in St. Thomas. So \$50 million is provided for the further development of the human capital resources in this country.

Now we turn to the Ministry of Health, and under this we have the provision of \$30 458 954. Under subhead 6 we have the St. Joseph Hospital and the sum of \$11 755 275 is provided for the commissioning and equipping of that hospital which will serve in part as an acute care hospital in the North. There are other purposes to which it will be put and these will be developed later in the debate here. Under subhead 7, polyclinic development programme, there is a sum of \$13 614 357 which is being provided to meet the cost of construction, furnishing and equipping the Queen Elizabeth Hospital extension, geriatric institutions and polyclinics which include one at Horse Hill, St. Joseph and another at Belleplaine, St. Andrew. It also provides for the furnishing and equipping of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

and the upgrading of other institutions. Subhead 9 – the South and West Coasts and Greater Bridgetown Sewerage Project – there is provision of \$1 447 242 to fund the local preparatory work for the construction of the South Coast Sewerage System and for studies and final designs of the West Coast Sewerage System. Under subhead 10 – Sanitation Service Authority – the sum of \$2 770 880 is being provided mainly for the purchase of refuse compactors, a high pressure street washing and flushing truck, the construction of a pulverisation plant and crematorium, boundary walls at cemeteries and the Wildey complex and, Senator Jones, a chapel for the Christ Church cemetery.

11.20 a.m.

I now turn to the Ministry of Housing and Lands. There is provision of \$16 374 000. Under Subhead 1 – Purchase of Buildings and Lands, the sum of \$2 300 000 is being provided primarily for the settlement, compensation and other costs associated with the acquisition of lands and properties by the Government.

We are trying to correct some of the problems created by prior Governments who acquired people's lands and never paid for them or made provision to pay for them. This provision seeks to compensate those people who have suffered the loss of their properties at the lands of previous Governments without being paid.

Subhead 2 – National Housing Corporation. The provision of \$6 284 000 is mainly for the Sites and Services Programmes, relocations, the development of lots and the building of houses for sale in the commercial programme and for the refurbishing of existing rental units.

I think I need to make a statement here that this Government is committed not only to building new projects but to maintaining our stock of capital goods that we have. It is not sufficient just to keep on building new structures but we have to maintain them and this government has been and is committed to the maintenance of this existing stock and, again, this is recognized in the \$6 million being provided to maintain the existing rental units that we have at the Housing and Lands Ministry.

Under Subhead 10 there is a sum of \$5 600 000 provided primarily for the construction of houses in a joint housing project between Inversiones Co. of Venezuela and the Barbados Government and this provision is for the construction of houses in the middle income bracket.

Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development, Capital Head 81, recognizing the problems which we have been encountering with some of our coastal areas and recognizing that our beaches are important to our tourism product, we are providing under Subhead 9 the sum of \$4 290 741 to continue the Coastal Conservation Project which involves remedial work to the

beaches of Barbados and to provide protection for beaches which need it.

Under Subhead 10 – the National Conservation Commission, a sum of \$1 750 000 is being provided mainly for development and the upgrading of beach facilities and the provision of recreational facilities and the extension of the lifeguard services.

Subhead 11 – Barbados Youth Service. This is a new programme. We recognise that the young people in our society bear the greatest suffering and pain when it comes to finding jobs. They register the highest unemployment rate. Most employers enquire from young people if they have experience. Now, you do not get experience until you get your first job and, on his first job, to ask a youngster if he has experience is really to seek to discourage him at the first try.

The provision here of the sum of \$1 575 686 is to develop a National Youth Service so that young people may be given yet another opportunity to develop and realize their full potential. Once this comes on stream, this should do quite a bit to reduce the level of unemployment among young people and to better equip them to face the world of work and to overcome that first major obstacle, that is, the first interview for their first job.

Under Capital Head 82, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, Subhead 1 – Barbados Industrial Development Corporation, here the sum of \$7 120 550 is being provided for the construction and restoration of factory buildings and infrastructural development of industrial estates.

Also included in this sum is provision for a facility to be constructed somewhere along the East Coast of Barbados, maybe somewhere along the Belleplaine/East Coast Road, so that those people working in the handicraft industry in the Mount Hillaby and St. Joseph area will have an outlet for their produce without having to come into Bridgetown as our visitors and local residents go out to the East Coast to enjoy the beaches in that part of the world. Nothing has been on that coast and too often, I think, that with some facility well designed and well maintained it could act as another attraction to the tourists who go to that part of the country.

Capital Head 84, Ministry of Transport and Works – There is provision of \$4 095 000 under this Head under Subhead 5 and we keep finding this problem recurring. We have the renovation of Government buildings and because of prior years neglect we are providing the sum of \$3 400 000 and this will cover work at Parliament Buildings, the Marine House and to provide a vendors stall.

Subhead 8 – Private Tenantry and Subsidiary Roads. The sum of \$7 629 000 is provided for the improvement to tenantry and subsidiary roads throughout the country.

Under Subhead 10 – Construction and Improvements – the sum of \$1 222 700 is provided to cover the cost of road repairs in residential developments. For those of you who live in the parks and the heights, you know ever so often a developer comes along, builds the houses, you go in and the roads are left in a state of disrepair.
11.30 a.m.

The Government is making provision now to assist the residents of those areas to maintain the roads.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Yes even you too, Senator Forde.

Subhead 15 – Highway Rehabilitation-Force Account. There is a sum of \$8 012 000 to carry out the road maintenance programme. Under Subhead 17 – Highway Improvement, I am heartened to see this provision because we tend again to keep building new highways because loans are available from most of our funding agencies for the construction of new highways and seldom do we have foreign funding for the rehabilitation or improvement of existing roads. This Government recognizes that it is not sufficient just to build new highways at the expense of the old ones because whenever you are putting down a new highway, by the use of the heavy equipment around the place, you tend to destroy the existing roads. This Government is committed towards not only the maintenance of the new highways that are going down but also to ensure and improve especially in the areas of the visibility and safety of existing roads, especially on the junctions and for the construction of footpaths and lay-byes for buses.

Under Subhead 23 a sum of \$6 706 250 is being provided for the Transport Board to meet its capital requirements. Under Subhead 24, the Scotland District the sum of \$3 977 500 is provided to cover the cost of repairs and improvements to roads, bridges and other areas of the Scotland District.

Turning to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Capital Head 85, there is provision of \$9 054 655 of which Subhead 1 Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation will receive the sum of \$1 063 991 to continue renovations and extension of the conference facilities at Dover Convention Centre.

Subhead 4 Construction and Equipping of Sports Facilities, there is a provision of \$699 000 for the construction of and improvement to sporting facilities including hardcourts, pavilions, playing fields, the National

Stadium, the Netball Stadium and the establishment of a sports hall of fame.

Under Subhead 5 Gymnasium the sum of \$7 906 511 is being provided for the infrastructural work and the commencement of the construction of the gymnasium project. This is a project that we were hoping should have been on stream some time ago but it is a classical case of two cultures doing business, East meeting West and trying to work out details. We have been somewhat late in getting this project off the ground. But there is a crying need for a gymnasium for our young sports people. The hope that this would come on stream, the groundbreaking ceremony should take place very early in the new Financial Year.

Mr. President, Sir, these capital works which I have just gone through and itemized are designed to enhance the economic activity through the provision of the economic infrastructure such as air and sea ports to further promote and facilitate tourism and commerce, highways to facilitate movement both of goods and people, to provide factory space and other facilities for the manufacturing and other industries. The programmes are also designed to improve the quality of human capital through health and education and to improve the quality and standard of life and living for all our citizens, the increase too of the housing stock will add to that end. Not to be outdone, we are particularly conscious of the need to ensure that we maintain our environment by cleaning up our environs, protecting and maintaining our beaches, developing our natural resources and supporting the main attractions of the tourism industry. In short, Mr. President, these programmes should continue to foster economic growth in this country.

It is my usual practice to make some forecasts which I have been making since I came to this Chamber, as to where I think the Barbadian economy is going in terms of economic growth in the next year. This year I should not do that but rather I should like to quote from the NATION newspaper, page 3 of Thursday March 22, with your permission, Sir. I will make this a document of the House. The caption is: "Bank optimistic about Barbados economy".

It "Predicts 2.5 per cent growth". This prediction from Dr. Edward P. Neufeld, the Royal Bank Toronto based Executive Vice-President of Economic and Corporate Affairs at a recent economic briefing to the bank's local clients. He forecast and I am reading the statement now:

"Neufeld forecast a slight drop in both local unemployment and inflation over the next two years as well as brighter prospects for Barbados' exports and tourist industry brought about by a lower United States dollar. Moderate increases in Barbados' tourism, manufacturing and construction industries during the past three years are positive indicators for the country's economy as it enters the 1990s", the bank said in a release.

Again and I am quoting:

"With the outlook for Barbados relatively optimistic, the bank expects the country's economic growth to slow only to the 2.5 per cent range in both 1990 and 1991."

I am quoting here from bankers who are by nature extremely conservative:

"This level of growth would be in line with world markets, and also consistent with the Government's 1989-93 development plan which assumed an average annual growth rate of 2.5% per cent over this four year period."

The release quoted Neufeld as saying that unemployment should remain stable this year and improve from its current 17.5 per cent to 16 per cent by 1991.

We have already gone past that.

"Also, there would be a moderate decline in inflation from 6.6 per cent last year to 5.5 per cent over the next two years."

Those are not my comments. I should like to add that the 3 per cent rate of growth in the Barbadian economy looks like a distinct possibility.

We will continue with our structural changes to ensure that we experience economic development in the period. We are looking at new ways of doing things in agriculture. We are looking at new crops. Also within the manufacturing sector we are and have been over the last year been making significant concessions to the hotel industry so that it could upgrade and develop its operating plant. Against that background, Mr. President, I move that the Appropriation Bill be read a second time.
11.40 a.m.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. President, I have enjoyed listening to the presentation. I have particularly enjoyed his opening remarks and his note of optimism. I realize that today I am speaking in the presence of the three economists, 50% more than last year, so I will have to be more careful.

Before dealing with the Estimates for 1990/91, we should look back a year or two to pick up any trends that are discernible. In the fiscal year 1989/90 about to be completed, Parliament had approved a deficit on Current Account of \$79.9 million. It is now projected that Current Account deficit will be \$11.7 million or an improvement in Government's performance by some \$68.2 million. In the previous 1988/89 the Estimates for that year projected a deficit on Current Account of \$48.5 million and, in fact, in that year there was a surplus of \$25.1 million which meant

that Government's performance again was better than originally estimated by some \$73.6 million.

If we now turn to the overall fiscal deficit which includes the Capital Expenditure for the same two years, the estimated fiscal deficit for 1989/90 was some \$300 million. It is now projected that that will be \$181 million and again Government has shown a better performance by some \$118 million. For the year before that 1988/89 there was a fiscal deficit projected of \$227 million. That turned out to be a deficit of \$206 million, again a better performance by some \$21 million. So whether we look at the Current Account deficit or the fiscal deficit, Government's performance in each of those two years has been better than was originally estimated. The question arises, Sir, was this the result of good financial management or was it the result of bad estimating? The Estimates for the 1990/91 is projecting a Current Account surplus of \$15 million and an overall fiscal deficit of \$212 million. Based on the experience of the two preceding years, I am forced to question the reliability of those Estimates.

I will turn now to the Current Revenue. In 1988/89 it was 21% higher than in the previous year and, in the year 1989/90, it is projected to be 12% higher than last year; and for the year immediately ahead it is projected to be just 1.4% higher than what was projected for the current year 1989/90. As Senator Clarke has said, these are still tentative figures for 1990/91. I should point out, however, that the Estimated Revenue for 1989/90 was \$905 million and for the Revised Estimates it is now \$988 million, an increase of some 9.2% or \$83 million. Again Sir, I have to base my evaluation of this projection on the experience of previous years. I consider the estimate of \$1002 million for 1990/91 to be too low.

Over the past three years 1987 to 1990, a review of the Estimates suggests to me that greater emphasis has been placed on revenue generation rather than expenditure control. Current Revenue as a percentage of GDP at current market prices was 23% to 24% from 1981 to 1987. While I do not have the more recent figures, I submit that that percentage is probably now somewhere between 27% and 28% but I say that subject to correction.

On the side of Current Expenditure, the projected Current Expenditure for 1989/90 is some 16.6% higher than the previous year and the Estimates for 1990/91 will be lower by 1.2% than the Revised Estimates for 1989/90. As Senator Clarke has said quite correctly, this makes no provision for the regrading. I am wondering whether it makes any provision for inflation which was 5.8% in 1989 and which is expected to be approximately 5% in 1990/91. Really the only significant change in Current Expenditure in 1990/91 over 1989/90 as has already been pointed out, Sir, is the very significant reduction in the amortization payments included in the charges of debt of some \$50 million from \$143 million in 1989/90 to \$92 million in

1990/91. That is a very significant factor which is reflected in the Estimates.

Now turning to the Capital Expenditure, the sum estimated for 1989/90 was some \$220 million but the Revised Estimates are down to \$170 million, a reduction of 22.7% or \$50 million. I think this is very commendable. I would like to congratulate the Government in reducing the Capital Expenditure below what was originally estimated. The amount of Expenditure estimated for 1990/91 according to the Estimates is \$227 million.

If we look at the decade of the eighties, total Capital Expenditure between 1980 and 1990 was \$1,593,000. The low point was in 1982/83 at \$112 million and the high point was in 1988/89 of \$222 million. That Sir, deals with the quantum of Capital Expenditure. I and others have to question in many instances the quality, as opposed to the quantity, of that Capital Expenditure. I am not convinced even after the explanation from Senator Clarke that the expenditure on Sherbourne, whatever that amount finally turns out to be, can be justified on the basis of an examination centre – I think examinations are held once a year – a cultural centre and a convention centre not directly related to or connected with a hotel. I just use that as one example but there may be others. The question arises: has adequate provision been made for maintaining our capital assets, for rebuilding our infrastructure?

11.50 a.m.

One point that comes to mind here, Sir, is the Barbados Water Authority. We read in the newspaper where they pump approximately 30 million gallons of water per day. There are approximately 250 000 citizens, and if every hotel bed was filled, that would bring it up to 264 000 citizens. Simple arithmetic tells us that the per capita consumption of water in this island is over 100 gallons per day. Even allowing for whatever illegal watering there is for agriculture in the community, that figure suggests to me that there must be serious leakage in our water distribution system.

A lot of those pipes are very old. I am not being critical of anyone, I am just assessing a situation as I perceive it. I believe some of those mains have been underground for 100 years or more and I believe attention will have to be paid to studying that problem and cutting down on the wastage of water, because it costs money to pump it whether it is used or not.

Next, Mr. President, I turn to the overall fiscal deficit. In the decade of the eighties there was a surplus on Current Account in three years amounting to \$74 million, there was a deficit on Current Account in seven years amounting to \$188 million, leaving a net deficit during the decade of the eighties of \$114 million on Current Account. If we add to that the Capital Expenditure which I have already referred to in the decade of the eighties of \$1 593 million, there was

an overall fiscal deficit in the period 1980 to 1990 of \$1 707 million.

These Estimates before us, Sir, show that the estimated fiscal deficit in 1990–91 will be \$212 million. I would like to put that figure in some sort of perspective and compare it with the United States. There are 250 000 Barbadians, there are roughly 250 million Americans, which means for every Barbadian there are 1 000 Americans. We are projecting a fiscal deficit of \$212 million. The fiscal deficit of that country is \$150 billion and they are making strenuous efforts to reduce that even further, because they in the administration, in the Congress and the other countries in the world realise that that is unsustainable. No comment is made about the extent of our fiscal deficit, because we are not an international power, but here it is the United States, with a higher per capita income, much greater national and natural resources, and with vast international commitments questioning the wisdom of maintaining an overall fiscal deficit of \$150 million and making strenuous efforts to reduce it, and hopefully to eliminate it in five years, and we are accepting a fiscal deficit of \$200 million as, as we say, Sir, no big thing.

I mention that because the National Development Plan outlines that by 1992 our fiscal deficit should be down to \$73.3 million or 2% of GDP. I admit it has been reduced from 7.6% of GDP in 1987, but I cannot see, based on the present trend, how the overall fiscal deficit would be down to 2% of GDP by 1992. This level of deficit cannot be sustained, it is going to require financial discipline and political will to reduce it. It seems to me that Government expenditure – and by expenditure I mean Current and Capital Expenditure, because that is only an accounting classification – has been rising faster than the rate of growth of GDP.

If I may now turn, Sir, to the National Debt, that was \$426 million at the beginning of the decade of the eighties. At the end of that decade that had risen to \$1 645 million, an increase of \$1 219 million, used primarily to finance fiscal deficits. Of course we have been lucky, Sir, since the end of the decade of the eighties we have had forgiveness of some \$40 million of the National Debt by the generosity of the Canadian Prime Minister. However, we must not expect lightning to strike the same place twice.

The National Debt, of course, does not include any contingent liabilities, and quite properly it should not. This year I notice in the Estimates for the first time contingent liabilities of the Government, that is, loans guaranteed by the Government, amounted to some \$577 million at March 31, 1989. I do not know for sure, Sir, but I suspect that most of those loans are to Statutory Corporations and other Statutory bodies and the question arises, what will be the future of many of these Statutory Corporations? Can Government really afford to continue subsidising their losses?

I notice Senator Clarke read with glee the operating results of the 14 companies that are listed on the local Stock Exchange and commented very favourably on their improved performance. His presentation would have been a little more balanced if he had also outlined the performance of the Statutory Corporations. I leave that as a suggestion for next year, Sir.

In the light of our own experience here and in light of the trend of events in other countries, I believe we need to examine the many different forms of privatisation, and I believe we need to do this in the national interest, and I stress the many different forms of privatisation in the national interest.

I agree with statements made by the Governor of the Central Bank that our number one priority in this country has to be at the present time the earning and conserving of foreign exchange. In 1989 we are told that the GDP rose by some 3.7%, and I am not questioning that figure, Sir, but where did that growth take place? I believe an examination will show that the growth was primarily in the construction industry, in the distributive sector and in Government activities. These three are basically users of foreign exchange rather than earners of foreign exchange.

Only last week I learnt that for the year 1989 earnings of foreign exchange in this country had increased by 5.4% but that the spending of foreign exchange had increased by 20%, and that is a very significant indicator. No doubt the Central Bank had to introduce monetary measures; they were necessary in order to protect our foreign exchange position.

12.00 noon

It seems to me that we are facing three choices in this country. We either have to earn more foreign exchange or spend less, or we have to earn more foreign exchange and spend less, and that seems to be the preferable option, or finally we have to do something about the value of our currency. I do not and no one else wants to see that happening in an open economy.

I would like to spend a little time now on this question of foreign exchange because I think it is critical. First of all, however, we need to recognise and to understand and to monitor the market forces that affect each of the sectors within the productive sector. They are different and they are constantly changing.

If I may start with manufacturing, I believe Government has in hand revising existing incentive legislation, as the original incentive legislation was meant I believe primarily to attract investment and to create employment. Several of those industries that did come have left at the expiry of their tax holiday, and I believe we need to encourage more local investors to get involved in manufacturing. We need them to get involved in

manufacturing that will earn foreign exchange, it would be export generation as opposed to import substitution. We need a mixture of both, but the statement that a dollar saved is the same as a dollar earned in foreign exchange terms is a fallacy. It may cost you a lot more than a dollar to save a dollar; so we do need to put more emphasis on earning foreign exchange in addition to saving foreign exchange.

I believe, Sir, we also have to take a tougher attitude to some of our CARICOM partners. We have been playing the game by the book; I don't think some of them are aware of the Marquis of Queensberry rules.

Next I would like to turn to tourism which is the largest foreign exchange earning sector within our economy. Last year it was estimated that the revenues were equivalent to some Bds. \$1 billion in foreign exchange, yet we must recognise that there is a leakage factor of approximately 70 per cent. In other words, for every dollar we earn, we have to spend 70 cents abroad in goods and services. That sector too needs its incentive legislation revised and brought up to date because you must look at earning foreign exchange through the sale of goods and services.

While I am pleased to hear that Sherbourne would be used as a convention centre, it is no substitute for a convention hotel. I believe we also need a marina which I understand is under consideration, and more golf courses. We have to take our tourism industry very seriously, because it has the potential for earning so much more foreign exchange.

If I may next turn to the offshore financial services, I am advised that it is the fastest growing sector with a growth rate estimated at some 20 per cent to 25 per cent which seems sustainable in the foreseeable future. I am advised that that sector currently earns the equivalent of about \$50 million to \$75 million and the leakage is minimal, estimated at 5 per cent. Persons involved in that sector are still anxiously awaiting the formation of an international business advisory committee that has been promised which would facilitate the functioning of that whole sector, and I believe there is a new International Business Company Act under consideration.

Distribution is the one that takes most of the criticism, yet it is a very large contributor to GDP. While it is primarily a user of foreign exchange, that sector could earn a lot more foreign exchange, and I will invite Senators here to visit or study what goes on in the US Virgin Islands or the Netherland Antilles where there are crowds of stores and small shops catering to the shopping needs of visitors to those countries. The distributive sector should not be seen as servicing local citizens only. It can earn a lot of foreign exchange if it is encouraged and geared up to service the visitors, both those who stay and the cruise ship passengers to our country.

Finally, Sir, I would like to turn to agriculture, and here I should declare an interest. I do happen to have 25 acres of sugar cane which I suppose makes me a small farmer. There has been so much talk in this country recently about respect for people, and that is a health discussion, but sometimes we forget to talk about respect for our land. Dealing with sugar, it still contributes the equivalent of some Bds. \$60 million a year in foreign exchange, with a leakage factor which does not exceed 20 per cent. Admittedly right now it has a lock up of debt of some \$200 million which needs to be addressed, but Sir, I don't mean to be an alarmist. The sugar industry right now is on the verge of collapse unless there is a realistic price support scheme worked out and worked out very quickly. I am advised that they need a price support in the vicinity of \$1 150 per ton and that such support would cost the Government between \$6 million and \$7 million per annum. Mr. President, this support is required to maintain 5 000 jobs, to save \$60 million in foreign exchange per annum, to protect our shallow top soil, to preserve the beauty of our countryside for Barbadians and visitors alike, to buy time for the proper management and financial restructuring of the industry to give it a chance to increase production now estimated at 65 000 tons this year back up to 90 000 to 100 000 tons to earn more foreign exchange for this country. Surely a country with a GDP in excess of \$3 billion, an estimated current revenue of just over \$1 billion can afford the level of support of \$6 million to \$7 million a year. Most developed countries subsidise their agricultural sector.

In my view, Mr. President, the saving of the sugar industry is the most urgent foreign exchange and economic problem facing our country today.

If I may move on to cotton, another crop, I think CARSICOT was an unfortunate experience and a bad model for the future in that our Government along with other Governments and foreign companies basically set up the operation and that the farmers were not on board at an early stage to make their inputs and give guidance. I know they were invited, but the race was started before they were on board and in the race. I believe the agro-process company which has a prospectus now out to the public is a much better model where Government and business and the farmers under dynamic leadership of the Company's Chairman has a far better chance of succeeding than CARSICOT ever had.

Before leaving agriculture, I must return to what I said earlier about respect for land. One reads in the press and one hears talk about this indiscreet cutting up of good agricultural land. One has to assume that this is being done with the Government's knowledge and approval.
12.10 p.m.

The reported prices of the smaller land lots that have been cut up do not suggest that these can support

agriculture on any scale. One would have to assume that good agricultural land has been cut up for housing purposes on a scale that we have not seen in this country since the early 1970's.

I ask, Sir, what is the justification for this? Who are the beneficiaries? I would like to know what is Government's policy on the cutting up of good agricultural land in this country at the present time?

As you know, Mr. President, I operate in the private sector and I would be the first to admit that the private sector needs to do more and it needs to do better, especially in the area of earning the much needed foreign exchange. However, I do believe we need new and innovative incentives that would help us in that direction. However, we also need to deal with certain disincentives and I will just deal with three.

At the present time, companies are limited in how they are able to utilise tax losses. This bit of legislation has been changed two or three times in the last three or four years. Once again I would urge that companies be allowed to restore their capital base as quickly as possible in order that they may earn more foreign exchange for this country.

The second point, Sir, is the severance pay legislation. At its present level, it is more than this country can afford and it is a disincentive to new investors, local and foreign and it is a serious disincentive for older companies in the distributive sector to diversify into productive sectors because the minute they close down or try to get into new areas they are faced with a horrendous severance pay liability.

Sir, I am not arguing against Severance Pay. No person could in this day and age but I am saying that we have a Report known as the Pelikanos Report. It is time that we blew the dust off of that – it has been sitting on someone's shelf for three years – and see if we cannot modify existing Severance Pay legislation to something that is more realistic and affordable.

Thirdly, Sir, I will deal with the question of attitude. The private sector needs to do better but for it to do better and earn more foreign exchange, we need to see a more positive attitude of willingness, even eagerness, and cooperation in the various public sector Ministries and agencies towards those who are more directly involved in earning foreign exchange in very competitive conditions.

We have some serious challenges ahead. This is apparent to all. I believe we can deal with these challenges but first we need a new spirit of team work, of hard work and of sacrifice.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I have already welcomed our new Senator to the Chamber but I noted that in his introductory address he indicated that he will concern himself with truth and with setting the record straight generally.

I believe that he has a good chance to start right now. We can start by an examination of the introductory address by Senator Clarke and the first thing that he can turn his attention to is the question of a crisis.

As Senator Clarke has suggested that the economy is not in crisis and he started to suggest that if the economy was in crisis you would probably have increase in unemployment, declining incomes and so on, the first thing that Senator Alleyne can do for Dr. Clarke is to explain to him the notion of a crisis.

Going beyond that, he can tell us whether or not agriculture is in crisis in Barbados. Agriculture is a critical part of this economy. He can also tell us whether or not we have had or whether we still have a foreign exchange crisis in Barbados and I would hope that we would not just hear a mere affirmation that the economy is well. I would hope that he would produce the evidence to support his point of view.

Senator Goddard has already dealt with the matter of a crisis in agriculture and suggested that the sugar industry is on the point of collapse unless Government should come forward with some constructive measures to save that industry. To me that bespeaks a crisis but the sugar industry was not only in crisis today or yesterday. It has been in crisis for a long time and Government has been dragging its feet altogether too long in addressing that crisis.

Some people speak and, indeed, Senator Clarke might have spoken as though his view of crisis is a matter of calamity. There is a difference between a crisis and a calamity. A crisis is a foreboding of calamity and if you act timely enough nothing needs go wrong. A crisis is in evidence long before anything has gone wrong and it is perceived by people who understand these things, who can observe trends, observe motions, directions of change and so on, and understand that direction in which we are going is one which would lead to calamity unless we should do something constructive to avert that situation.

I am saying that as far as agriculture is concerned, the country is in crisis. Up to the latest available information in relation to the foreign reserves of this country, the country is in crisis as far as our balance of payments is concerned, as far as our foreign exchange position is concerned.

I know that Senator Alleyne is a member of the Board of the Central Bank and he would have up-to-date information and he would know whether we have come out of crisis within the last two days or not.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think it would be fair to Dr. Alleyne in welcoming him in that manner. He is a Member of the Senate now. I think he is entitled to the freedom that a member should have. Deal with the Bill. Do not deal with that sort of thing. We are in the Senate. This is a debating assembly. Deal with the debate.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am dealing with the debate. Senator Alleyne is always free to respond or not respond.

Mr. PRESIDENT: And I am the President of the Senate. I am telling you Dr. Alleyne is not responding to anything. Deal with the debate. Dr. Alleyne is not entering any debate.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I have two hours to speak and I do not expect him to get up and interrupt me and he will have his hour to speak and he will....

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am telling you that if you go on in that way I will have to ask you to take your seat because Dr. Alleyne is not saying anything. Why carry on a discussion on Dr. Alleyne?

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, as I was saying, Senator Clarke suggested that there was no crisis in the country. He suggested that there was no crisis in the economy. He also suggested that there is no crisis of confidence in the Government and I am submitting that, indeed, there is a crisis in the economy and there is a crisis of confidence in the Government.

As far as the crisis in the economy is concerned, it is evidenced by the state of agriculture which is in a severe state of crisis almost to the point of collapse and as far as our foreign reserves are concerned, since about the middle of last year we had entered a situation of crisis where the net available assets of the Central Bank became negative. The latest available information to me which is set out in the February 1990 Economic and Financial Statistics, also indicates that that situation has not yet been remedied.

All other pointers such as are available to the general public in relation to major transactions of the country as far as foreign reserves are concerned would indicate to me that the foreign reserve position of the country overall, not only for the Central Bank is not as good as it ought to be.
12.20 p.m.

The last announced figure in relation to the foreign reserves of the country as a whole which appeared in the press some weeks ago, around the end of February was attributed to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance who had called in some reporters to witness his signing a cheque to pay off a debt and he took the opportunity to tell them that as of the end of January the foreign reserves of

the country stood at \$256.1 million. I presume that is a fact. I do not know. I have not had that information as yet. But according to the reports, our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance went further and said that this is the highest level of foreign reserves, first of all that this is a higher level of foreign reserves than a year earlier, that is January 1989, and that it is the highest level for some time and that it represents a state of health, as far as the foreign reserves are concerned.

The information which I have put out by the Central Bank in the Economic and Financial Report for February 1990 at page 65, Table 8 (I) International Reserves indicate to me that as of January 1989 the international reserves of the country as stated by the Central Bank stood at \$356.6 million in January 1989. Our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance told us that the corresponding figure for January 1990 was \$256.1 million. I would say that figure looks a little bit realistic to me. It could be up to \$20 million, \$30 million more because I do not have access to all the transactions. But it certainly is not incorrect by \$100 million. Something would have happened to indicate that to the public. That \$256.1 million, Mr. President, far from being larger than in January 1989 is over \$100 million lower than in 1989. Indeed far from being higher than for a long time, and that statement suggests maybe a long time prior to even January 1989, it is even lower than the figures stated by the Central Bank here for December 1989, the month preceding. This figure is stated here at \$283.5 million. It is lower than the figure for November \$260.4 million and indeed it is lower than the figure for every month in 1989 with the exception of the month of September when it was \$246.3 million.

In terms of misinformation, I would want to suggest that something had to be wrong with the submission (1) that the reserves of \$256.1 million was higher than in January and (2) that it is the highest for a long time. Somebody misunderstood something somewhere along the line. That statement by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had to be a false and misleading statement and in need of correction by somebody. It has not yet been corrected by anyone on the Government side.

There is another statement attributed to our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance as reported in the press speaking to an audience of members of his Party at a particular branch meeting which according to the report, which has not been denied or corrected in any way by the Minister of Finance, although he has been criticized for the statement, stated that the current expenditure for this year 1989-90 which is about to end will be \$55 million lower than in the previous fiscal year 1988-89 even though we have had the inordinately higher amortization payments to meet. That statement again is so ridiculously wide of the mark that it could only have come from someone who really misunderstood what he was talking about. I am saying that again, no one from the Government side has

sought to correct that news item or in any way modify the statement coming from the Prime Minister. Those people who operate on the basis of, well, the Prime minister is my Party member and I would believe him in preference to someone from the Opposition are perhaps still of the view that that statement is accurate and that Government is on the path of spending \$55 million less in the fiscal 1989-90 than in the previous fiscal year. That is utterly false and misleading and befuddling. I really think that this country deserves better quality information from official sources on these matters. The Estimates are now here and we can see for ourselves that that is not true that the expenditure is considerably higher this year than for the previous year.

In terms of the Estimates, the figure which now appears as the Revised Estimates of Expenditure for fiscal 1989-90 and this is on the first page of the Memorandum, right at the beginning, right after the title page: "MEMORANDUM OF ESTIMATES 1990-91" the first page there indicates that projected current expenditure for this year is \$999.9 million. Indeed, if you look at the details in the Estimates, and round up the figure, the figure as reflected in the details of the Revised Estimates could be rounded up to \$1 billion. What has happened is this figure has suffered from rounding error downwards because of the rounding of the various items there. But if you go to the details of it, it is slightly higher than that. Anyway \$999.9 million.

Of course again, if you look at that figure, it has an actual figure for the period ending 31st March and an estimated figure for February and an estimated figure for March. Government will have to know whether those figures have turned out to be correct or not. We are almost at the end of March, and they could tell us whether they have done better than they had estimated in those two months.

But in relation to the question of current expenditure for the previous year 1989-90 the figures as presented here indicate that it was considerably lower than what is estimated now for 1988-89. For 1988-89 it is considerably lower than what is now estimated for 1989-90. The expenditure in 1988-89 as shown on page 9 of the Memorandum is \$857.945 et cetera million dollars.
12.30 p.m.

Again, therefore, we have had an entirely false and misleading statement and we wonder why this should be so. Following the presentation of the Estimates here, the matter of false and misleading statements does not only extend to statements made by Ministers of Finance but these Estimates in and of themselves are misleading. Senator Goddard has already raised one or two points and he directed attention to the Estimates of Revenue of \$1.002 billion. I saw reports of representations elsewhere talking about \$1.2 but this is not \$1.2. This is 1.00 and rounding it

up it will be .003 because it is 2682, making \$1.003 billion as the Estimates of Revenue.

Senator Goddard has already indicated that this is altogether too trivial an increase in relation to the projected revised Estimates of Revenue for this year which again is contained on Page 1 of the Memorandum of \$988.2 million. I entirely concur with that view. The reason why I concur is that we know that the tax structure in Barbados is progressive and as a result the rate of growth of Government's Revenue, assuming no changes in the tax structure and assuming no changes in the amount of rebates that are granted by the Minister of Finance, will exceed the nominal rate of growth of the economy. That is you get higher incomes and the incremental tax bracket is higher than the average tax bracket so the revenue collected in that form is going to increase faster than the rate of growth of incomes. You have most of the other taxes on an *ad valorem* basis, so when the imports go up the revenue will keep pace. Indeed, some of them have escalation elements in them like duty on motorcars. When a motorcar has gone over a certain price, the duty is going to go up on that too and we know that that will happen from time to time. So that there is a progressive element in our overall tax system which ensures that Government's Revenue will grow faster than the nominal rate of growth of the gross domestic product. Senator Clarke has told us that he expects about a 3% growth which I presume is their best estimate. The best estimate that we have had from the Ministry of Finance for the real rate of growth in the economy is 3% and then you have to add to that the inflation rate. Call that 6% plus 3% or 9%. If nominal GDP should grow by 9% bar a reduction in taxes or an increase in the level of forgiveness by the Ministry of Finance, because the Minister in certain areas has the power to waive Consumption Taxes and so on, Government's Tax Revenue and indeed overall revenue will grow faster than that 9%. So you take the outturn for 1989/90 and let us add 10% on to it, or even let us say they are optimistic about the rate of growth of the economy and that you are not going to get any rate of growth at all. You will still get revenue growing by over 6%. So let us assume that this growth thing is not sound as they are suggesting. To take the worst case scenario, Government Revenue will still have to grow by more than 6%. If you go back over the years and analyze this, you will notice that. So as a broad figure, before you get into any details at all, you know that that will be so. It is 6% on the outturn for this year and they suggest that that will be \$988.2 million. I want to suggest that even that figure with only two months to go is underestimated. They have estimated that in the last two months of February and March they will collect an amount of \$190.1 million which is about \$9 million more than was collected in February and March of last year.

The projections of the outturn figures have shown that right across the board there has been a general increase in Government's Revenue month by month in comparison with last year. They are going to tell us that when you get to

the last two months there is going to be a dramatic reversal of this and you are going to have a reduction in Government's Revenue of almost 5% *vis-a-vis* the previous year. It can happen and they can perceive that it will happen. Well, if that is so, they must know why. It will be an entirely unusual event and they should have the explanation. So I am asking what was the reason for projecting these figures at that level for those two months? What information was Government privy to guide them in that projection other than the outturn figures for the previous 10 months and how are these taxes collected in the year? What unusual event have they factored into this to come to that figure? I am saying, therefore, that in all probability, and I had made this projection from all the way back to the last Budget, Government's Revenue will exceed one billion dollars this fiscal year about to end. By now you should have almost the correct figures and you should know whether that is so or not.

That leads us to another point made by Senator Goddard regarding the quality of the projections that are made. Senator Goddard registered some doubt as to the position of those projections. He indicated that they seem to him like under-projections and I entirely concur with that view. The most conservative estimate allowing for little or no growth in the economy for this year would suggest that Revenue for fiscal 1990/91 should have been estimated by about \$60 million more than the figure stated here.

In 1988/89, that was the first time I had to be involved in making clear statements suggesting that Revenue was severely underestimated. I said that and brought the evidence just as I am bringing here and will continue to bring in relation to this year. On that occasion, as far as fiscal accuracy is concerned, in that year the Ministry of Finance came up with Estimates of \$753.4 million for Revenue and the Budget purported to raise \$55.6 million more giving a revenue target for Government for 1988/89 of \$809 million. The outturn figure was \$883.1 million or \$74.1 million more than was projected by Government.

12.40 p.m.

That \$74.1 million conceals two types of estimation errors made by Government, and it is the net estimation error. Government severely over-estimated the impact of the tax measures on that occasion. The Ministry of Finance is notorious for over estimating the impact of tax changes. They do it all the time. The reason why they over estimate the impact of tax changes is that their estimation procedure is akin to one where you look at what is going to go on now and say the economy will have a certain level of activity and our existing tax structure, based on that activity, is going to give us a certain amount of revenue. You will get a certain amount from consumption taxes, stamp duty, etc., and if they impose an increase in stamp duty, they look to see what that is in terms of a percentage increase in the height of the stamp duty and add on that as revenue, as though the taxes come like manna from heaven and nothing

else will happen to the economy, that there are no adjustments, no reversal effects as a result of that. But the reversal effects are very strong, and when they do that they are going to over estimate the tax increase by a lot if they are increasing taxes, and if they are reducing taxes they will over estimate the tax reductions by a lot.

This is a matter which I addressed not only in relation to this administration, but back in the days when I was privileged to be an independent Member of this Chamber I pointed out that same deficiency in the estimation procedure of the Ministry of Finance. It is about time that it is corrected. On previous occasions it was not as bad as this, but now it has become particularly bad and I would not want to guess as to why deterioration has taken place. All I would want to say is that the Minister of Finance should have role in dialoguing with his staff to get explanations about estimates and so on. When you force people to explain themselves and you put the right questions to them, they can see themselves that their estimates are not well founded and will go back and do a better job based on that improved procedure. I know that used to happen with other Ministers of Finance. I do not know what happens nowadays, but that is that particular situation.

This year, 1989-90, the original estimate had \$905.2 million, the budget purported to raise \$40.3 million, making a total of \$945.5 million as the projected revenue, the target revenue of Government for this year. Now Government has revised its estimate to \$988.9 million or thereabout. I already indicated that that is an under estimate, because it implies that Government will not collect as much revenue in the last two months of this year as in previous years. That figure is going to go over \$1 billion, but even without taking that into consideration, taking Government's own revised estimate, they are \$43.4 million over target. Again this is a very large figure, and to appreciate how large that figure is you just have to note that the tax measures introduced in the last budget which were perceived by the public to be highly burdensome were designed to raise \$40.3 million, less than the under estimation. It means, therefore, that Government which claims that it organised its budget around projected revenue of \$945.5 million, could have obtained that amount of revenue and more without increasing taxes in 1989.

When we look back at 1988 for 1988-89, the same thing is true. The \$74.1 million error is way above the \$55.6 million raised in the surcharges and all sorts of other things in that area, and Government could have obtained the revenue that they built their budget around, their target revenue, and much more without increasing taxes in 1988 also. So we have had two years of draconian tax measures based on faulty premises, based on an acute under estimation of revenues. You cannot run a Government efficiently on that basis. Even the quality of estimation right now is a matter of crisis in the economy, because the quality of estimation is not only wide of the mark, not only

poor, but self-evidently poor, and I have demonstrated that inside of this forum in relation to 1988-89 and in relation to last year.

But let us now look beyond what I have already said about using the rate of growth or GDP as a guide to the rate of growth in Government revenue. Let us now look at what Government is suggesting to us in terms of the details of increases in revenue. We, therefore, have to turn to the Estimates of Revenue, on page ii, which relate to the current Estimates of Revenue, a summary of the broad heads of taxation. You have under 1, Taxes on Income and Profits, the revised estimate is \$223 800 141 for 1989-90. The projection here is \$226 365 000. That is a figure of about \$2.5 million increase, which is just over 1% increase, and you are telling us that incomes in the country will grow by 3% but incomes on profits and so on will grow by 1%. It does not seem to be realistic.

Taxes on Goods and Services and Taxes on International Trade, again if you look at the increases there - I will not read out all the figures - the projected increases in relation to the revised are also way below the projected rate of growth, even the real rate of growth, of the economy leaving inflation aside. In the case of Taxes on International Trade, they are supposed to remain virtually stagnant, \$144 026 015 to \$144.1 million, really no increase.
12.50 p.m.

When you recognise that in all probability the revised figure is an under estimate, I cannot say it is an under-estimate for any particular item here with that level of precision. We know overall they are going to be under-estimated, but if that item is one involved in the under-estimation, it may very well turn out to have a lower estimate for 1991 than the out-turn figure for this year. That needs some kind of explanation, not to mention the fact that you have things with a similar tax base projected to be growing at quite differential rates. It could happen, but it needs to be explained.

The other one that I will direct attention to and invite some explanation as to why it is projected at such a low level is a thing called "other taxes". Sir, other taxes simply mean stamp duties and international trade in particular. Why are these figures growing at such a low rate? They are totally inconsistent with the idea that you are expecting a 3 per cent growth; so either you expect about 3 per cent decline and these figures then will start to make a little bit of sense, not a lot, or you expect the growth that you say you expect and these figures don't make any sense at all.

On the last occasion when I explained certain details, I was hopeful that Government would have taken my submissions into consideration and would have revised those estimates even before the budget and indicate that that is the case and don't worry to come for any taxes. It was not done, Government ignored everything that was said and

went ahead and taxed on the basis of the highly flawed Estimates. What will happen now is that if Government bases its decision on these Estimates, whatever it does will not be well founded, because the Government decides that the amount of revenue projected here is the amount of revenue that it wants. If it has unrealistic Estimates, those Estimates should have indicated to them that there is considerable scope for reduction in taxation. If on the other hand Government believes that the amount of revenue projected here is deficient by \$30 million, \$40 million or even up to \$60 million, proper Estimates would have indicated to them that no such deficiency exists and there is no need to go correcting a non-existent deficiency. So Government will either miss the opportunity to reduce taxation based on these Estimates, or will for the third year running come and impose taxation where none is required on the basis of Government's own budgetary arrangements, the target revenue and so on.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I believe I had indicated that we would take our first break at 1 o'clock, and it is now 1.00 p.m.

I therefore beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is resumed. On the suspension Senator McClean was addressing the Senate.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. When we suspended I was directing attention, indeed raising queries relating to the reliability of the Estimates, and I was doing this in the context of a submission that there is a crisis of confidence in Government, and that the low level of reliability of those Estimates contributes in some measure to such a crisis. A crisis of confidence can be rooted in two different things, at least two different causes. It can be a question of credibility and it can be a question of capability. These two matters are not mutually exclusive, and I would say that they are reasons for the present crisis in Government, and even an examination of the Estimates themselves has elements relating to the question of credibility and elements relating also to the question of capability.

I had pointed out that the Estimates of Revenue as contained in the Estimates for 1990-91 on any reasonable calculus must be deemed to be severely under-estimated by at least \$60 million, and that this is but a continuation of a trend of under-estimation of revenue which started in 1988 with respect to the fiscal year 1988-89. It has continued unabated ever since.

Now we have problems also not only with the Estimates of Revenue but with the Estimates of Expenditure which normally should not be subject to such shortcomings, because in estimating expenditure you are operating on an entirely different level from when you are estimating revenue. You are relating to the projection of Government expenditure on the basis of fairly well-known commitments at the level of statutory expenditure and at the level of Government's plans as to what they will spend in terms of the discretionary component of the Estimates which forms the Appropriation Bill.

We have noticed that the practice of supplementaries which have been in evidence all the time and quite clearly on occasions would be unavoidable has taken on an entirely new aspect in the last two to three years, where your supplementaries are out of all proportion to what one would deem to be reasonable, and where on items involving entertainment and things like that where Government clearly has a capability to work within a budget that you can have a budget which as compared with previous times is already large and you can burst it in six months. When you do that you raise questions as to the confidence that one can repose in the actual Estimates of Expenditure here for 1990-91. To what extent would these Estimates be affected by inordinate increases by way of supplementary provisions? If the previous trend continues, we could well expect that this would be the case, and at that level, at the level of the incapacity of Government to stick very closely to its own provisions, the level of Government having to come for supplementaries in areas where there is no unforeseen circumstance or no new development of any significant order, in routine areas like entertainment and so on when you find that you can have supplementaries about 50 per cent of the original when you can burst the vote in six months, that leads us to look askance at these Estimates of Expenditure.

But that relates to the part that goes into the Appropriation Bill and one would expect that the statutory part in many areas would be fairly precise, because you know what your obligations could be and you know what certain patterns have been in the past.

I want to suggest that even in this regard there are certain anomalous features in these Estimates, and I want now to direct attention to the Ministry of Finance, page 36 of the Estimates. Here you have Head 22 (A) Public Debt Servicing, subhead 1, Debt Service, and I am referring here to the interest on Treasury Bills at the top of that page, the estimated statutory expenditure, where in that column you have a figure of \$15 million as compared with actual expenditure of \$21.4 million in 1988-89 and you have the Approved Estimates for last year slightly lower than that and no indication as to what the out-turn figure would be this year.

2.10 p.m.

If you look at the level of Treasury Bills outstanding at the moment, compare them with 1988/89 and the level outstanding then, you will notice that they were roughly of the same magnitude and the only way then you could spend \$15 million on interest on Treasury Bills for this fiscal year as compared with \$21.4 million two years ago, is if there is a reduction in interest rates on Treasury Bills or a substantial reduction in the amount of Treasury Bills that you are projecting will be outstanding.

I, therefore, invite an explanation as to which of those two phenomena would explain this. I rather think that it is neither because there is nothing indicated here that Government plans to reduce the level of Treasury Bills outstanding by a particular magnitude.

As far as the interest rates are concerned, in 1988 the average discount rate ranged between a high of 4.95% in January of that year down to 4.67% in many months of that year with a few months in between there. This year January the interest rate is 6.07%. In the latter part of last year it was 5.82% in December, 5.61% in November, 5.28% in October, a rising trend in interest rates and we know why that is so because Government has increased these interest rates and other interest rates in recent times.

Therefore, the nominal expectation would be that the average discount rate based on the tender of Treasury Bills and so on, will be higher than in 1988 and the expectation also is that the Treasury Bills outstanding will remain in the ball park of \$427 million in January as compared with an average somewhere around there for the whole of 1988 also, from a low of \$423.9 million to a high of \$434 million. The Government has a little latitude to increase the Treasury Bill rate beyond this \$426 million level.

It seems, therefore, that the figure of \$15 million is severely understated. On \$400 million, if you use the 6% as a guideline you can see it is going to be over 24, 25 even higher than that so I am seeking some explanation for this. As it stands, it strikes at the credibility of this document.

I want to make the added observation that, unlike the case of the non statutory element of expenditure where you are bound by the figures that you put in these Estimates because those are only approved, the statutory element is not so subject to that kind of control. No matter how wide of the target you are Government is legally authorised to fulfil those statutory obligations.

One result of that \$15 million as opposed to a more realistic figure of \$25 million, \$27 million or \$28 million is to under-state the overall level of Government expenditure in ways which would not require Government to return here when they spend that extra \$10 million to \$12 million as interest on Treasury Bills.

It means when it is said that the Estimates for this year is but a small increase in relation to the Estimates for last year, and you must recognize that particular point, that the interest on Treasury Bills this year is reflected at a substantially low figure of \$5 million than last year and all indications are that it ought to have been reflected as a higher figure.

The Ministry must be assumed to be acting on good faith and, therefore, they must tell us if this was an error or whether it is a deliberate entry based on information to which they are privy that is not yet in the public domain but which ought to be. That is another point which goes to the question of credibility.

Going beyond that now, I am shifting from the point of credibility at that level to look at other curiosities in the Estimates, curiosities which one must assume reflect Government's intention but which seem to be a bit strange. Before doing that, however, I just want to direct attention to page 4 of the Memorandum which provides details about the economic classification of current expenditure.

Senator Clarke in his introduction said that the major difference between these Estimates and last year's is the low figure for amortisation. Yes, that is the single most significant difference. I will return to that to speak about how that should be interpreted as we interpret the Estimates.

Before doing that, I want to submit that there is another significant difference that is worthy of note and it relates to Other Significant Purchases of Goods and Services.

The figure in last year's Estimates is \$94 540 221. The figure in this year's Estimates is \$119 131 762, an increase of 26% in an economy which is supposed to grow by 3% and have low or moderate inflation has a 26% increase. That is deserving of some explanation. It cannot be dismissed by saying that the percentage of something is not particularly different. That is a significant increase comparing this Estimates with last year's Estimates, comparing like with like as Senator Clarke indicated, so I await some explanation of that.

In addition, I would like some explanation of one particular item which is included under this Head and I am directing attention to Page 27 of the Estimates of Expenditure. Page 27 has to do with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs under Subhead 1 dealing with General Administration and I am looking at 12 - Operating Expenses. If you look across that row you will notice that actual expenditure under that Head - Operating Expenses in the Ministry of Finance in the year 1988/89 was \$6 668. If you go across the page you will see what that money would have been used for.

That Subhead Object No. 12 - Operating Expenses provides for postage, toiletries, cleaning supplies and miscellaneous expenditure. I presume that miscellaneous expenditure must bear some comparison to the substantive elements of the Head and the Ministry operated in 1988/89 spending \$6 658 in that year.

If you would go back historically you will see that the figure has been small, a little higher than a year previously but generally small. For the first time the Approved Estimates for 1989/90 showed a figure of \$396 737, an increase of \$270 863 over the Estimates of the previous year which means that the item came in well within estimate in 1988/89. I do not know if it is going to come in within estimate now or whether that is one of the operating expenses that was further increased in the Supplementaries. That information does not reach us in the form here until much later if we ask about it.

I must tell you that that is a lot of toilet paper - \$396 737 which provides for postage, toiletries and cleaning supplies and miscellaneous expenditure but look what is happening this year. It is going from that figure to \$667 600. That is the money that Government is planning to spend on toilet paper, postage stamps, cleaning supplies and I do not know what else in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. You do not need all of that toilet paper in there because it is not the Transport Board or wherever. You do not have a lot of people passing through there so this will have the toilet paper to deal with verbal diarrhoea or something so this bears some type of explanation.

Why, all of a sudden after all of these years operating on small budgets which look realistic to buy these cleaning materials and so on is it that the Ministry now finds itself needing this kind of money? They are clearly doing something else with the money and it is not good enough hiding under Miscellaneous because that is only intended to cover a multitude of sins.

We must know what are the items that are anticipated by Government that this Miscellaneous will cover with respect to these Estimates and we want that information historically with respect to what happened last year. How was this item accounted for last year in general details?
2.20 p.m.

But the toilet paper and so on is about \$6 000 worth and the rest gone somewhere else. I would hope not gone with the wind. These Estimates of Expenditure look innocent. They are not so innocent. The overall increase on Purchases of Goods and Services is altogether too high at 26%. It should not exceed the rate of inflation in the economy which is you say is 6%. I do not know if you plan to buy any more things under those Heads or if you allowed for some growth. There should basically not be any increase for growth because Government has already over extended the country in terms of Government's expenditure as a

proportion of GDP. Last year and two years before that we had very dramatic rates of growth in the Government's expenditure. The government is spending altogether too high a proportion of the national cake. You have heard the charges of squandermania which are entirely valid. There is scope for an absolute reduction in the level of Government expenditure on current account, even without taking into consideration the question of the reduced amortization. If amortization was at the same level, the money voted under other Heads had increased excessively way beyond the normal rate of growth of the economy over the last three years. Government must return to a firmer fiscal discipline. So to tell me you do not have a substantial increase now is to say nothing really because the excesses were there before.

But when you recall that the amortization is considerably less this year than in the previous year, this year's amortization payment is reflected as \$92 935 496 as compared with \$143 482 000 in the previous year. That is about \$50 million different somewhere in that ball park. When you note that, this should indicate to you quite clearly that the overall Estimates should decline.

The fact of the matter is that we present amortization in the current accounts but it is not really a current account item. As Senator Clarke quite clearly attests, you have your capital expenditure and that should not be seen in any way as reflective of current expenditure. What happens is what you see here is a matter of repayment of borrowed funds which in ordinary accounting terms is not so reflected either. So extending the principle by analogy with standard accounting practice, it should not be there. The Central Bank does not include it there, international institutions do not include it there. They adjust our statistics. Somewhere along the line this anomaly crept into our framework and it is there because our Civil Service is fairly well fossilized. Very little changes in the way in which they do things. That is a very bad thing and indeed if you could forgive it years ago, you certainly cannot forgive it when you have a Ministry of the Civil Service that is supposed to be looking at these things. You cannot forgive it when you have people in the Senate who are repeatedly drawing attention to these anomalous things. You cannot forgive it when you know that we have a housekeeping Minister of Finance who looks at these figures and takes them literally not making the adjustments such as other more informed people would make in interpreting these things and getting at the real nitty gritty of the current account situation. If you really want to know what the current account situation is, as the Central Bank will perceive it or the IMF or international institutions, you have to deduct the amortization and you have to deduct it from both years and make that kind of comparison. There are certain other little figures that the Central Bank will also adjust but those are largely inconsequential. They do not involve a lot of money and they could either lead to a positive or a negative adjustment if we average them out around zero over time.

But the big figure is the amortization. If you take out the amortization the \$92 935 496 from this year, you will get instead of the \$987 188 526 as indicated as the total expenditure, you will get \$894 253 030. If you take out the figure amortization from the previous year you will get \$842 692 680. This is slightly over 6 per cent increase in relation to this year which, if last year was a normal year and a reasonable year, a 6 per cent increase on a reasonable figure would be a reasonable figure. But a 6 per cent increase on an unreasonable figure would end up with the figure remaining unreasonable. It is somewhat more than 6 per cent because I pointed out at least one item here. There are others that in my considered judgement also are understated but this is the one that is crystal clear, the question of the interest on the Treasury Bills. So you add in another \$10 million, \$12 million to suit your fancy there and do the arithmetic again and you will see what you get. Basically what I am saying is that this document is misleading in every respect. It underestimates revenue, it underestimates expenditure. It underestimates revenue by far more than it underestimates expenditure. So that the bias is still in terms of the net underestimation or overestimation of the deficit or the underestimation of the surplus because there is a surplus, the net underestimation of the surplus on the current account involved here.

I would seriously propose that Government, if it has an interest in being efficient managers, must address these things revise the Estimates, and base the decisions on something which is entirely more plausible than what we have before us at the moment.

Passing beyond the question of credibility, we come to the next point of concern raised by Senator Clarke when he spoke about squandermania and he is suggesting that there is no evidence of squandermania. The only point of contact that he made with the specific submissions of squandermania that are made from time to time against the Government is the question of the Sherbourne Centre. Government is proposing this year to spend \$12 million on Sherbourne Centre. The description of the Subhead says:

"This provision is required to continue"

Note "continue":

"construction work on the Sherbourne Centre, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael."

That continuation figure is about as much as the place was intended to cost originally. We do not know when it is going to end.

If Senator Clarke wants to convince us about the reasonableness of the Sherbourne Centre as an exam centre and as ancillary and additional conference facilities and as a cultural centre, as we heard in relation to the cultural centre that it is for a youth orchestra not yet formed, he must first

of all indicate to us what is now the projected final expenditure on that building. That is the first thing you have to do. You must also tell us about the projected completion date on the building. Then you have to relate that expenditure to other areas. You have to consider the opportunity costs. Senator Clarke is familiar with the term. What could we have done with all those millions of dollars, apart from building the Sherbourne something else? I submit to you that the Government that presumes that that expenditure is prudent is a Government that does not have a clue.

2.30 p.m.

Tell us a bit more about the examination centre. The money that you are spending has nothing to do with the furniture. Are you going to furnish it as an examination centre to hold what exams, how many students, and so on? Will the rooms for the examination centre be primarily dedicated for that purpose, meaning that you are going to furnish it in that way and anyone who wants to go in there will suffer the inconvenience of doing something else in a room designed and furnished as an exam centre? Are you going to design it as something else and hold exams in there? What are the plans in relation to the furniture that I indicated just now? Are you going to buy furniture for this exam centre dedicated for that purpose, or are you going to say that you have furniture in the schools and every exam time you are going to move the furniture out of the space that is adequate for the exam now, truck them up to Sherbourne, pay for them, and then truck them back again at great expense and loss of school time? Let us know how this exam centre is going to operate and it should not be any difficulty. Understand that. The person who proposed the centre was thinking about it since about 1971. So you had a lot of time to come up with ideas on it. We would like to scrutinize the plans too. Last year it was indicated that the thing was not fully planned. All the information that is coming out way suggests that it is not even yet fully planned. So you are building first and planning after. That is worse than what I heard before about a certain person who make before they measure. You are building first and planning after. If that is not wrong, if that is not going to give rise to wasteful expenditure, and if that is not squandermania, well Gairy had no right being in prison some years back for squandering because nothing could be squandermania. Right.

Now the question of the buses or luxury coaches. We heard all sorts of explanations as to why Government needed to buy five new luxury coaches and all the explanations do not add up to anything. They all indicate that that expenditure was not well thought out. It was wasteful of Government resources no matter who benefited from them by getting a ride in the coaches or whatever way they benefited. Indeed, that element of squandermania ties in very well with the examination centre because Government got up in a huff and a puff and starting building before they planned because they wanted the

centre finished maybe even before they planned for the CPA Conference. The buses were required for the CPA Conference. Tell us what it is that should suggest that we should spend all of that money on the CPA Conference. You can privatize those coaches against the substandard housing that many people have to endure. You should think about how many houses could have been constructed with that money and you can do the same thing to the total expenditure in relation to Sherbourne too. Can you really think that a Government is barking at \$1,2,3,4,5 million to save the sugar industry and Barbados along with it because the collapse of the sugar industry will lead to a lot of social unrest and economic distress in this country for a long time to come?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Which Head is that, Sir?

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Which Head is that? Sugar relates to...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, I do not want you to lose your threads and start going all over the area. You should know better than that. Do not go all over the area like this because we will have to pull you up. You cannot go all over the place.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, with all due respect...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not with all due respect. You are dealing with a specific area. You cannot lead off on sugar and tell me that you are going into sugar now. What is it in sugar that you want me to give you my attention to?

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, if you need me...

Mr. PRESIDENT: What is in the Estimates now on sugar that you want my attention drawn to or the Chamber's attention drawn to? Not anything that comes to your head. What is the Head that we are dealing with? We cannot be rambling down the Chamber like this. Let us debate the thing in an orderly way.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: You would hear me if you gave me the chance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I listened to you. I give you the chance to do that but you are drifting now and my patience is running out.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, Head 25 deals with Agriculture but I do not have to indicate that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, but you are not dealing with Head 25.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I am dealing with Sherbourne Centre under....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes. Sherbourne Centre has nothing to do with sugar.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, listen awhile and you will understand.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I understand perfectly. Sherbourne Centre has nothing to do with sugar. This is something to do with buying equipment, putting it in the place, and taking people on buses to the place. It has nothing to do with sugar. This is not a child's play. This is a Senate, an important institution. These debates have to be recorded. Do not let us record things that do not make sense. Stick to the points that you were making about taking the furniture and utilizing it. I will listen to you on that but not going all over the place.

2.40 p.m.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I presume you are finished now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not finished, I am guiding you on the debate and if you do not understand that I will have to draw the rules to your attention. Get it clear.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am speaking at the moment in relation to page 96 in the Capital Estimates relating to the Ministry of Education and Culture, I am speaking to Subhead 38 dealing with the Sherbourne Centre. I am asking questions relating to the wisdom of this expenditure. In my submission I pointed out that when you are trying to make a determination as to whether expenditure is well warranted or not, you have to raise questions relating to the opportunity cost. Mr. President, opportunity cost refers to the next best alternative use you could have made of your resources. You have to ask the question what could you have done with this \$12 million that we are now seeking to spend this year on the Sherbourne Centre. You have to ask yourself the question what could you have done with the entire amount of money that will eventually be spent on the Sherbourne Centre.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But not the Chamber. Ask yourself that. I can hear you and draw from your conclusion you are still on the subject that we are dealing with, Sherbourne. Get down to Sherbourne.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I have not left Sherbourne, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not going to hear you on any other subject but this particular point that you raised. Get back to Sherbourne and I will hear you.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am talking about Sherbourne. I hope that someone is keeping check of the time I have not been using.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am telling you get back to Sherbourne.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I am on Sherbourne and I am saying that the expenditure on Sherbourne cannot be justified, having regard to the pressing requirements of this country. It has to be a question of misplaced priorities. When you spend a lot of money in ways that do not properly relate to well founded priorities, you are wasting money, you are squandering money, and I could give you glaring examples. I will not go any further, because I have to abide by your ruling whether I like it or not.

Mr. President, in relation to the question of Agriculture, Head 25, which relates among other things to sugar, I am saying that in terms of Government's approach to the crisis in sugar, in terms of the amount of resources that Government has been devoting to solving the problems in sugar, such provisions are entirely inadequate, and as far as this year is concerned there is no indication that Government intends to spend nearly as much on sugar as it is planning to spend on other things, including the Sherbourne Centre.

Anyhow, Mr. President, I will continue. Under all sorts of Ministries, the Ministry of Tourism is supposed to have some contact with the coaches, the Ministry of Finance very clearly was involved with the financing of the coaches, and even the Defence Force, we understand, is involved with the coaches and the Ministry of Transport and Works is involved with the coaches. In fact, the various Ministers are not too sure who is involved with what, but I am saying that we can pick between those four or five Heads to raise questions about the reasonableness of that expenditure on those coaches. I need not go any further. I go no further because I do not want to offend the President.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, on a point of order. I would like to know the Head under which Senator McClean is debating the coaches in this year's Estimates for the record.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, if you were hearing, I identified four Heads. I am saying that even the Minister does not know which Head. The Ministry of Finance for sure last year would have been involved in raising and repaying the loan and so on.

Aside.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: No, no, the Estimates have continuity. Do not go down the line of other people. Mr. President, you apparently prefer me to start talking about Heads instead of talking entirely generally

about the Estimates, although we are in the Second Reading speech and that is what you are permitted to do in a Second Reading speech, although I have been discussing the entire memorandum and going through the whole set of things.

I just want to say a few words pertaining to the Ministry of Health, pages 100 to 105, Head 36. I am sure that my colleague will deal rather more fully with that Ministry, but in recent times we have had an alarm in this country relating to a threat to our water resources. It arose in the context involving other Ministers and my colleague had the foresight to understand and to point out that ultimately and very critically it is a matter for the Ministry of Health. The National Democratic Party, my colleague in particular, Senator Brathwaite, remarked on the deafening silence of the Minister of Finance on the matter, and evidently goaded by such observations the Minister of Health did remark, and his remarks were that there are more severe problems as far as threats to the water resources in the country are concerned, that illegal dumping in the gullies poses a much greater threat than the illegal housing in the Zone 1 area. I presume that was intended to clinch the matter, because in all probability it could be true and that was supposed to clinch the argument.

2.50 p.m.

The Minister seems not to recognise that the illegal dumping in the gullies is a problem which he has to address also. Basically all he is saying is that if you want to get me, don't get me on this one, get me on a much more severe thing where I am neglecting my responsibility. I find that most alarming, and it echoes an earlier episode when the country was thrown into consternation in relation to the likely threat to their health involving a problem with a chicken farm, and the same Minister said, "you are talking about this chicken farm, but there are some worse than it", as though that is to absolve him from the problem with that chicken farm, not recognising that he has the responsibility for those other farms that are worse than it. I think basically that this country deserves better at the level of ministerial representation.

We are accustomed to people passing off our problems by saying that the problems are worse in other countries; that basically is an inconsequent line of argument, but at least it has some kind of ring to it and it does not indict the local person anymore, but make them look a little better by comparison with their colleagues elsewhere. You don't try to escape blame for a particular matter by casting greater blame on yourself; that is what the Minister of Health has done repeatedly; so it leaves us to be rather bothered, that when you look at any problem in the country, we need not worry about it because we have one along the same line, a similar problem, which is worse than that one and indeed when you look at that one and you look, it is a matter of perspective, you find another one worse than that one, so you don't bother. We are a place beset with problems and living at great risk to our health

and everything else. I really think that that falls far short of the level of performance that we should expect from a Minister, and this all goes back to the point of a lack of confidence. It goes back to the question of credibility and capability, and it goes even deeper than that to the question of understanding. Really our problem in this country today as exemplified by the example in the Ministry of Health is that the country is totally alarmed that Government could have such a warped sense of values and such a defective perspective on things, that if they assure us that things are all right, we can't be too sure what they are talking about, because they seem to have an entirely different value system from the rest of the community.

I just give the example of the Ministry of Health, and I gave two examples; I gave the chickens and I gave the example of the Belle problem and the responses of the Minister to those issues.

Now, Mr. President, I am directing attention to Head 34 - Education which starts at page 79. I think basically, Mr. President, it is generally agreed that in addition to having a crisis in agriculture, a crisis in relation to the foreign exchange and a crisis of confidence in the Government generally, we have a crisis in education, all of which would not be the making of the present Government or any Government for that matter, but it is generally agreed, the teachers agree, the students agree, the parents agree and the rest of the community also agrees that something is basically wrong with education. We have problems of discipline. We have problems relating to the competencies that students leave school with and their suitability for the job market, and of course those things sometimes express themselves in dramatic and specific instances, but basically, what is indicated is that we need a total effort on the part of the community to turn around the situation in education. Our schools must once again become disciplined communities in all meanings of that term. We know that the teachers are mindful of this and indeed I well think that they are motivated to do something about it, but we have to examine quite carefully the framework in which those teachers are required to operate in terms of the level of discretionary authority entrusted to them, in terms of the frequency and the extent to which there is intervention into decisions made by the school and the School Boards by higher authority. I would think that Government needs to examine the specific role of the Ministry of Education in the matter of the administration of schools, and I think that basically what you would discover is that there is a need for headteachers and staff of schools to be vested with the type of authority that the secondary school that I went to and the secondary schools that existed in earlier times had. Teachers and headteachers must feel fairly sure that they can discipline students without having to look over their shoulder as to whether or not the Ministry will descend upon them to reverse the decisions or whatever as a consequence of the students and the students parents' access to areas of influence and areas of authority greater

than that of the headteachers. Going beyond that we need to take a serious look at the curriculum in schools. I spoke on this on previous occasions and I do not especially want to repeat what I have said on those occasions, but we basically have to look at the curriculum in schools and we also have to look at the requirements of our society in terms of the levels of attainment and the areas of knowledge and general understanding and the overall question of attitudes and so on that one should expect that a school leaver should have.
3.00 p.m.

I am sure that this exercise would indicate the need for curriculum reform. It will also indicate a need for that curriculum to be reformed in areas where you do not have one-sided emphases in schools, let us say, certain so-called academic re-oriented subjects. But you should have a curriculum or a set of curricula spanning the schools - you need not have all of the schools duplicates one of the other - such that the students going through those schools would have the maximal opportunity of discovering and developing in some measure their several abilities.

We are living in a world today where skills other than clerical skills and very basic skills that were imparted before, are at a premium. We are living in a world today where persons with skills as entertainers, sportsmen, artists etc. are appreciated and well-rewarded and we need, therefore, to let the values of the wider community, as far as an appreciation and a desire to benefit from those things is concerned, impact on the school system and make it possible for persons who have those skills moreso than academic skills, to be aware that they are not failures, but that the skills they have are appreciated by the wider community in equal measure and, indeed, measure when it comes to financial remuneration if you become really top of your profession in those areas.

Now, Sherbourne Centre cannot be a replacement for developments between the schools themselves because you need people who developed skills in the schools to go and avail yourself of whatever is there at Sherbourne Centre. If you do not afford the students the opportunity to develop their skills, when you transfer them with levels of attainment to perform in Sherbourne Centre what you get is mediocrity, low level performance.

Going beyond that and speaking in more general terms about the question of communicating to students some kind of view as to their own self worth we have to communicate more efficiently with students. First of all, at the single most important determinant of their work, is the fact that as human beings they are worth as much as anybody else by virtue of that fact.

Secondly, that to the extent that we have differential skills, those people who have skills in the areas outside of academics need not feel that this places them in a situation of inferiority *vis-a-vis* the chap who is good at Arithmetic,

English, Latin, French and so on so we need, therefore, to address ourselves to these problems. To do it is going to involve a concerted effort by all sections of the community to bring it about. The Ministry can play a catalytic role in relation to that and play the role of catalyst in relation to that.

3.10 p.m.

If the school system is hamstrung by the Ministry we are not going to get very far. Now again, at the moment in Barbados we have a particular problem which has cropped up in the schools and is affecting one school in particular. You are getting the community divided and a responsible section of the press named the school. A more responsible area of the press did what they considered to be a necessary public service. So we do not have to name the school. If people know they know. If people do not know, they do not know. But basically what I am saying is that the teachers at that school have indicated that they are confronted with all sorts of embarrassment because of the alleged incident true or false. One of the things which we need to do is to indicate first of all that, true or false, an approach whereby we attempt to ostracize and create psychological difficulties for the staff and students of the school is a bit unthinking. Basically, all of us who are opinion shapers and so on have some role in trying to indicate that true or false we should not respond in anger and animosity towards the totality of that community. On the question as to whether it is true or false, that is a matter for the police at the moment and in the fulness of time they might indicate something along those lines. Of course we always need to recognize that because the police are not in a position to prosecute anyone that only implies that they do not have the type of evidence that would stand up in court. It does not necessarily imply that the situation does not exist.

So the point is not the question of whether it is true or false but that we need really to respond in the appropriate way, true or false. Those people who are jumping up and shouting that it is false without any evidence are equally as irresponsible as those persons who are acting on the assumption that it is true and haranguing the teachers and so on. We should just avoid the type of comments coming from the other side that it is false, let the agencies who investigate the matter report to us.

What I would say on that is that it is more difficult to prove that something is not true than it sometimes is to determine that it is true. Because the requirement to show that it is true is that you must have some set of people on whose word you can absolutely rely, who can vouch that they had the place under scrutiny, et cetera, et cetera and they have means of showing that it could not have happened. That is a very difficult thing to establish. Even at that level you should caution yourself and say, we do not have any evidence to support it. But we should always hesitate when we say that something is not true. We should make the more guarded statement that we do not have any

evidence to support it. When you jump up and shout loudly that it is not true, that in itself brings suspicion upon the person who is so shouting. You have to be guarded in those things and be totally sober.

Basically, what I am saying here is that we have a problem of some delicacy. Many of the actors especially those who are defending the position that there is nothing wrong and so on, that the whole thing is a fabrication, have been making statements and intervening at inappropriate times.

Those who have been inclined to believe that it is true have been doing the same. I would say that we should get together and urge a more reasoned and reasonable approach to the entire matter. At the same time we must recognize that if the specifics are not true, it is not too far away from certain infirmities that we know exist within our school system and the wider community.

What is true is that there have been problems at school. I would suggest that at all times the authorities who had to deal with those problems seemed to prefer the easy way out and sweep the matter under the carpet rather than to grapple with difficult problems.

I am suggesting that leaders in the community at all levels, within the schools and elsewhere, must grapple with the difficult problems of discipline, morality and whatever else you have, law and do not sweep matters under the carpet. Because if you persist in sweeping matters under the carpet they would only get worse and you would probably come down with some dreaded disease that you have swept under the carpet and it has come back out to haunt you.

I have an indication, Mr. President, that I may have spoken close to my appointed time and I wish to thank you.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I wish to begin my comments first of all with the Head of Education.

My first concern, Sir, is with the needs of persons who are variously termed handicapped or disabled. I believe that Senator Forde will speak at greater length on this matter and I shall therefore content myself merely with making the point that under the Education Act, the Minister has responsibility for providing adequately for all children. I think that it is fairly clear to anyone who knows the situation in Barbados that Government does not at the present time make adequate provision for all youngsters who suffer disabilities. I wish to draw this to Government's attention and ask that serious and concerted efforts be made to meet the commitment given to the Minister, under the law. Under another section, I propose to deal with other provisions that relate to the handicapped.

I move now to the question of youngsters at primary age and at the transfer from primary to secondary education. It is and has been a continuing matter of concern to me and, indeed, in 1987, I posed a question to Government on the way in which the examination marks were handled. I have before me the statement which the Minister who responded gave. He stated and I quote:

"Each candidate's English score was marked out of 100. Each candidate's Mathematics score was marked out of 80 and then converted to a score out of 100. The English and Mathematics marks were then added together and then divided by 2 to arrive at an average mark in percentage for each candidate."

Mr. President on more than one occasion, I have drawn the attention of this Honourable Chamber to the total incorrectness of that procedure. I have drawn attention to it through the public media. I have written personally to the Minister and my understanding is that the procedure, as indicated here continues to be followed.

Mr. President, this is not a matter of opinion.
3.20 p.m.

I have two extracts which I am prepared to submit as documents of this Chamber which speak very, very clearly to the matter and which indicate that the procedure followed by Government is totally and inexcusably wrong. I quote from a book called "Testing For Continuous Assessment" and it is quite recent, 1982. The author is A. E. Ashworth. It says, "In order to give candidates an equal chance, the standardized scores, that is scores on the same scale, should be added. Adding raw scores from different tests is the same as adding oranges to lemons. Before we add scores, they should be converted to standardized scores with the same mean and standard deviation."

Mr. President, if everyone does not understand the terminology, I am quite willing on another occasion to explain it. I am only saying that these are standard procedures. I am quoting now from another book for which I have the specific information which persons would apparently wish to have. This is called "Statistics For The Teacher". It is authored by Douglas McIntosh who is Principal of the Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh, Scotland. Those who know about testing will be familiar with the reputation of Moray House. He states, and I quote: "Marks cannot be compared or interpreted without reference to the mean and standard deviations. Raw marks cannot meaningfully be added without some adjustment which takes into account both the mean and standard deviation of each set of marks." He continues: "The addition of raw marks is generally unsound and either both sets of marks should be converted to a common standard or one set of marks should be converted to the same standard as the other."

Mr. President, in the light of that, it is clear beyond any reasonable doubt in my opinion, and there is a lot of other supporting evidence for it, that the Ministry's procedures are wrong. Now the people of this country were generally on the assumption that the Ministry follows accepted procedures. Since the Ministry is following wrong procedures and indefensible ones at that, I am contending that the Ministry is misleading this country because it is fostering the belief that it is correct when in fact its procedures are wrong. For those who are interested, it would be interesting to have the Minister seek to defend his procedures because presumably he has justification or thinks he has justification for this and I invite him to make those grounds public.

I turn now, Sir, to another matter of equal importance and it has to do with the way in which we allocate youngsters to schools. There have been in the past I would think two major problems in connection with the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary schools. One has been the relative inadequacy, though an improving situation, of Government places and the other has been how students would be assigned. The increase in Government places will solve one problem but it will do nothing to solve the just as critical problem of who goes where. I am aware that the Ministry has requested and presumably is considering memoranda and I therefore await its recommendations.

In the meantime, however, I wish to draw to the attention of this Honourable Chamber an analysis of last year's assignments which I considered disturbing. This is an analysis of the figures put out by the Ministry and sent to the schools. So this is public information, but my analysis is my own. Therefore, I am willing to submit this to be a document of the Senate. I merely rearranged the things. If one arranges the schools in descending order of cutoff marks, then you have at the top five schools which accepted students none of whom had below 75% on that basis. The basis is inadequate but one has to work with what one has. At the bottom were schools with cutoff marks of as low as 10% and on the available evidence it is likely that they were assigned students all of whom had below 50% or even less than that.

Mr. President, my concern is that we are doing a separation among students that is not in their best interest and I am contending that the procedure whereby we have this very wide segregation of students is inimical to their self image and to their self development. The literature on education suggests very strongly that it is in the interest of children to have a mixture. I am not claiming that if a youngster cannot read or write he should be put with the best performer. I am saying that this drastic division is equivalent to segregation which, if it were done on the grounds of race, we would be the first to criticize. I am saying that in my view as a professional educator it is an indefensible and undesirable procedure and I wish once again to invite Government to examine the situation.

I have one more point in this connection to make on a related matter, that at the secondary level, Sir, last year I presented an analysis of the disparities that existed among the secondary schools when one compared the number of teaching staff and the number of support staff. I will be the first to admit that some of the secondary institutions are much larger than others and some have larger grounds and so on. I still find it unacceptable and I have just picked out a few. Just from this year's reports, one can do this very easily by looking at Appendix B which lists the secondary institutions of the teaching staff and non-teaching staff. If one looks at this for example, Sir, on Page 17, one would find that in St. Leonards Boys School there are 72 teaching staff and 18 non-teaching staff. So that for every four teachers there is one member of the support staff. If one goes to Page 9 with Harrison College, one finds 48 teachers and 31 non-teachers. So that means that for every one and a half teachers there is one support staff or to put it in a round number for every three teachers there are two support staff. Since I anticipated, Mr. President, that some persons might find this very difficult to understand, I converted the ratio on the basis of 10 support staff. On that basis, at the St. Leonards School for 10 support staff you have forty teachers. For Harrison College you have 10 support staff and 15 teachers, Queens College 10 support staff and 14 teachers, and Ellerslie 10 support staff and 44 teachers.

Mr. President, I would not be so naive as to suggest that one could have an identical ratio. But I am saying that there surely must be concern about this vast disproportion in terms of the support staff for varying groups of the nation's children.

I leave the secondary institutions now, Sir, and I move to the tertiary and I would like briefly to commend both the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic for the way in which they are functioning and for the extent to which they are broadening educational opportunities for the youth. I would like to commend and support increasing attention to persons performing well in non-academic fields.

Also at the tertiary level, Sir, I have a great deal of concern about some of the kinds of comments that are being made by a senior member of staff at the university. I mention this because we are providing on this year's Estimates on Page 82 something of the order of \$22 million to support that institution and I think we have a right to be concerned about the statements made by such persons. In this particular instance, Sir, it has been quite clearly demonstrated on more than one occasion that the individual has made statements which are demonstratively incorrect and indeed false. What is more some of those have been made in his own professional field. My concern is, Sir, that if such an individual of that institution, the highest institution of learning in our land, so misleads the public I can have no confidence in the integrity of the statements he makes within the classroom. Since I am not present, I

cannot prove or disprove whether he makes incorrect statements. I am only saying that he has been shown on repeated occasions to make false and misleading statements in public and, on that basis, I personally can have absolutely no confidence about the truthfulness of the statements he makes in the classroom. This worries me because we expect at least of people at university level a high measure of integrity in what they do in the classroom.

I speak now, Sir, on a matter to which Senator McClean referred. Since he spoke at some length on it, I do not think it is necessary for me to do more than express the same kind of concern which he expressed. I refer to the Sherbourne Centre. The actual expenditure, Sir, as stated in these Estimates in 1989 was in the order of \$2.4 million. The approved Estimates for last year jumped more than 100% to \$6¹/₂ million. The Estimates for this year have jumped nearly 100% again from \$6¹/₂ million to \$12 million. I share Senator McClean's concern about this. We have no indication so far as I know of what the actual total cost is going to be and I would find it very difficult to believe that Government could have embarked on an enterprise of this magnitude without having a quite clear idea of the ultimate cost. If it did, then that would be most reprehensible. So assuming that Government does have an idea, one would like to know where we are going because there has been an enormous increase from \$2.5 one year to \$6.5 the next to \$12 million. We are talking in millions. I am very concerned about this.

3.30 p.m.

As to its utility and its effectiveness and the advantage cost, as Senator McClean termed it, I will not worry to get into that, because I think he made the point sufficiently well.

I turn now, Sir, to the matter of health which is dealt with round about page 100, if I remember correctly. I am particularly concerned about the matter of the nation's health as likely to be affected by what has taken place in one of the largest, if not the largest, Zone 1 areas. Mr. President, I do not think there is any person in this Honourable Chamber who is unaware of the implications of such housing development in a Zone 1 area. Areas of that sort have been so defined for precisely the reason that it is fairly easy to contaminate our water supply. I have spoken to a few medical practitioners and they have assured me that the risk is indeed high, and common sense and knowledge of what happens in the region is enough to let us recognise that an outbreak of typhoid or of cholera could easily bring ruin to our tourist industry which is already in straits for another reason.

What I find even more disturbing, Sir, and if I had not seen this for myself I really would have found it very difficult to believe, is that a Minister of Government should, according to a report – and I am not aware that he has denied this – claimed that he is fully in support of his

constituents for breaking the law. Persons who are established in the Belle area and are contravening the regulations are in breach of the law.

What is more, Sir, I speak subject to correction, but I am not aware that the Minister of Health has come out and condemned it, and I am not aware that the Prime Minister has even said anything about it. I would hate to believe that they are not concerned, so if they are concerned, and if the matter has gone on for so long and they have said nothing, then I think that the citizens of this country, of whom I am one, have a right to express some measure of concern about what I would call this thundering silence. It is very disturbing, Mr. President, because it concerns not only the health of us as citizens, but it also concerns – and certainly no less importantly so – a significant foreign currency earner of this country, namely the tourism industry.

In relation to the Ministry of Transport and Works, Mr. President, there are two matters I would like to raise. One is in relation to one of the first points to which I referred, namely the disabled, to say that I note with some considerable degree of satisfaction that some of the new constructions are in fact making provision for the handicapped through appropriate ramps and wash room facilities, but I would like to say also that I believe that there is a strong case to be made for the introduction of legislation which would require that all new buildings and all major modifications to buildings – ramps, sidewalks, etc. – should have built in appropriate provisions. I believe that it is part of the responsibility of the State to enshrine such conditions in the law. Without that, I think there is enough evidence that not all persons will be considerate for their fellow citizens. I would therefore commend to the Government the suggestion that they at a very early date introduce appropriate legislation on this matter.

The second point I would wish to make, Sir, under this Head is one which I believe must also be considerably unsettling to citizens other than myself, and that is a statement reported by the Minister that contracts to maintain roads in Barbados might well be given outside. I would have a number of questions that I would like to ask.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Minister made no such statement and there is no such arrangement.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: As I was saying, Sir, I would like to be assured that all road contracts and so on are made available to Barbadian nationals, and I would hope that we will not in the future find a situation in which Government allocations are made in an effort to what was called correcting historical imbalances or injustices.

I turn now to the matter of agriculture, Mr. President. So much has been said about CARSICOT that there is probably no need at this stage to say any more.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY were ordered by Mr. PRESIDENT to be expunged from the record.
3.40 p.m.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: What I am saying, Sir, is that in the Ministry of Agriculture the country has been faced with a situation in which the Prime Minister in public made the statement that he would make no significant or major change in the Ministry. This affects us all. It is a Ministry on which we spend the not insignificant sum of \$22¹/₄ million, so it is not

Mr. PRESIDENT: If you want to bring a motion of no confidence against the Prime Minister, you may do so in your own right, but in a debate that has nothing to do with the Prime Minister being involved in anything, I do not consider that is appropriate for me to consider and I will advise that those things be struck from this record.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I am speaking on the Head – Agriculture

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have given instructions that those words be struck from the debate if you continue with that.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I am speaking under the Head – Agriculture

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can speak on the Head – Agriculture, I do not mind. I have no objection to your speaking on Agriculture, but I cannot have you rise to make that statement. If you want to bring a substantive motion, do so, but I cannot accept in a debate your raising that as a matter against the Prime Minister. I cannot agree with that.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: ... on which there is a proposed expenditure of \$22¹/₄ million; I am speaking, Sir, about the provisions for the administration of that Ministry; I am speaking of the fact that the Prime Minister recently appointed a Minister of State within that Ministry. This also has to do, Sir, with the administration of the \$22¹/₄ million. I am saying that

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Shorey, I have made a ruling to you already. You will either accept that ruling or sit down if you are not accepting that ruling in relation to the statement you made about the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is not in a substantive motion here and therefore this is an insulting remark that is being made and I am not going to have it in the debates in this Chamber. If you want to bring a substantive motion against the Prime Minister, go and do so. Come in and say you have brought a motion of no confidence against the Prime Minister if you want to have such a debate, but don't come in a round about manner, because I am not going to accept that.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I will move on to finance. I wish to comment on some of the implications of the policies of the Government. The restrictions on loans, Sir, have in my view, and this is based on discussions with a number of business people, some large and some that could well be described as small. Those restrictions have severely handicapped development. They have created what many of us would consider to be undue hardships on the small entrepreneur. I think that this situation must necessarily be of great concern to all of us, because, as a friend of mine is wont to say, the private sector can well be described as the engine that drives the economy, and it seems quite clear that that engine is being handicapped in its performance by the policies which Government has introduced. I think that perhaps I can leave it at that point.

I want to suggest, Mr. President, that there is need for consideration from Government's point of view of two things. Both of these points have been mooted in the private sector, and I believe that some small movement has occurred in this direction. There are funds needed for two things, among others, but these are particularly important. One is money to investigate and test the viability of small projects; the other is money to help get these projects off the ground. I am not implying nor would I wish to be accused of saying that there is no assistance available to citizens. I am suggesting Sir, that on the available evidence, and once again I have to draw on the information given me by people in the business community, there are a number of ideas that have within them the likely germs of success, but they need to be tested, and in that particular respect there is need for Government assistance.

I turn now, Sir, to the area of legal affairs. Here there are several things I think which must be of considerable concern to the citizen. We have not dealt adequately with the whole question of praedial larceny. It continues to be a situation which threatens seriously the growth and development of agriculture in our country. I am not suggesting that I have any facile solutions for this, but it does seem to me that it needs more attention than at the moment it appears to be getting. I have to choose my words judiciously because it may be getting more attention than I am aware of. What is also true and what I think is undeniably so, Sir, from another point of view, and I believe that this is a matter on which I still think a large number of my fellow citizens would be in agreement, is that there has been over the immediate and really not too distant past few years what I would call a growing disregard for law and order, what others may have termed a break down in discipline. Let me give one or two examples, Sir. I have already referred to what is taking place in the Belle area and I do not need to go over that.

3.50 p.m.

Not so long ago as time goes there was, if I remember correctly, a picketing of the Magistrates Court. That kind of

behaviour is, to me, indicative of a malaise that is spreading through the country because, in that particular instance, if I remember it correctly, the persons concerned were dissatisfied with a decision made by a Magistrate, by a ruling given by him but in that particular case, above all. There is a well established and recognized procedure open to those who feel dissatisfied with a decision made in one of the Courts and picketing, certainly, is not one of those procedures.

I am not certain, Sir, exactly how we are going to get rid of these anti-social kinds of behaviour. One could mention, also, the strong evidence of gangs, certainly, unless one assumes that all of the reports are false, their existence could hardly be successfully challenged, but it does seem to me that all of us who hold responsibilities of anything exceeding average influence, even among our peers, all of us need to accept it as part of our responsibility to seek to counter-balance this deteriorating state of affairs because it cannot be in the best interest of our country.

There are one or two other matters that I want to touch on that are peripheral to this so I will leave them for another Head, Sir.

I have one or two other concerns. I have already adverted to the need for legislation that is required to ensure that adequate provision is made for those who suffer from various disabilities. I continue to be concerned, Sir, about rape and its psychological impact on the victims.

I am not persuaded that in this instance the penalty is sufficiently severe. I hold the view, since no-one else has spoken on this today, that there is a strong case to be made for corporal punishment for all persons convicted of rape on a second or subsequent occasions. I recognize that this is likely to be one of the more controversial issues if it were, in fact, given serious consideration. But, I nonetheless, believe that the situation in our country requires that we give that kind of consideration to it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What I would like to draw to Senator Shorey's attention is that there is Rule 31 (6)(a). I would like to draw your attention to that rule.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Sir, this rule states that a Senator may not read his speech. I am not reading my speech, Sir. I am speaking from notes. Would I have the honour to pass these to Your Honour?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not aware. Your head was so steadfast in your notes that I had to draw your attention to the Rules. The Rules do not make any distinction to the Chair as between the notes and reading. I note that you were reading.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, with due respect. If I have notes I must turn to them.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Notes were not drawn to my attention but I note that you were reading from the time you stood up but I gave you an opportunity to see if you stopped reading the notes but I saw that the notes went throughout the length of your speech and it says that a Senator shall not read his speech but he may read extracts from any book or paper in support of his argument. That is what the Rule says. I would like you to refresh your mind with the Rules of the Senate.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, with your permission...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not my permission. I have no permission to give, I only work in accordance with rules.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, may I read for your information what I have here as notes so that you can judge whether I have, in fact, been reading or speaking from notes. May I read what I have here as notes?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, No. I am saying that you were reading the notes a long time, from the time you started. It was not at the end that I called upon you. You were reading them from the time you started to speak and that is why I stopped you because it was a long time you were reading a note so I am only drawing it to our attention. I think I have been in Parliament long enough to know when a person is reading notes from when a person is reading from notes.

You may proceed.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, as I was saying....

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am only drawing that to your attention. Those are the Rules of the Senate.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: As I was saying, Mr. President....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not as you were saying. As I was saying. Those are the Rules of the Senate.

SENATOR DR. L. L. SHOREY: If I may continue then, Mr. President.

I was arguing that there was a strong case for more severe punishment and I was about to go on to state that, in my view, there is a very strong case to be made for the trial of all rape cases in camera. I recognise that this is a very controversial matter but I do not think that the likelihood of its being controversial should deter us from considering this as an alternative. The rationale for this has been more than adequately spelt out on more than one occasion.

Also, under the Legal Head, Sir, I refer to the need for legislation to control jet skis. Not so long ago this Chamber

assisted in the passing of a measure which empowered Government, several weeks ago, it must be, to make such restrictions. I am not, however, aware that any Regulations under the Act have been promulgated. It is possible that that has been done but I am not aware of it.

In view of the longstanding nature of this problem, Mr. President, and of its undoubted urgency, it seems to me that the delay can reasonably be described as unduly long and I would urge Government to deal expeditiously with this matter.
4.00 p.m.

Finally, Sir, also in the legal sphere, in view of the Government's avowed interest in promoting the use of computers in the country, I should like to urge that serious consideration be given either to a removal of or a lessening of the tax on computers and accessories.

I turn to Tourism and Sports, Mr. President. Under this Head, I refer again very briefly to the potential health hazard of contamination of water supply and I leave it at that since I have spoken at some greater length on the matter under another Head.

Tourism depends on our attracting to our shores people who find it congenial to come here. All tourist venues have that in common whether they are small, large, sophisticated or simple. They depend for their success on the extent to which they can attract persons to come to them and spend time there. Most people will today agree that the offering of sea, sun and sand no longer constitute an adequate package. Other factors are known to affect the way in which a tourist destination is viewed. One of those, Sir, is the way in which the visitors perceive themselves as being treated, welcomed, treated discourteously, whatever have you by the persons resident in the country, by the citizens and residents.

I wish to suggest, Sir, that events of the past several months, perhaps going back two years, have tarnished rather than enhanced the reputation of Barbados as a visitor's destination with a strong pull. I have myself heard comments about this and I have certainly had reported comments about the disturbing influence of what can be called race oriented statements by persons holding very visible positions in our country.

Mr. President, I am suggesting that this is no light matter. I am suggesting that it is not a matter of peripheral concern. I am suggesting that it is a critical one and I am very perturbed that there should appear to be increasing in the community attitudes and behaviour which suggest confrontation as an answer to the problems that we have.

I am aware, according to report, that the Prime Minister has asserted his Government's interest in respecting the rights of all. But I think that the record of the

Government might cause some eyebrows to be raised in connection with that statement.

I am suggesting, therefore, that we are sending very dangerous signals, not only to people who might come to spend time here as visitors, but also to potential investors because it is pretty well known that the possibility of disruption in a society causes persons to think twice, either about making investments or in fact, in many cases, about actually visiting.

I believe that these are matters which each of us can contribute to solving. I believe that it would be judicious for the Government of the day to ensure that all of its Members who hold high office, by their words and actions, promote harmony in our community, just as I would wish that that would be the pattern of behaviour of all citizens, because in the final analysis, Sir, this is our country, it is the only country we have and I am one of those believing that the future and success of our country depends upon each and every one of us.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. President, Head 76, Subhead 38. That, Sir, is Sherbourne Centre, a very topical subject. The last three Senators who spoke each one criticized it in one way or another when they tried to establish an element of squandermania by the Government. They added to that the purchase of five buses which cost \$1.2 million. Quite frankly I do not take much note of that at all because we are talking about \$1.2 million in an overall budget of \$1 billion.

But, Sir, let us look at the Sherbourne Centre realistically. Earlier this morning, Senator the Hon. Dr. Clarke said to the Senate that the Sherbourne Centre would be used for three purposes. He said it would be used as an examination centre where children would perform in an atmosphere suitable for examinations. Secondly, as a convention centre. And thirdly, I believe and most importantly, as a cultural centre. It is my view, Sir, that culture is an area of our development on which the Government has to put substantially more emphasis.
4.10 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, Sir, it is very difficult to put a money value on culture. Just last week, Sir, I had the opportunity to attend a Prize Giving Day at the St. Lucy Secondary School and indeed, Sir, I was impressed by three performances which were put on by the pupils of that school. One was in the area of folklore dancing and the others were in the areas of skits and steel band performance, of which it is well known to all in Barbados that St. Lucy Secondary School is high on the ladder when it comes to steel band music. It is my view, Sir, that part of the development of tourism has to be our approach to our cultural development. I am saying, Sir, that a proper Sherbourne Centre would be the type of centre that would be opened for most of the day having alternate shows either

in dance, music, or the theatre where tourists visiting this country can go at varying hours to watch our local artistes perform. It is obvious, Sir, if we are going to develop these areas it means more training, of course, than they are now getting in secondary schools. But I believe, Sir, for the benefit of the development of tourism in this country that that will be money well spent.

Indeed, Sir, if I may make the reference to the sea and the sun, the sea and the sun is available in 101 places. That is not a big deal anymore. So as far as tourism development is concerned, I believe that we have to look at other areas to keep our tourists coming. I believe that even things like the belly dance and that sort of thing are old and worn out thing, Sir. If the cultural centre serves that purpose alone, it is my view that that money would have been well spent.

Sir, I now turn to Head 25, Sir, Agriculture. Under Capital, Sir, there is a sum of \$22,265,901 comprising, of course, the votes to Land Development and Soil Conservation, Crop Development, Livestock Development, Markets, Fisheries. A Statutory Vote is also in there of \$5,447,247. Sir, Head 25 – Capital 11 is for \$15,104,000 and this is for Crop Research and Development, Livestock Research and Development, BADC, and Special Assignments. Markets are also included.

Now Sir, Agriculture. At the moment, Sir, Tourism as I understand it generates the highest amount of foreign exchange for this country. Manufacturing, I believe runs about third and I think Agriculture runs second. It is my view, however, that Agriculture plays the pivotal role in the development of the Barbados economy and will continue to play that role for a long time. Government, mindful of the importance of agriculture to our country, has been spending substantial sums of money in the area of studies and research. In addition to this, Sir, in very recent times the Minister of Finance who is the Prime Minister has seen that it was necessary because of the importance of agriculture and because of the pressing needs of certain special assignments appointed the Minister of State, Senator Lewis, to look after some assignments of a very special nature on behalf of the Ministry. I would like to point out, Sir, that that appointment in no way reflects on the ability, integrity, or the capability of the Minister. However, Sir, in spite of the considerable efforts that Government directs towards Agriculture there has been an ongoing onslaught of criticism on the Minister of Agriculture for the way he handles the Ministry. But indeed, Sir, I believe that history will show and I believe this will occur before the year 2000 that the efforts of the Minister of Agriculture will be rewarding this country in no small terms.

Members of this Chamber, Sir, should be made aware of the type of work taking place and what is proposed by the Ministry for this year and beyond. I shall try to describe some of the many difficulties which the Government may

have in dealing with some of these matters as they come to hand. Mr. President, when people speak of agriculture invariably they are referring to sugar cultivation. Last year, Sir, the yield of sugar was the lowest in the history of Barbados amounting to some 66,000 tonnes. I believe, Sir, that with an improved crop and with the reaping well in progress now where the sugar people have been able to have a good look at what is going on it is safe to say, Sir, that the sugar target to 70,000 to 72,000 tonnes should be met this year. I know, Sir, for 1991 the Government has targeted 85,000 tonnes. Sir, this can be easily achieved but the Government will need the support of the planting community. It is important that the efforts of the planting community be made known to the Government at a very early stage. In the sugar industry, if we are to reach that target of 85,000 this means, and I believe Senator Ward can bear this out, that you must be able to begin your ploughing somewhere around April in order to have your fields ready so that the canes that you plant will be able to produce a sucrose content to an acceptable level for the sugar factories.

In recent time, Sir, there have been some rumblings in the industry. Quite frankly, some of the rumblings have been of an uncomfortable nature. But I believe, Sir, that some of it has been caused by some reckless talk that has been going on by people that one would expect a lot better from especially persons who are supposed to hold responsible positions in this country. One of them is from Cave Hill, and not Senator McClean, who has gone on record as saying, "Write off the sugar debt", as though you are talking about a company writing off a small debt of a bad account. "Write off the sugar debt." That is what he said. Another one is saying, "Give the planters the support they are asking for". I heard Senator Goddard use the figure of either \$6 million or \$7 million which he thought was reasonable support for the industry. I believe, Sir, that you cannot arrive at figures of this nature in a vacuum. Earlier today it was questioned what will be the cost of the Sherbourne Centre. In other words, there will have to be justification given for the cost.

4.20 p.m.

I believe you will have to establish this amount with certain given formulae where persons who are independent of the industry can sit down and have a look at costs, how you arrive at costs, how you deal with the interest element and matters of that nature in order to determine what is a fair amount of money the farmers should get as price support.

Now, Sir, this price support matter has been knocking around for a long time. The Government has not closed its doors to the plantocracy. As a matter of fact, the door is wide open. As far as I know discussions are continuing, yet you get a situation where the Government must feel threatened. I believe some time last month, I cannot say that the industry, but someone in the industry reported to the

Press that they were not ploughing one acre until they were satisfied with the price support. Then you had a gentleman from St. John who has some 800 acres of land, a substantial amount planted in sugar cane, again going to the Press and saying that he has given instructions that not one cane must be cut until he gets his final cane payment. Then you had a situation where Government in its wisdom has seen the need to establish a cotton industry. The record of 1988 shows that a number of persons planting cotton did reasonably well. As a matter of fact, most of them did better than projected, yet as a reactionary effort in 1989 they refused to plant cotton.

This, Sir, is a sort of regrettable situation that the Government finds itself in, because as things are now, the way land ownership is structured, Government now has to use moral suasion, compassionate requests. In other words, we are talking about this island's most important natural resource, and Government is put on the defensive by persons who own the land – and I must mention that there are not many of them who own large quantities – but they have the Government on the defensive. The Government is almost on its knees trying to get things worked out with them. I must admit that this is not the most comfortable position for a Government to find itself in, but that is the condition as it now stands.

I mentioned research earlier on. There has been ongoing research in the agricultural sector generally, not only in sugar cane, but as far as sugar cane is concerned there is an ongoing effort – and it has been so now for a number of years, I believe about 30 years or more – where they try to get varieties of cane more suitable for Barbados, taking into consideration our soil type, our rainfall and matters of that nature. However, Sir, it is to my knowledge that there is a variety of cane, I think it is called the 63 621 – Senator Ward can correct me if I am wrong – that has been around for a long time, I am told in excess of 20 years, and there is the feeling now among the planters that this cane has lost its usefulness and therefore it is important that this particular variety of cane be substituted by another variety which should be suitable for Barbados.

In recent times we have had the Landell Mills Report which was a very subjective Report. The Landell Mills Report, in my view, has been accepted for its usefulness. I do not believe persons who are involved in the industry can seriously question its credibility, because the information contained in the Landell Mills Report was obtained from persons involved in the industry and was collated and gave the result in the Report. I believe to a large extent, Sir, that the conclusions of the Report still concern persons in the industry, in spite of the contribution which they would have given by giving information to Mr. James Nurse and other persons involved in producing that Landell Mills Report.

Sir, I must make reference to the sort of ongoing criticism of the Government allowing agricultural land to be

used for housing. I myself would not support any further agricultural land to be allowed for housing, because it is my considered opinion that there is enough available rab land to satisfy properly the inhabitants of Barbados, certainly long past my days. It is from that point of view that the Government should put a full stop to releasing lands from agriculture for housing purposes, because really and truly we do not have to.

Sir, there is another problem which the Government has to face. There is a large quantity of agricultural land which is not used at all. In other words, it is just there lying fallow and has been that way for a number of years. The owners of the land, again not persons who are sort of waiting on any revenue from the land, have allowed the land to stay there, grow grass, just lie fallow, anybody who wants to use it can use it to graze cows or otherwise, and that is not doing our agricultural well. The Government in its wisdom observed that this was taking place and has made available a sum of \$3 million to be passed on to persons who are willing to rehabilitate their agricultural lands. I believe that the amount of money which would be granted, speaking under correction, is \$400 per acre. That offer has not yet been taken up because to my knowledge none of the money has been disbursed.

Government is criticised for everything that is wrong in agriculture, but I am saying that the Ministry of Agriculture, in its own right as a Ministry, and through its bodies the BMC and the ADC, has been doing the sort of work in this country that you cannot sit from your drawing rooms and understand what is going on. A lot of things are going on, Sir, and I will try to relate some of them here this evening, because agriculture has got so much negative talk that I believe persons in this country would believe that there is nothing positive in agriculture, but there is a lot positive in agriculture. There is a lot in the Government's effort. Government itself has been the example setter, and I make reference now to the Belle Plantation.

4.30 p.m.

People were highly critical, Sir, of the Belle after the Adams Highway was put in. Obviously it showed up the unwisdom of having a large expanse of agricultural land unused. On call-in programmes and I believe in the House of Assembly and maybe in this place too, Sir, the Government was criticised for allowing Government's lands to lie unused. The Government in its wisdom has rehabilitated the 448 acres of land at the Belle, and I believe that the Government should get considerable praise for being in a position to reap 100 acres of sugar cane from this crop. I understand that so far that the crop is averaging 25 tons per acre.

In addition to that, Sir, there is the River Plantation. Those who live in St. Philip know River. Again I must refer to Senator Ward because he is a key planter in here. Senator Goddard is of a smaller nature. He just buys what the

agricultural land grows. But the River Plantation as I understand it, has certain peculiarities. In other words, Sir, River has two problems: one, as I understand it, is that during the rainy weather it becomes very water-logged and drainage becomes a problem; and then conversely when it is dry, River is very dry, so dry, Sir, that it would dry up anything that you have growing on it. But, Sir, there has been a very interesting development, respecting Three Houses Spring, not far away – I believe the Honourable Senator is the owner of Three Houses. An extensive study was carried out in recent times, and the Ministry now awaits the result of that study in order to implement an extensive irrigation programme at River, Three Houses and the surrounding areas. I have not seen the study, Sir, but I know it was a costly study and I hope that the results from it would be beneficial to Government. I thought I should bring those examples. But what is interesting about the Belle is that there was severe criticism when the Belle was not used, but everybody sits mum now. Nobody will come out on the call-in programmes, in the paper or anything and say let us congratulate the Government on rehabilitating the Belle plantation. I give way to River because they don't see River. Only the people in St. Philip see River, but you pass the Belle all the time and you see what is happening.

I think I heard the Senator mention about the grass. Obviously she has got mixed up between the grass and the cane.

Mr. President, I now turn to the cotton industry. I do not want to talk about CARSICOT. CARSICOT has had a lot of whipping already. I want to deal with the principle of an integrated cotton industry. I believe that Opposition parties would love the Government to drop this project. I don't understand why politics in Barbados is such that Opposition parties always like to see Governments making mistakes. They do things to put the Government on the wrong path, instead of trying to support a Government who sees a project which could only benefit Barbados.

It is my view, Sir, that the cotton industry could only benefit Barbados when one looks at the end result, for instance, sea island cotton shirts or the bedspreads made of sea island cotton, scarves and those sorts of things. You know the sort of price you see those things sold for in New York. I don't believe they even bring them here because the people here cannot buy them. The point I am making is that the foreign exchange from cotton, once we succeed with that cotton, will far outstrip the foreign exchange on sugar cane or tourism.

Sir, it is clear in business. If a business person comes across a project, the first thing he does is to assess the project. When you are satisfied with the project you look for partners. The other assessment you have to make is of your partners. Now if your partners are overseas partners, you obviously have to go to overseas institutions to get credit reports and other reports on them. You get the all

clear and you say, gentlemen, there you go, we are ready to run and you start running. But when you start running you realise that all is not well. Does that mean, Sir, that you are going to drop the project? You drop those who are not making it well; but the project must go on, because the project will be for the eventual benefit of this country, and I do not believe that there is any one honest citizen who would say that our cotton industry is a bad industry. If they want to talk about CARSICOT and the unfortunate situation which the Government found themselves in with its partners, then, Sir, one would understand, but don't destroy the project which is a good thing because you find yourself with the wrong partners.

Sir, I move on from CARSICOT and I move to what I consider possibly to be the most far-reaching, – I am not sure about far reaching, but anyway I speak of the Barbados Agro-Processing Company. What I believe will happen, Sir, is that in another ten years in this country you are going to have about ten more agro-processing plants. That agro-processing plant, Sir, is going to be a success story; I have no doubt about that. I believe my view would be shared by other Honourable Senators in here who have a knowledge and a feel for a project like that. What that project will do for Barbados, Sir, is to launch this country forward in the diversification thrust, because we immediately would have ready markets.

As I understand it, Sir, the products which the Barbados Agro-Processing Plant would be manufacturing are those products whose marketing would be simple, things like, tomato ketchup, sweet potato chips which apparently are pretty well equivalent to the English potato chips, various jams and jellies, – I believe if Senator Fraser were here she would remember them better than I do – and things of that nature. What that is going to mean, Sir, is that Barbados will save a substantial amount of money in foreign exchange, it will also get into a more meaningful export business. Quite frankly, I support manufacture, but I have my reservations on the other kind of manufacturing. I have no reservations at all, Sir, with the agro-processing plant.

Sir, unfortunately I cannot find my notes, but I will let them go by. Before I pass on to another area, let me deal with the role of the BMC and the ADC as they relate to the Ministry of Agriculture. I would first like to make the point, Sir, that I strongly recommend an amalgamation of these two entities. I do not believe it forms or serves any useful purpose to have an ADC and a BMC. They are both two bodies under the Ministry of Agriculture and I feel that they should be amalgamated under one Agricultural Corporation. I see no reason for having a BMC and an ADC.

Now, Sir, the ADC is engaged in a wide range of activities. A lot of it may have been talked about in this Chamber before. A lot of it, I believe, is still unknown to a

number of Members of this Chamber, and I shall try to spell out here this evening some of the areas in which the ADC is engaged in worthwhile projects as we develop agriculture down the road.

At Spring Hall in St. Lucy, although it is not a success story, we have the Spring Hall land-lease project. 4.40 p.m.

Now, Sir, although the project overall has not been a success as yet, there have been enough successes there to clear in the Ministry's mind that we cannot give up on this Project. There are quite a few successful farmers there.

There is one I know who has put in some freezing equipment and so on, big enough to be described as a commercial enterprise. What the ADC has done in recent times is to have a new look at the Project. They have brought in another nine farmers on the Project for whom they have constructed houses and it is hoped that now this adjustment has been made the Project will go full speed ahead.

We have the success story of the Hope Dairy Farm. That Hope Dairy Farm is a top class farm, well managed and proper grasslands. The milk production runs third only to Mr. Williams' farms and, indeed, just last year that Hope Dairy Farm bought over from a farm in St. Andrew some 85 head of cattle because of the success that the farm has been having.

Then, Sir, there is another Project at Greenland in St. Andrew where when The Hope has their heifers, male or female, they transfer these heifers to Greenland. Greenland is in St. Andrew just as you come down the hill from Farley Hill.

Aside.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: A young male cow then or a young female cow. Thanks for the correction.

These animals are taken to Greenland and Greenland is used like a nursery. They raise the animals there and then hand them back over, using the feed lock system. They hand back over the heifers and, of course, dispose of the bulls.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The bull is only a producer?

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Yes. He is only a producer, Sir.

The Ministry and the ADC have been involved in extensive tree orchard projects. There are over 100 acres of cherries planted and I will say this to you, Sir, that in spite of that 100 acres, the Pine Hill Dairy on a weekly basis has

to purchase something like 40 000 pounds of pulp from Brazil.

It is anticipated that the Ministry needs to have 500 acres planted in cherries alone but it takes three to four years for them to mature. It means, again, that we were shortsighted there. Now we know what is happening, we will have to plant the trees. That is why I said you will see the results as you look down the road and come 1994/95 we should be meeting our requirements with the cherry pulp for the Pine Hill Dairy and for the other place.

One of the problems that the Ministry has had, and I believe to a large extent this has been the cause of the criticism of the Ministry, is it has been the Ministry's fault not to make the public aware of what has been happening in the Ministry. I really do not seriously understand how a Ministry could stand by and take the lashes left and right and never ever seem to come out in its own defence. But the Ministry has a lot going for it and, in my opinion, it is good to have had the opportunity to say to this Chamber my observations on the Ministry and its agencies.

Now, Sir, at Fairy Valley, the Ministry has 60 acres of land there under carrots, peppers, parsley and pumpkins. It is the intention of the Ministry to convert this into a hydroponics project.

When I say hydroponics, Sir, it makes me remember that the Government has a role in education to get young people interested in agriculture but I can assure you, Sir, that it is not going to be in the area of sugar cane and that sort of thing. I believe the hydroponics system, which is a scientific system, would attract even the pupils at Harrison College. There is not a lot of hard work in that. It is not manual. It is more scientific. You get the equipment set up and the success story of that is something else.

I know Senator Goddard, again, has good knowledge of that hydroponic system and I believe the Ministry of Education should try to get that in the curricula of, at least, the secondary schools in order that at every school we could have scientific research going on. We could have those school pupils involved in a project which would interest them. In other words, passing and seeing their grandfathers and so on cut canes, that is not encouraging but this system is really the sort of thing that I think that the Ministry of Education should try to have established in the secondary schools.

Now, Sir, an area that comes under the Ministry of Agriculture is the Scotland District. The Scotland District, Mr. President, comprises 1/7 of the total land mass of Barbados, just over 15 000 acres. It is possibly the most interesting part of the Island because of its geographical, geological and environmental features. However, that part of the Island has enormous problems which have to be dealt with almost in isolation.

It is for that reason, Sir, that I feel that we should have a Scotland District Authority. The Authority should have the power to direct the developments in the Scotland District. I believe I am right in saying that the question of soil conservation was started in St. Andrew somewhere in 1957 and it has gone on and on and, indeed, there is a lot of useful development in there.

When I made reference to the tree orchards just now, my mind went to the Scotland District where you see large orchards of mangoes. Of course, there are the cherries, the guavas, fairly large holdings now of bananas. All in all, that area is one that, in my view, needs special attention.
4.50 p.m.

I am not even sure, Sir, if that is one of Senator Lewis' specialties. But indeed that makes it even more in the direction that the Government has gone because of the importance of the Scotland District. The Scotland District has so many possibilities, it is unbelievable. When we talk about tourism where you could create some natural situations down there. Already there is a number of dams in that area both for irrigation purposes and used otherwise, indeed, Sir, the perfect situation where you can have diversified agriculture, where there should be some degree of controlled housing because of the possibility of land slippage. There is already craft work being carried on in that area at Chalky Mount. I believe that could be further expanded. I believe there are other minerals available in that Scotland District besides the ones now being used by the Arawak Cement Plant and by the potteries people. But I believe that it would be beneficial for this country to have such an authority established that at least the informed development of the area would be taken care of.

Now I look, Sir, at crop diversification and I look at it in respect of tourism. In other words the tourism linkage to agriculture. I read with interest two Sundays ago and advertisement from one of the hotels on the west coast where they were inviting persons to supply some 50 items of various vegetables. That made me feel that there should be some linkage between the tourism industry and the agricultural industry, as the agricultural industry diversifies and expands.

I believe there are situations where a lot of these things we now import, I do not even know the names myself, like chives and that sort of thing, could be grown here, Sir. I feel that some effort should be made and there should be some collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture in gearing our diversification programme, at least part of it towards the tourist sector.

I believe having said that, I must say this that we have got to be careful that we do not think that we can grow everything on a large scale because we are thinking of a small land mass. I think that question of the DRC cost used

by Landell Mills is an important mechanism for the Ministry of Housing and the Government in determining those crops that we should grow for export purposes. I believe there should be a difference as we look at what we are going to grow for export and what we are going to grow for the domestic market. The domestic market of course would not require as large an acreage of land as the export market. But it is important that we understand that DRC cost analysis properly and that we have a determination made as to the areas whereby we should get into large agricultural projects.

There is one other comment I should like to make under agriculture and it pertains to the Defence Force in some way. I believe that I am one of those persons who would like to see the Defence Force so structured that the Defence Force could become self sufficient in all the meat and foods, except rice. As I said earlier, there is a lot of unused land and I believe that Government should rationally look at trying to interest the Defence Force in getting self sufficient in their supplies.

I thank you, Mr. President, for this and I support the Appropriation Bill.

Applause.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I should like at this juncture to move that this sitting be suspended for 20 minutes to allow us to have some refreshment and resume the sitting at twenty minutes past five.

The question was put to the Senate and was agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly at 5.00 p.m.
5.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate now resumes. Senator Wickham.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. Deputy President, I shall not be very long. I need to draw attention to two what may be called hardy perennials. I am referring in the first place to the National Library Service, the reference for which you will find on Page 86 under Head 22, Subheads 2 and 12. Now for sometime as I have drawn to the attention of this Senate that Barbadian newspapers of the thirties, I just select the thirties because the thirties is an important part of our cultural history, have been withdrawn from public access. That means even the amateur historian or researcher is denied access to original documents not to mention cricket scores.

The reason for this withdrawal is that in many cases these very fragile documents have been manhandled, torn, and in some cases severely vandalized by people who have no sense of history or no care for the protection of old things and people for that matter. To my certain knowledge the argument was that to leave documents available to the public would be to ensure a total destruction and the inquiring public was told that arrangements were going to be made for the micro-filming of those documents so that people like myself could have access to them. I have to ask a question. Do the provisions in those two references which I have mentioned in fact ensure any early restoration of these newspapers to public circulation and to public access? I ask this question nearly every year and I get some kind of put off answer. I shall probably die before I get a look at these papers. The sad part about it is that I have seen them and in fact made some handwritten copies of certain things that interested me never thinking that I should have had to copy the whole thing. But they are no longer available. I should not need in this Senate to stress the importance of these documents. We cannot think of ourselves as real people unless we have records of these documents and they are as important as water perhaps.

The other point I want to raise or comment I want to make concerns the nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. For the last year I have had rather intimate connections with the hospital and the quality of service offered by the nurses. I am taking great care. I have been warned that I should take great care. But I want first of all to pay tribute to this body of public servants whose services are taken for granted and who work under extremely trying conditions, not trying perhaps in the physical layout of the place but trying because of the very nature of their work. They have to be patient, long suffering, and very fit because they work long hours. It seems to me that they have been neglected. I make no apology in saying that. They are neglected largely because they are taken for granted but also because no attempt seems to have been to staff the place properly.

I have gone into one of the wards to find a full ward with one nurse on duty at night assisted by an aide or by a nurse called from duty from another ward and the amazing thing is that these nurses can smile. They can be cheerful. It seems to me that is an impossibility but they do. I would be the most thoughtless and cheerless person in the world if I did not take this opportunity to make a public statement on their behalf. They do in fact need serious attention because many of them can at the drop of a hat find work somewhere else. The State of New York has relaxed a number of the conditions for the employment of nurses and many of them, highly trained and highly efficient, need only to say: yes, we are going. Then where would we be? It seems to me we owe a great deal to them and they need to be paid attention to. I would very much welcome the reassurance of the Minister that something is going to be done for them in this financial year.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

Pause.

SENATOR The HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, so many people wish to wait for the early morning and I am going to ensure that we continue the business tonight. I believe it is my duty and my responsibility. I would like first of all to say that I am completely supportive of the comments of the last speaker. I believe that for many years certainly from the time when steps were afoot to make the Queen Elizabeth Hospital an authority, several measures have been introduced by succeeding Governments to enhance the facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the plant to expand the Casualty and to improve the operating theatres. It is of prime importance that the human element without which none of the plant can effectively function should be given the highest consideration.

This question of inadequate staff, especially at night, was also drawn to my attention towards the end of last year when, like Senator Wickham, I had to visit the hospital to see relatives. I believe that the Minister responsible for Health is giving very urgent consideration to the matter. In the event that my information is not altogether correct, I believe the comments which we are making this evening will encourage him along that path because I believe that he understands very well the importance of the human element in terms of the quality of health which that institution should be providing for the citizens of this country of ours.

Having started on that note, I wish to say that the Ministry of Health is continuing to take steps to improve primary health care and that, in terms of the polyclinic services, it is seeking to improve the services of both the ante-natal and post-natal clinics. In terms of Community Health Services, it will be recalled that, in 1988, services of a Consultant Psychiatrist and Community Psychiatric Nurses and a Psychiatric Social Worker on a limited basis were instituted. This was done in an attempt to spread beyond the confines of the hospital at Black Rock the necessary care which the citizens of this country ought to be provided with. Persons are referred by Guidance Counsellors from the Child Care Board and from schools and they receive the services outside of that institution.

In terms of the provision of hospital services, activities are in train to bring on stream at an early date the provision of services to the North of the Island through the St. Joseph Hospital.
5.40 p.m.

Already a Board of Directors for the hospital has been identified, and if the appointments have not yet been announced, they will shortly be announced. Steps are in train for recruitment of the senior management staff of that institution and, contrary to comments which I have seen

elsewhere, I am certain that action is in train so that the medical care may receive whatever assistance and support it can through the registered organisation for medical practitioners. Indeed, persons who are medical practitioners will, I understand, be serving on the Board of that institution.

Over and above that, the infrastructural facilities to bring the hospital on stream are in place and orders have been placed, contracts have been awarded for the plant and equipment necessary for the hospital. In addition, it is proposed that part of that hospital be utilised for persons who have been adversely affected through involvement with drugs, and in this programme Government has a commitment to ensure that we try to save the lives of some of these persons before they become complete wrecks.

The Ministry is also concerning itself with paying special attention, in addition to the clinics which I have mentioned, to family planning and family life education clinics, as well as areas relating to school health.

In the few minutes that we have I would wish to turn to another matter which I believe is of immediate concern. I think that this is probably a good time to provide some detailed information on the much talked about Sherbourne Centre. The Conference Hall for the Sherbourne Centre will occupy some 32 000 square feet of space. It will be aimed at accommodating at a conference between 400 and 500 delegates as seating capacity in the Conference Hall. The Conference Hall will be a three-storey steel framed structure with a ground floor of 10 850 square feet comprising the main conference area, a mezzanine floor which will include Press Galleries for local, national and international news media and interpreters' booths for up to six foreign languages, and then on the first floor will be the accommodation for the support staff, the Secretariat.

In terms of the Auditorium, it will occupy 24 000 square feet, it will be aimed at seating up to 2 000 persons. The main seating area will accommodate 1 040 persons, including 22 wheel chair locations on that floor, and there will be further elevated seating on a mezzanine floor to seat 950 persons. The Auditorium will provide modern lighting and sound facilities, will be fully computer controlled and it will be able to accommodate slide movie and computer projector facilities. In addition, the stage will have a moveable orchestral pit which will allow theatrical productions to be staged as well.

Construction work on that superstructure started in November 1988. The Auditorium is by far the most complex structure in the project and will involve very intricate architectural, civil engineering, structural engineering and electrical engineering inputs, along with appropriate lighting and acoustical engineering requirements. The consultants for all of these have not only been identified, but are already working.

The third portion of the Sherbourne Centre is the one that has caused a lot of discussion, the Examination Hall area, which will be 24 000 square feet. It will accommodate 1 000 students, and be a two-storey structure with 10 000 square feet on the ground floor and a further 10 000 square feet on the second floor, the mezzanine floor.

Accommodation in the Examination Hall will include facilities for the students, for the persons administering the examinations, a box office, a post office, bank and travel offices, facilities for medicinal officer – I presume, a first aid station – Press and Secretariat offices. These will be accompanied by a foyer of another 50 000 square feet in which will be accommodated a cafeteria to seat 300 persons and a lounge to accommodate 120 delegates. The foyer will comprise 50 000 square feet of floor area at ground and first floor levels, with links between the three main structures, and it will house facilities including the toilets, telephones, elevators, etc.

The works are well in hand and will include – in addition to the external works of site drainage, roads, footpaths, car parks, retaining walls, trenches, etc. – landscaping, which will involve earth moving, tree planting, irrigation, construction of a fountain, special external lighting and construction of a pond.

For the professional services, the project architects are the Ministry of Transport and Works and engineering services have been recruited for structural, electrical, quantity surveying, landscaping, acoustical and other services. In addition to all of this it will be necessary for additional parking to be acquired for use of more than the 200 cars that the present provision can accommodate, and it is anticipated that lands East of the Examination Hall may have to be acquired or purchased in order to provide additional car parking space.
5.50 p.m.

The projected cost of the project on completion is anticipated to be buildings \$36 million, professional fees \$4 200 000 and furnishings \$480 000.

Mr. President, the Government recognises the absolute necessity to have these facilities. It is fortunate to have premises at Sherbourne which has a history in itself. It has taken the opportunity to maximise on the use of those facilities, and many of the persons who are now detractors will, when the facilities are completed, appreciate the fact that the bold initiatives to provide them have been undertaken.

In terms of the Ministry of Education, the programmes for providing additional school places at both primary, secondary and tertiary levels continue. In the case of the school system, the Government continues with the programme of amalgamating primary schools which are either under-utilised or have gone into disrepair, and where

possible they are merging schools in order to improve the educational opportunities and also to make better use of the human resources available to them. Schools which are due for this amalgamation include the Speightstown and St. Peter's schools, the two St. Matthias' schools. Those projects are already underway, as well as the school recently opened known as the Cuthbert Moore Primary School in St. George.

In terms of the secondary school system, all of us are aware of the on-going work which is being done in terms of new facilities for Queens College, and while that school is being constructed, it will be necessary for additional works to be done by the Ministry of Transport and Works in order to provide footpaths, side-walks and also traffic lights in the area in order to regulate the traffic which will, by September, be descending in that area where the school is sited.

Another school which is presently under construction is the school at Kingsland-Wotton which will be aimed at providing facilities for the catchment area in Christ Church, but there are certain patterns in the school system in Barbados which will die hard, and this has to do with the fact that children come from St. Andrew, and pass the Alleyne School to go to school at the Garrison School. Similarly children bypass schools in their immediate location and travel to St. Lucy and St. James and St. George, and as a result of all that, the transportation system is overtaxed. I have not heard some of the educators who speak in peculiar terms about how you distribute children and seemingly get them away from the first grade school, Harrison College and Queens College, come out with a formula, unless one intends to become draconian enough to say that as of 1991 no child living in the area of such and such a school will be allowed to go to any other school. How are you going to do that? So the people of Barbados have to be sympathetic to whichever Minister of Education may from time to time have the almost impossible responsibility of redirecting the patterns of behaviour and indeed the aspirations of people who want to go to the so-called better schools.

In addition, on the drawing boards there is a secondary school slated for St. Thomas. I believe that work will start on that school in the coming year.

In terms of tertiary education there has been continuing work on the expansion of both the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College. In terms of the programmes provided by these institutions, it is safe to say that both of them recognise the use of computers in the next century, and whereas I am wholeheartedly in support of the provision of training opportunities and facilities in the area of the computer, I would certainly oppose most vigorously any idea of removing the duty element from the importation of computers for the very simple reason that the Government

would be in no position to police the misuse of it. So that the schools, the children in the schools and indeed the teachers at Erdiston College are being exposed to the computer and hopefully in another two or three years we will have a larger segment of population that is computer literate. While all of this is happening in another area of activity, the Government is continuing to seek opportunities for persons at another level, at the level of computer operator, to train persons in those areas to take up opportunities which may become available in the industrial sector.

In terms of another aspect of tertiary education, Government has embarked on a pilot project to bring back what may well be described as the old fashioned Evening Institute into the system, and at four schools evening classes have started again, classes described as continuing education. That they were ever allowed to disappear from the system is altogether unfortunate. I have myself not been a beneficiary of that continuing education system, though I did make some small contribution in teaching at two or three of those locations. That obviously was when I was quite young and impressionable, and had time.

The Ministry of Education continues to support the University of the West Indies in its expansion programmes, and to guarantee whatever assistance is obtained from international agencies, and in more recent times from the European Investment Fund, the EEC, so that the Government is totally committed and indeed spends a sizable portion of its annual provision on assisting in ensuring that the quality of education that is provided is maintained with the tradition for which Barbados in the past was known.

In terms of the Community College, the Government has recently introduced programmes leading to the Associate Degree in its division of Commerce, in Accounting, Economics, Law, Government and Politics; in the division of Fine Arts Associate Degree Programmes in Fashion Design, Art and Craft, Media Craft, Art Education and Graphics; in the division of Health Sciences the programmes for Associate Degree are in Public Health Inspection, Medical Records and Technology, Pharmacy and General Nursing. Post basic programmes are in inspection of meat and foods and in Midwifery. In addition, the Community College provides programmes leading to the Certificate in Para-legal Studies, the Certificate in Business Studies as well as Secretarial Studies, including the Private Secretary's Certificate and the Secretarial Services Certificate.

6.00 p.m.

In the area of Hospitality Studies, Associate Degree Programmes are provided for Hotel Catering and Institutional Operations, in Tourism Reception and Sales. There is a two-year full-time programme also in Food and Beverage operations.

In terms of teaching facilities for the Division of Hospitality Studies, there were problems at the Marine House Compound and Government has examined the possibility of establishing a new facility for the purpose of training people in this area recognizing the importance of a Division of Hospitality Studies for the further enhancement of the tourism sector.

The College also provides for Associate Degree Programmes in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Building and Civil Engineering and Electronics. All of these programmes are aimed at producing more competent persons for the work force in Barbados.

I believe that I mentioned earlier about the schools. I would like to say that in terms of the Second Education and Training Project, in addition to providing funds for expansion of the schools including the Community College, provision is also made for the Sayes Court Skills Training Centre where the Government's Programme of exposing young people to skills continues.

Also, funds are available for human resource development. There is a human resource component of that funding which has provided opportunities for 7 persons from the Ministry of Education and Culture to be trained from the Community College, 2 persons from the Polytechnic, 1 person from the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations and three persons from the Training Division of the Ministry of the Civil Service.

In terms of a comment made by the National Library Service earlier this evening, my understanding is that the National Library Service is being provided with funds to enable it to computerise certain of its operations and they were the recipient of a gift of a computer from one of the international agencies. But, in addition, they are providing microfilming services for archaic and valuable Government records.

It is, therefore, quite in order to ask the question and I believe it is in order for me to indicate that we will, certainly, draw this again to the attention of the appropriate Minister, the absolute necessity for these records to be properly maintained.

That Department was recently also provided with a mini computer which has been installed and they also have terminals and a desktop printer in order to facilitate desktop publishing.

Mr. President, I can turn to another aspect of Government operations in which there was a query earlier today. It relates to the work of the Barbados Water Authority.

Comment was made regarding the need for continuous replacement of mains. Let me say that the replacement of

mains and the necessity for it has not escaped the Barbados Water Authority. The Authority has a great deal of pressure placed on it and in 1989/90 there were some 2 199 connections of which 1 319 were new buildings.

During the year they installed 4.05 miles of 4 inch diameter mains which brought potable water to the doorsteps of 281 new families in 20 villages. They also installed 8.53 miles of 4 inch diameter pipes on privately owned lands that were approved for housing development and this made service to 1 776 house lots available.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Yes, I am reading from a document because it is factual information I am responding to.

During the current financial year, the Water Authority realigned more than 3.06 miles of water mains on the new Highway 2A Project. Extensions of water services were made Carrington to Gibbes, Golden Grove to Bayleys, and in St. Lucy as well as from Newmarket to Hanson in St. George.

The Ministry through the Barbados Water Authority continues to explore for possibilities of additional sources of water and in the Applewaite's Basin research shows that there is a large body of fresh water around that area and there is one well already functioning there. It is proposed to sink four 12 inch diameter bore hole wells in that area in order to provide additional water services.

In the area of Hampton in St. Philip, arrangements have been made to excavate a second well in the Hampton area. That should have begun during the last week and this will provide support to the existing water services out of Hampton. This well should yield about 2.5 million gallons of water per day.

In St. Peter, in the Alleyndale area, work on a well has been restricted to bore holes on the site and work on that will continue during the year.

In addition, there has been replacement of 3 inch mains which extend from Chance Hall in St. Lucy to St. Clement's Rectory in that same parish.

What has been happening in addition to this replacement of mains is that in the Scotland District, for instance, there is a continuous replacement of mains because of the movement of the soil in those areas, so that the Water Authority and the Ministry recognize their responsibility for continuing to improve the services that are made available to the people in this country.

Let me in passing say that persons who speak glibly about the problems in the Belle area of Zone 1 need to

examine somewhat closer some of the implications of the things they are talking about.

I would never be associated with anybody or any agency involved in undermining the health care of the country and I am certain that neither the Minister of Health or any of the other Ministers would be involved in that.

One of the problems of the illegal housing development in the Belle area is that some lands on which persons are squatting are lands of private landowners and any initiative to remove them from those lands ought properly to start with the landowners themselves. Failing that, Government has a responsibility in the matter. I do not think that fact is known and I thought it was important to mention it.

However, what I am certain is that Government will not turn its eye away from whatsoever is necessary to ensure that the water supply of this country is safe, not only for the inhabitants of the country but in terms of the possible repercussions it can have on the tourism sector. 6.10 p.m.

Earlier this afternoon we were treated to a very interesting discussion on the Ministry of Agriculture by Senator Phillips which I said ought to be required reading for any member of the Senate as to the precise impact that it could make on persons who understand how to debate.

When comment was made of the Scotland District, it occurred to me that some useful information could also be supplied. I should therefore like to offer the following information. During the Financial Year 1989-90, and this work will continue in 1990-91 work was carried out at Coconut Grove, Upper Parks and Friendship where there was gabion stabilization work, at Walkers Bridge construction of gabion wing wall, and at Turners Hall there has been drainage works and asphalt penetration. Indeed a road had to be constructed in order to provide the bus service into St. Andrew through Turners Hall because of the movement of soil which completely undermined one of the roads which would take you into Walkers.

It is proposed that, on the Mascoll Road off Chimborazo there would be gabion stabilization work, that at Cane Garden Bridge there would be construction of gabion retaining walls and repairs to abutment walls, that at Coggins Bridge there would be extension of gabion wing wall and repairs to the inverts. On the East Coast Road there would be continuation of repairs to the bridges and culverts along that East Coast Road. At the Belleplaine Bridge there would be protection to the abutment walls and this is near the St. Andrew's Parish Church near where because of the force of water coming down in one of the streams, the strength of the larger stream completely removed the abutments from the bridge. That is being done. At Mellowes and Frizers there are major repairs to the

roadway. At Widewood Road off St. Sylvans Village there is reconstruction of the roadway. At Boscobel Road, there are major repairs to the broken section of the roadway. At Cattlewash and Upper Joes River, there is continuation of roadworks. This is not to mention the substantial work that is being done on Horse Hill connecting it down to the Joes River area. That is being carried out by a private contractor. At Bruce Vale, there are repairs to the bridge, and at King Street off St. Simons and at Lower Parks, there are repairs to the roadways. These represent some of the effort to ensure that it is possible to travel with some safety into what is probably the most beautiful part of Barbados.

That area I believe, like Senator Phillips, is in need of special attention because of the potential which it has, not only for agriculture and farming but in terms of its possibilities as a tourist attraction, the views, the scenery from certain parts of the Scotland District is unparalleled from any other point in the island. It would probably be unwise for me to say anything more on that at this stage. Let us wait until whatever programme develops and we will see how St. Andrew, and not only St. Andrew because the Scotland District takes in parts of St. Peter, parts of St. John, St. Joseph and even into St. Philip. Let me also say that a visit to that area is a revelation in terms of the amount of new produce which was formerly not known to be grown in any substantial quantities in Barbados. Experiments in that area have certainly never been brought forcibly to the attention of the people of Barbados. I believe if that had been done at least we would recognize that there are real possibilities for alternative crops known as the non-sugar agriculture crops.

The Ministry of Transport and Works is proceeding on substantial work during this coming year on the development of subsidiary and tenantry roads. Loan funds have been obtained in order to improve and reconstruct subsidiary and tenantry roads in the parishes of St. Lucy, St. Peter, St. James, in all of the parishes for that matter. Work has been going on in terms of highway rehabilitation on the Highway 2A stretch from Mile-And-A-Quarter to Westmoreland. Work was done on the Charles Duncan O'Neal Highway and the East Coast Road to Greenland and you are aware of these. Work is continuing on the Springhall to Half Acre and substantial repairs are being done on the Turners Hall area.

For 1990-91 work is proposed on the stretch from Lascelles to Highway 2 and from Warrens to Westmoreland in St. James. Paving of roads in St. James and St. Peter will begin. In terms of highways improvement, footpaths will be constructed in Speightstown, at Holders Hill, from West Terrace to Haynesville, I mention these, and from Husbands to the new Queen's College site.

The 1990 traffic lights programme will include the lights I have mentioned earlier, in the Clermont area near Holders Hill. In addition to that work which is carried on by

the Ministry of Transport and Works, mention was made some time during the session and I believe I intervened about the possibility of obtaining assistance from overseas in connection with remedying a perennial problem in Barbados, the potholes.

For too long the local contractors have been rushing when they are awarded contracts putting in fill which is often inferior and laying asphalt on top of it. A few weeks after that is laid, you get a depression on the road where the new track was laid. In addition potholes are often approached by putting hot asphalt brought from somewhere into an area that is not properly scarified. It is rammed or rolled over and after a quick downpour and vehicles travel over the area, everything comes out and you are back in the same state you were before, if not worse. In the United States, it has been recognized that there is technology available through a system of thermal power heating which permits surfaces to be scarified for hot asphalt thermally heated to be put into the pothole, and for the area to be rolled and seamed on to the existing roadwork in such a way that it is difficult to discover afterwards, if you drive over it anyhow, that there was any repair done.
6.20 p.m.

In terms of obtaining that technology, Barbadian entrepreneurs have indicated an interest in offering services not only for the roads of Barbados but in terms of improving the runway. The runway when it is under repairs sometimes cracks appear and, if there is a technology which is not presently available to any of the road contractors in Barbados, then I see absolutely no reason why the Government should not proceed with its best endeavours to have the services available.

Obviously, if a Barbadian company is formed and it came through a Barbadian source, that would be preferable to having any foreign contractor come and do it. I would like to give assurances that my clear understanding is that this is a technology not presently available here. But in any case the Ministry of Transport and Works would have to examine the manner in which it proceeds if it does proceed in that direction and obtain the technology. The people of Barbados will be the beneficiaries. This has absolutely nothing to do with any shade, race, colour, or religion.

Mr. President, there were a few other comments which were made and one related to the question of tourism and the criticism about the convention centre and its usefulness or otherwise since it might not be located near a convention hotel. It is a very good thing to suggest that there is a necessity to have a convention centre on the premises of a convention hotel. But I need not go far in countries bordering the Caribbean to say, for instance, in Panama City there is a famous convention centre which attracts business from North America and South America and it is not attached to any hotel. It is within driving distance of the hotels in Panama City and the Government of Barbados

would utilize the highway and whatever approaches are available to get people to the convention centre when need is established. Indeed, it may even utilize the five coaches which are the subject of so much conversation because that is all it is. It is only a conversation piece. They are a fact of life. They will be utilized for the benefit of the people of this country.

Asides

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: There are not casinos and there will never be casinos, Sir.

Golf courses, Sir. Regarding the golf courses, the Government is giving active and urgent consideration to the encouragement of golf courses. In one instance approval, as far as I am aware, has been given for the construction of a golf course somewhere in proximity of the West Coast. There is proposed expansion of an existing golf course on the West Coast as well. Provision is being made for a joint venture to develop certain scenic facilities on the South Coast and hopefully that will develop into a golf course.

I understand that there are other proposals none of which I am personally aware of for other golf course development. But it is known that the Japanese among others travel all around the world to make use of golf facilities. Indeed, in the Caribbean in Bermuda and Bahamas much of their tourism enhancement is allied to the provision of golfing courses and in Barbados we recognize in terms of tourism and sports that golf is one of those facilities which needs to be encouraged. In the same way, in terms of its sports tourism package, as a Government, notwithstanding the difficulties encountered over the last four years in getting that gymnasium project off the ground, we faithfully believe that in the coming financial year substantial progress will be made in terms of providing for the people of Barbados the long promised gymnasium.

With those brief remarks, Mr. President, I support the passage of this Bill.

Applause.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I stopped when it was nearly the hour. If I had known, I might have gone for another half hour and craved your indulgence. However, since it is clear that nobody else proposes to speak this evening – no Press to catch tonight, Sir – I should like to move that this sitting be suspended until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning on March 27th.

The question that this sitting be suspended until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning on March 27th was put to the Senate and agreed to.
6.30 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is now resumed and in Session.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I listened very carefully to the proceedings of yesterday and I wish to thank Senator Clarke particularly for laying the foundations of what I wish to do today. I also wish to place on record my appreciation to Senator Lewis for clearing the hurdles in relation to the charges of squandermania and for setting out in very clear language the uses to which the Sherbourne Centre will be put. I think the moral for Government out of all that discussion on Sherbourne is to take the public into its confidence and settle its programmes.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and Mr. PRESIDENT took the Chair.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: I wish to concentrate on the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs because this is the Ministry which is responsible for economic management and economic policy. I note that both Senators Goddard and McClean dealt in some detail with the activity of this Ministry. It is a pity I have to deal with both contributions at the same time because time restricts me, but the contributions were presented in a totally different vein. I can accept many of the points made by Senator Goddard, although I don't totally agree with him, but I think what he said made a lot of eminent commonsense and I will go on to point out the areas with which we disagree. I cannot say the same about the contribution of Senator McClean. He made so many bad points, that the one or two good points got lost. There are three key words which pervaded that debate yesterday, particularly the contribution of Senator McClean, the term "crisis", the term "squandermania" and "unreliability". These are key words in his contribution.

I have taken a little time to check on the meaning of "crisis" because I don't trust his definition. I have known him for 23 years and I don't trust his definition. I have also checked on "squandermania"

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, on a point of order, the Senator seems to be reflecting on my veracity, so to speak, of reliability of statements that I can make from the point of view of my truthfulness. He has known me for 23 years and he cannot trust my definitions.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, I take it he is talking about the matter of perhaps insufficient research. It depends entirely on how that is taken. Let us hear him explain what he is saying.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I would never cast improper motives on Senator McClean.

What I am saying is out of my experience I do not trust his ability to define things for me, his capacity to define things for me. But I do not deal in the area of motivation; it is a very dangerous area.

What the Shorter Oxford Dictionary tells me is that a crisis refers to a state of affairs in which a decisive change for better or worse is imminent. It also tells me that when you speak of squandermania, squandermania connotes a craze for extravagant expenditure, and notice the two words "craze" and "extravagant". But in this Caribbean context, squandermania means a bit more than that. We have had the famous case of Grenada I think in 1967 and I think I wish to assist Senator McClean in this respect. Yesterday he said that Sir Eric Gairy was locked up for squandermania. The record will show

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, on a point of order, I did not say that. If you check the records you will see that I chose my words rather carefully, and I did not say that. You might have thought it, but I did not say that Sir Eric Gairy was locked up for squandermania. I don't think you heard that, that Sir Eric was locked up for squandermania. I am fully aware that Sir Eric was removed from office for squandermania.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am prepared to abide by the record and I will pass on. I was trying to assist Senator McClean, but he does not need my help in this respect, but I know the record will confirm what I was about to say.

When we speak of unreliability, what we are saying is that we have little confidence in the process or the persons who are in charge of that process. Senator McClean has been at pains to point out that in Barbados there is a crisis of confidence in the management of our affairs. Mr. President, I totally reject this submission by Senator McClean in its entirety because it is unsubstantiated and unfounded. Implicit in Senator McClean's submission is that all Barbadians have good reason to feel insecure about their future wellbeing, and I will now proceed to demonstrate why that charge is unfounded. It is unfounded because in Barbados today our society and economy is characterised (1) by an adherence to the rule of law irrespective of what some commentators might say, we have never tampered with the process of the rule of law in this country, and I will never be party to a Government which fools around with the rule of law.

Secondly in Barbados we enjoy an industrial relations climate which is second to none in the Caribbean. We have developed over the years a healthy tripartite relationship; no investor has any reason to fear that he is going to invest his money in an unstable environment. Fortunately for us in Barbados, we have a tradition for responsible workers' leadership.

Thirdly, in Barbados, successive Governments have developed, going back to the days of Sir Grantley Adams, a tradition for the avoidance of rash decisions in the area of public policy, and that is something Barbados can be proud of, and it is as true of Sir Grantley Adams as it is true of the Erskine Sandiford administration. Also too over time all of our leaders have demonstrated a capacity to take appropriate action as the occasion becomes necessary, and I make bold to say that there is no other country within the English speaking Caribbean which enjoys as easy access to the foreign capital markets today as Barbados. This is demonstrated by the most recent raising of \$US20 million which was almost like a case where investors were chasing down Barbados because of its good name and saying we want to do business with you. The record will show that.

I also wish to draw the attention of this Chamber to the fact that today Barbados is the sole member of CARICOM which is providing a fully taxpayer funded education from pre-school to University. There are many countries in the Caribbean larger and with a better resource base, and the only one which can support a fully taxpayer funded education system from pre-school to University is Barbados. We have one of the best public transport systems in the Caribbean. If you go to Jamaica, if you go to Trinidad, if you go to Guyana, you will see the hassles you have to deal with in public transport, and we can be proud of our electric power company. We can also be proud of our telecommunications network; it is among the best in the Caribbean. It is in private enterprise, but there is absolutely nothing wrong with private enterprise.

Finally I want to say that irrespective of what we hear on the call-in programmes from the instant experts, it is still true in Barbados that we have a respect for fundamental freedoms upon which the dignity of the human personality is founded. I wish to note, Mr. President, that Barbados is not a perfect society. No Government is going to be perfect. A Government is going to make errors. We are not dealing with perfect human beings; the only human being who walked the face of this earth who did not make errors was Jesus Christ. I am not going to say that this administration will not make an error, but I would hope that it would learn from any errors it makes.

I wish, Mr. President, to submit that confidence in the future of this economy and the management of our affairs is not mythical, but it is rooted upon the ability of our leadership to identify the critical issues of public policy and deal with them.

I come now to the comments made by Senator Goddard on the business of estimating revenue and expenditure. His comments I think are worthy of positive note. He raises two questions. He observes that over time, and I have to agree with him - there has been a trend in Barbados where the revenue out-turn has always exceeded estimated revenue. You are absolutely correct; I went and

checked the facts. The difference between Senator Goddard and Senator McClean is that Senator McClean asserts with authority that this trend only developed after 1988, and I challenge him to refute the record on that. I am saying that Senator Goddard is absolutely correct. If you go to the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1982-83 you will see that the estimate was \$449.4 million and the actual out-turn was \$483.7 million, but if you go to the Estimates for 1979-80 you will notice the estimate is \$255.9 million and the actual revenue out-turn is \$362.8 million. You can check the facts for yourself. So I have no difficulty with the observation made by Senator Goddard, but he goes on to ask the question, is it good financial management or bad forecasting. I will deal with the second part later. He also notes that in Barbados it would appear at this time the emphasis is on revenue generation rather than capital expenditure; and it is an interesting query which he raises. 10.15 a.m.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: On a point of order, Sir.

I think that was a misquote. I said revenue generation rather than expenditure control.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Thank you. I accept fully the correction made by Senator Goddard and I note it is an interesting observation and I will deal with it just now.

On the other hand, Senator McClean asserts that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure are misleading adding that in both cases they under-estimate revenue as well as expenditure.

I think the issue raised by Senator Goddard is worthy of serious note. No reasonable person will deny that in Barbados at this time we need to exercise prudence in the control of public expenditure. But I am not going to accept the conclusion – although I do not think it is fair to say you can come to that conclusion – He raised a question – I think there is evidence that Government has tried to restrain its expenditure and you will find that evidence when you look at Government's decision to cut its capital expenditure in the financial year which is now coming to a close.

Not only Government's expenditure has to be controlled. We have to contain domestic expenditure. Public expenditure is but one component of total domestic expenditure and they have the same effect on the foreign reserves of this country.

Senator McClean's observations are of a totally different order from Senator Goddard's. They raised issues relating to methodology and judgement of the technocrats in the Ministry of Finance. I wish to submit, Mr. President, that essentially Senator McClean's observations cast a slur on the professional technocrats of the Ministry of Finance in whom I have the greatest confidence.

I wish to say, if by way of understanding why there is revenue under-estimation that any forecast is likely to result in a variation between the actual outcome and the forecasted value.

Secondly, that the ability to minimise that variance depends upon the extent to which it is possible to control the parameters which are critical to the outcome.

In light of those two observations which I have made, I wish to suggest, Mr. President, that in an economy like Barbados, which is so dependent upon foreign markets and foreign decision – making, it is impossible to predict with accuracy. In fact, the process of prediction becomes extremely hazardous.

When the technocrats in the Ministry of Finance go about making these predictions, they make some heroic assumptions and there are at least three assumptions which they make. They make assumptions about the economic performance of our trading partners. They make assumptions about the efficiency of private sector management and they make assumptions about the efficiency of tax administration.

When you look at these assumptions then, and you look at the environment which these technocrats are relating to, I feel constrained to ask the question, can one place any greater confidence in Senator McClean's estimating procedure than that employed by the technocrats in the Ministry of Finance and I say "No".

I say "No" because I happen to know some of the senior technocrats in the Ministry of Finance and I am aware that their level of competence is no lower than that possessed by those of us in the University and in the Central Bank of Barbados. I also know that they have access to more critical information in determining these outcomes than is available to us in the University, and I also know that they are more familiar with the processes which generate these outcomes.

Senator McClean made what I consider to be a dangerous proposal yesterday. He said that the Minister of Finance should interact more with his technocrats so as to refine the revenue estimates and minimise this variance. Mr. President, this is a downright dangerous proposal.

The business of revenue estimation must be left to the professional arm of the Ministry.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, on a point of order. I think Senator Alleyne's attempt to paraphrase what I said is a misrepresentation of what I said. I indicated that he should interact more – Yes – but the refinement would not come from the Minister of Finance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Beg your pardon? I am not clear. They should react more...

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Senator Alleyne gave a paraphrase of my statement yesterday which indicated that I was seeming to suggest that the Minister of Finance should impose his views on the estimation process. I made no such suggestion.

I said he should interact with the people, question them about their methodology and so on, and making the assumption the Minister of Finance should also be au fait with these things so that in the process of dialogue he would be able to induce those persons to recognise their own errors. That is entirely different from what Senator Alleyne is suggesting and I see nothing at all dangerous about that. It is entirely desirable.

If you have a Minister of Finance who has no clue as to these procedures well, he is a bad Minister of Finance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are sitting down on words, now. You say a Minister who is not something is a bad Minister? What is that you are ending on? If he is not au fait with these procedures he is a bad Minister? That is the point you are ending on?

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: No. The point I am ending on is that Senator Alleyne misrepresented the content of my...

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, No. I am going back to that but you are ending and saying that the Minister who is not au fait is a bad Minister.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: My last statement was a conditional statement.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The words I want to know.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: It is a conditional statement. I said if a Minister....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is not au fait

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: ...with the procedures...

Mr. PRESIDENT:...is a bad Minister.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN:...of Finance. I am saying that a Minister of Finance should have some familiarity with such matters. Yes, I say that. The Ministry of Finance is one of those Ministries unlike other Ministries, where you need some technical insight.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I just wanted to clear your words now. I did not want to get back in any debate. I just wanted

to hear what you say because I would have to ask that the words be taken out. You say you have not said... All right.

Go ahead, Dr. Alleyne.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I was saying that the gist of the argument was that as a result of this interaction with the technocrats of the Ministry of Finance the variance between forecast revenue and actual revenue would be reduced. That is the gist of submission made by Senator McClean and the record will bear me out. I am saying it is downright dangerous.

All of us in this Chamber have heard in another place that in 1986 there was political management of the revenue forecast. That was admitted in another place and I am saying it is a downright dangerous procedure. Let the Minister of Finance concentrate on the Estimates of Expenditure. The technocrats in the Ministry of Finance by training they should be competent to deal with the Estimates of Revenue.

I wish to be assured that when a Minister comes to this country and says these are the Estimates of Revenue, I wish to know I can have confidence in them. I do not wish to have any political tampering.
10.25 a.m.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, on a point of order. Senator Alleyne is continuing as though he is commenting on what I had to say. The point about political tampering that was revealed elsewhere had to do with the influence of the Cabinet, not the influence of the Minister of Finance in dialogue with his staff. That is an entirely different matter. That was even contravention of the submission going to the Cabinet by the Minister of Finance.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I do not know how Senator McClean knows about Cabinet decisions. Suffice it to say that if any Government, whether it is this Administration or any other Government, if they are satisfied with the technical competencies of the professionals in the Ministry of Finance, they are duty bound to provide the training and the software so that they can get on with the job.

I daresay, Mr. President, that when persons like myself and Senator McClean come into this Chamber and start to attack the public servants on this particular point, we are pleading guilty because we are saying that we have not assisted in doing the work to develop an appropriate macro economic model of this economy, attest it and make it available to the technocrats in the Ministry of Finance so that they can get on with their work. So that is what the Senator is pleading, guilty.

I daresay that any time I have to choose between Estimates presided over and prepared by the Permanent Secretary in Finance whose competence I can attest to, I will choose those any time before I choose Estimates prepared by Senator McClean.

Yesterday Senator McClean said that he is sure that the figure we have for the estimated revenue outturn in 1989-90 again is an under-estimation. The figure we have for 1989-90, Mr. President, is \$988.2 million. That is the figure we have. And he went on to say that he is sure it is under-estimated by at least \$60 million.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, on a point of order again. That is an entirely direct misquotation. What I said was that what was under-estimated by at least \$60 million is the projected revenue of outturn for 1990-91.

I did say that I believe that the last two months for 1989-90 seem to be unrealistically low, that Government would have to provide some explanation as to why they estimated a 5% reduction in revenue vis-a-vis the corresponding 2 months in the previous period when for the preceding 10 months you had increased revenue.

I said that in all probability, unless something dramatically should change during the last 2 months of the year that Government had to collect more money in the last 2 months of this fiscal year than in the previous year.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am going to accept his explanation and take it as one given in good faith.

The projected revenue for 1989-90 is \$988.2 million. I have available to me figures up to 25th March for the revenue outturn. For the month of February, the revenue outturn was \$65.2 million. For the first 25 days of March the provisional figure was \$112.6 million. You have after today, another four days to go. You spoke about fiscal marksmanship and you spoke in a vein as if it is alien to this Administration. If you notice, the projected figure is \$988.2 million and at the 25th March this year, what we have is \$975.9 million.

I find it difficult and it is a sad commentary that somebody, people with our responsibilities compare unlike things. How could anyone compare the revenue outturn in January and February of last year with January and February of this year? The reason you cannot compare them is that in this year you have the credit restrictions in place. Any businessman, he does not have to know anything about economics, will tell you that the major impact of the credit restrictions is to cut back spending on imports. Once that happens the major source of revenue in this country is going to be hurt.

I have to confess, Mr. President, that on these matters I prefer to err with David Seale who is just an ordinary businessman than someone with sophisticated training in the area of economics. I am not happy to make these comments, I must confess, because they reflect upon the institution with which I am employed.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Again, Mr. President, I do not want to rise all the time but I think Senator Alleyne is misleading the Senate when he says that in the months of February and March that duty on imports is the major source of revenue. Everyone knows that that is not the case. I ask him to check on the matter. I do not have to tell him what is the case.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I hope careful note is being taken of the amount of time I am losing. I hope you, Mr. President, would be generous enough to restore to me my time. I do not have enough time to deal with the issues I wish to deal with today.

Let me press on to deal with this issue of the fiscal deficit and Senator Goddard I know you expressed some concern that you were unsure that Government has made a clear and unequivocal statement about its position on the fiscal deficit. It is a legitimate concern to express as a businessman and citizen of this country. I wish however to point you to page 30 of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals laid in Parliament by the Minister of Finance and I read from page 30, Mr. President:

"The current account deficit must be eliminated and consequently the overall deficit will be reduced. Therefore I will introduce various measures later with these objectives in mind."

The Prime Minister has never wavered on this matter of current revenue financing current expenditures. It is a cardinal principle of finance, people who understand public finance.

Also I wish to reassure you by drawing to your attention that in relation to the fiscal deficit in Barbados the years when the fiscal deficit was at its lowest in the last 30 years are in 1965, 1969 and 1989. Those are the years, the record will bear me out when the fiscal overall deficit was at its lowest. But this Government deserves to be congratulated on taking a tough stand on dealing with that fiscal deficit on current account. We have to deal with it. If we do not deal with it, the IMF will deal with us.

Senator Goddard also expressed some concern about the size of the national debt. This is the wont from time to time of citizens of this country. The fact of the matter is one has to see the national debt in relation to productive capacity of the economy. The critical factor is that that debt should assist in building up the national assets. The important consideration is that money borrowed should be

efficiently used. So I have no particular worry at this stage about the size of the national debt. What is important is that the structure, the composition of that debt is properly managed. That is what is critical. But I think it is fair to say that this time in Barbados, we have no particular cause to worry unnecessarily about the size of the national debt.
10.35 a.m.

Senator Goddard also made the comment that one way perhaps to deal with this national debt by way of containing its rise is to resort to some modes of privatisation and it is true you did not spell them out. I wish to make however, Mr. President, a single observation and it is borne out of experience. Management is the key to efficiency whether it is in the private sector or in the public sector. I can tell you that in the last three years I have come across some of the most efficient persons in management in the public sector of Barbados. Mr. President, in another place of which I am the chairman, we spent a lot of money since 1984 trying to provide a computerized system for the National Insurance of Barbados and we brought in a private firm and paid them a lot of money. When I say "we", I mean the then board. I shall have a lot more to say about this at the appropriate time. All we got from that money was wastage, wastage, and wastage and that was not the private sector. I feel proud today, Mr. President, to say that the person who has sorted out that problem and made sense of the system is a lowly middle-order public servant. You never hear about it. The point which I wish to make is that there is no panacea for curing our difficulties by saying privatise.

The other point which I need to draw to the attention of this Chamber is that there are some areas of public enterprise, for example, the Transport Board which would be totally unwise to privatise. The reason is this, Mr. President. If you give that service to a private businessman, there are certain routes which will not be adequate to service because the revenue return is low. I have no difficulty with that because his yardstick for efficiency is profit and, if you are not making profit, give up the thing. However, Government is concerned with more than profit. It has to be concerned with balanced industrial location in this country. It has to be concerned with a balanced demographic pattern in this country. You do not wish to have everybody congregating in the urban and suburban centres. So there is an element of surplus which the Government can capture which no private individual can capture. This is not to condemn any private businessman. I am just trying to point out why it is totally unwise to put certain activities in the hands of the private sector.

I believe, however, that in Barbados there is much to be gained by joint endeavours between the private sector and public sector and wherever possible I would strongly advocate that successful managers in the private sector be brought into the public sector for a period of a year or what have you and that managers in the public sector do likewise in the private sector. I think we have everything to gain as a

community. I have had the opportunity to face with some businessmen in Barbados within the last three years and I am convinced that there is a lot of managerial talent in the private sector just as there is in the public sector.

I can tell you in 1986, and I hope the public of Barbados will one day be given the opportunity to study that report when it is tabled, the National Insurance of Barbados was in a total mess. Who sorted it out? Young managers in the public sector.

I come, Mr. President, perhaps to the most critical aspect of this debate yesterday as far as Senator McClean was concerned, this business of the foreign exchange crisis in this country. I am disappointed that I have to say it that Senator McClean did not help this Chamber to distinguish between a liquidity problem and an insolvency problem. They are fundamentally different. If you have a liquidity problem as a businessman, essentially what you are saying is that you have timing differences in meeting your payments. That is precisely what has been happening to Barbados over the last couple of months. Why has it been happening? It has been happening because of the bunching of the external debt service. I would never be so silly, Mr. President, to cast aspersions on the previous Labour Party Government and say that the present Administration is not paying their debt. I would not go down that route. I believe that the previous Administration ordered money with the best interest of Barbados at heart and that they took the money which was available to them. It was short termed money and that is why we have this very serious bunching of debt. Also too, you have a weak performance in the export sectors and the record will show, Mr. President, that this weak performance started in a very market way and persistently from 1980 not 1986. Check the record Senator McClean and you will see what I am telling you.

On the other hand, if you have an insolvency problem what you are saying, Mr. President, is that the productive capacity of your economy is incapable of servicing that external debt. That is the case of Guyana since the mid-1970's. It is the case of Jamaica since the mid-1970's and it is the case of Trinidad and Tobago since 1983.

Barbados, Mr. President, has the proud record in this foreign exchange management that it has never defaulted on external debt service. It has never sought debt rescheduling. It has never refused a legitimate request to repatriate dividend, profit, or capital from this country. It has never refused legitimate entitlements for business and vacation expenses. It has never resorted to clamping draconian regulations upon foreign exchange transactions in spite of a few foreign exchange racketeers we have here in our midst. Mr. President, no other country in the CARICOM can make this proud boast and all Barbadians irrespective of political colour should be proud of this record.

Applause.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: I go further that few countries in the French, English, and Dutch Caribbean, Central America, South America, Asia, and Africa can boast of this record and I am talking about small Barbados. I am appealing to those who tear this country down and try to create doubt in the mind of those of us who live here as well as in the minds of foreign investors to desist from this invidious practice. It is the first time in the history of Barbados that in 1989 that we witnessed people in public life taking up documents including the Central Bank and going to the public and saying that we do not have foreign reserves. What is the purpose of that? It is to create panic in the society. It is not to inform anybody. Dr. King has said again and again and I would have to know that nobody has come to the Central Bank for foreign exchange and the bank has said no. We have never done that. So I reject totally this notion of a foreign exchange crisis in Barbados. The crisis is in the minds of those who try to create panic.

I come now to this charge, Mr. President, of over-taxation. I find it difficult to appreciate Senator McClean's submission in this area. Senator McClean is discussing this business of over-taxation in a social and economic vacuum. 10.45 a.m.

He is suggesting that there is some optimum level of taxation for a particular economy, and if he was one of my students, on a rating of 1 to 10, I would give him zero. I wish to say that any level of taxation has to reflect social and political choices, and no economic analysis under the sun, if you employ that alone, could ever help you to understand a particular level and composition of public expenditure.

I am aware that Senator McClean has a fixation with the budgetary proposals and financial statement of July 1986, and I do not want to change his mind. That is not my job, but I have to tell this Chamber, Mr. President, that since 1986 a lot has changed in Barbados, a lot has changed in the region and a lot has changed in the world. I have to confess that certainly the Minister of Finance who held that portfolio in 1987 was sensible enough to recognise that he had to alter course, and that is why in 1987 he went to Parliament, reversed his proposals and raised revenue to the tune of some \$51.9 million. It is very unfortunate that he has moved on and Senator McClean has not moved on.

There seems to be a preoccupation with the level and the rate of growth for public expenditure since 1987. It is not difficult to understand it. On 28th May, 1986 something happened in Barbados which in my view is not an ordinary political election. If you check the history of elections in Barbados since 1951, the electorate has never overturned a Government in such an unceremonious fashion. Never! If you go back and check the statistical trends which became evident in the bye-elections of St. Peter and St. Thomas you will see that long before anybody in Barbados talked about \$15 000 tax free the writing was on the wall.

What was the population rebelling against? It was rebelling against starvation with respect to social programmes, starvation with respect to the maintenance of the physical infrastructure. As Dr. Clarke said yesterday, the schools were falling apart, police stations were falling apart, courtrooms were falling apart, everything was falling apart. You could not get toilet paper, you could not get ordinary supplies. That is one of the fundamental reasons why the Government was thrown out of office and I am saying that a Government which takes office in those conditions is duty bound to speak to those difficulties. In 1987 much could not be done, because the Government in its unwisdom pursued a silly implementation of its fiscal programme. Thank God it has been reversed.

They proceed to tell you about tax effort. I am saying that if you are going to make sense about tax effort and the tax take in GDP, you have to look at the social programmes which the Government is providing. You cannot take it in a vacuum. Then they tell us about squandermania, Mr. President, and I am grateful to Senator Lewis who dealt with it yesterday. I have no doubt that in time those who make the charge of squandermania and slander the fair name of Barbados, the people of Barbados will deal with them appropriately.

Mr. President, there was some talk too about low points in the economy. I wish to say that when we speak about levels of liquidity, no liquidity in the economy because of Government's taxation policy, we should look at the record. The lowest level of liquidity ever in the banking system of Barbados within the last 20 years was at the end of the third quarter of 1984. All I want to say, Mr. President, is that the public attention has got to be drawn to the real villain in this situation. It is easy to jump upon Government. Senator McClean likes to quote these. This is the February 1990 publication of Economic and Financial Statistics. I am reading from Table B5 - COMMERCIAL BANKS' CREDIT SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION. Notice, Mr. President, at the end of December 1987 outstanding credit to the distribution sector was \$151.9 million. At the end of December 1989 it was \$239.6 million. At the end of November it was \$246 million. So between the end of December 1987 and the end of November 1989 outstanding credit to the distribution sector had increased by a net amount of \$94 million.

What is the evidence? That after May of 1988 in Barbados the five year moving average for the rate of growth in commercial bank credit increased by about 250%. What explains that? Tell me what explains that. Tell me which Minister of Finance would not put a stop to that. I am telling you, Mr. President, I am serving on the Board of the Central Bank and if a Minister of Finance did not put a stop to that, I would not be on the Board, I would leave it. I do not believe in irresponsible conduct. If that is what Senator McClean wants when he will say you should not put the brake on credit, and the irresponsible

media you have in this country which will go and print stories and say the attorneys down town say they are hurting because of credit restrictions, which attorneys are they speaking of? They are not speaking about the one-door attorneys like my friend Leroy Inniss, they are talking about the big firms who do all the conveyancing for the banks. They are not talking about the small people.

I say this. If the Press is not intelligent enough to understand why you have to put on controls, something is wrong with them, because if you do not put on the controls the time will come, like Guyana, when you do not have the foreign exchange to allow them to get the newsprint to put out a paper. I do not want to see that happen in Barbados and I give full credit to the Minister of Finance to have taken the action that was necessary.

I heard yesterday about a low point in sugar earnings, and the comments of Senator Goddard are well taken. I believe in Barbados we have to take the bull by the horns on this issue of agriculture. No Government has ever done that. The reason in my view why agriculture in Barbados is in the doldrums has to do with the decay of an old and defunct system, and I make no bones about that. This is 1990. The way forward for agriculture in the 1990's and beyond is a scientific approach, not a system which depends on cheap labour and very simplistic tasks. I have said before, Mr. President, and I say again, I have four daughters and I will never advise one of them to go and work on anybody's land in the present system. If they wish to be farmers I will support them, but I have no reservations that unless we come to grips with the difficulties of the system and change it, we will be throwing good money behind bad.
10.55 a.m.

At another time I will have a lot to say on the price support. There is a lot of discussion in Barbados on price support, and a lot of uninformed discussion, Mr. President. Yes, sugar earnings are low this year, but this is not the first year they were low. They were at their lowest in 1983. Check the records. Senator Ward would know.

Mr. President, having perused these Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue, I am convinced that this document reflects a concern for containing expenditure levels. I am aware that certain provisions which have to be picked up in the financial year 1990-91 have not been provided for; the increase in wages and salaries, the salary regradings, and I understand it in the context of a Government which does not prejudice industrial relations processes. You don't know what the outcome is going to be, so what you do is to allow the parties to get together and negotiate and at the end of the day, if the revenue cannot accommodate it, you come back to Parliament and say that is the bill; but I wish to caution Government that in the context of Barbados where the total wage and salary bill entitlements not only for the direct public service but statutory corporations as well are somewhere in the region

of 54 per cent, I am cautioning Government that they are on a dangerous level. In the interest of everybody we have to continue to exercise the restraint which Barbados has always exercised in the past, otherwise we will commit self-destruction.

I am also aware that provision has not been made for price support, but that figure in a budget of this size is minimal. I am convinced, Mr. President, that this Appropriation Bill continues the tradition which was set in 1988 and that the areas which we have to direct our attention to in the year ahead is the area of credit and the foreign exchanges. We have had seven years of consecutive real economic growth in this country. No other country in the Caribbean, Mr. President, can say that with truth. Last year this economy grew by 3.5 per cent. Some commentators said it was bow-legged growth. I don't know what is bow-legged growth, but you know bow-legged people always see everything in bow-legged terms. What I know as an economist is that there was uneven growth in this economy. The tradeable goods sectors are not growing as rapidly as they should, and that is a danger signal. This appeal in Barbados to the Minister of Finance to shut off the Barbados market and let them take it over is ill-advised. I totally agree with Senator Goddard, we have to make the interventions in public policy which make it more profitable to export. But if we try to lock ourselves off here in Barbados and make sure that only Barbadians will sell in this market, it is a very myopic and self-destructive policy.

Mr. President, I believe that when the figures are stripped from this document, what comes out is a policy, because in the final analysis what I am interested in and what the country should be interested in and this Chamber should be interested in is a policy, and I have no doubt that when you strip this document of the figures, the policy which is going to come out is one which is going to consolidate the foundations laid by previous Governments and make the way for advance into the 21st century and beyond.

Mr. President, I wish to thank you and I support this Appropriation Bill with reservation.

SENATOR D. A. COMISSIONG: Mr. President, when this debate commenced yesterday, we had a big and long argument over whether Barbados was in a state of crisis or not, and we had differing definitions of what a crisis was all about. My position on that particular issue, Mr. President, is that as far as I am concerned Barbados has been in a crisis since 1627. I think the whole history of Barbados has been one of crisis. We were born in a crisis of slavery and colonialism, and throughout our whole history we have been confronted with a particular crisis, the crisis of under-development. That is the permanent state of crisis that we in Barbados and indeed in all of these Caribbean territories face. For me it must be against this background of the crisis of under-development that we must examine and scrutinise these Estimates of Expenditure and

the type of revenue that Government will need to raise in the forthcoming year. It is against this background of the crisis of under-development that we must scrutinise the thrust and philosophy of Government's programme as revealed in these Estimates.

Now yesterday Senator Goddard made a very interesting comparison between the US federal deficit and the combined capital and current account deficit of the Government of Barbados, and he sought to make per capita comparison between the two, and the conclusion that he seemed to be coming to was that on a per capita basis the Barbadian deficit seemed to be either in the same league or larger than the American deficit, and that that was necessarily a bad thing.

Now, Mr. President, I said it was an interesting analysis, but I don't think it is a tenable analysis, and I don't think it is a tenable analysis simply because we in Barbados are faced with the crisis of under-development. The United States and countries like the United States, countries of Western Europe were able to accumulate capital and to industrialise their societies over a period of centuries. They were able to accumulate capital based not only on the labour and productivity of their own people, but on the labour and productivity of numerous coloured and black slaves, they were able to accumulate capital on the basis of a widespread colonialism and imperialism, and on the utilisation of vast virgin territories after they had eradicated the indigenous inhabitants of those territories.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, we in Barbados and in the Caribbean are not that "fortunate". We do not have centuries to play with; we don't have imperialist armies to colonise areas of the world for us.

11.05 a.m.

We do not have large virgin territories to exploit. We, unfortunately, have to industrialise and to develop in a very short space of time. We have to attempt to do what they did in centuries in a matter of decades. The 21st Century is almost upon us and it is critical that we industrialise and develop as rapidly as possible.

Thus, Mr. President, the point that I am making, it is that unlike these countries the United States, Western Europe, we cannot afford to leave our developmental process simply to historical processes or to unfettered free market processes and that is why the Government in Barbados must have a critical role to play in the economic development of these countries in the laying of the infrastructure for the continued development of this country.

I want to make that point very, very clearly because I stand in the social democratic tradition. It is a tradition that I believe that the party that I represent also stands in and it is integral to that tradition that the Government has a

critical role to play in the development of the society that it manages. I make no bones about that.

In fact, that truism is one that has been recognised not only by developing countries but it is one that has been recognized by the developed world itself. Even in the United States of America, the so-called paragon of free enterprise capitalism, the Americans quickly learnt the lessons after the 1930's depression that states interventionist policies were necessary and the American President Franklin DeLano Roosevelt quickly introduced his new deal policies based primarily on the philosophy and thinking of the English economist John Maynard Keynes.

Even the British Colonial Office recognized the need after the labour disturbances in the West Indies and in 1937, the need for the state to play a crucial role in the developments of these territories and I make bold to say, Mr. President, that if one looks at the history of Barbados in the 20th Century, the real period of progress in Barbados in the 20th Century has been the period from the 1940's to the present day, the period when black Governments came into power, when state interventionist policies came into being, when the Colonial Office began to get a different perspective and the type of social and economic programmes that were needed in these territories.

If we look at our 20th Century history, the progress for black people, the modernisation and development of these territories can be dated from that period and so I am very very strong on this that especially in these small developing Third World societies the state has a fundamental role to play and this is going to become one of the critical issues of the 1990's in Barbados.

I see certain people shaking their heads and, perhaps, wondering why I am...

MR. PRESIDENT: I would like to know without these things what you are dealing with.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: Yes, Sir. I am dealing with the rationale and the justification for the level of Government expenditure in this economy.

MR. PRESIDENT: I want to know which item.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: I am dealing with it in its broad context. I am saying the Government of Barbados will be spending over one billion dollars in the upcoming financial year and I am saying that this expenditure is justified, both the current expenditure and the capital expenditure and I am making a case for a strong Government presence and role in the Barbadian society in this Barbadian policy.

I am saying that it is an issue that cannot be gainsaid, It is an important issue and I believe it will become perhaps

the critical issue for Barbadian politics in the 1990s and I think that we are myopic if we do not recognize this that this issue is going to be the line of demarkation between political parties and social forces in Barbados in the 1990s. Let us understand that very carefully.

I want to make the point further that, as I have stated already, I see the Democratic Labour Party as being in a social democratic tradition and as having a commitment to a strong Government presence. That is how I view the Democratic Labour Party.

By the same token I view parties like the National Democratic Party as a party that conflicts with that kind of philosophy, as a party that is committed to dismantling...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Comissiong let us get down to what is before us. I am not going to entertain you with going all over the arena. We have an Item on the Agenda. You have to stick to the Order Paper. You are going away from the Order Paper. What the Democratic Labour Party does and what the Labour Party does and what the National Democratic Party do is their business. What we do in the Chamber is what I am interested in and I want the Members who get up to speak to stick to the matter before this Chamber and do not worry to float all over the screen.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: Mr. President, I am not one of these empiricist persons who only see now figures. I have to put things in an ideological and philosophical context. I cannot simply deal with these Estimates by simply looking at the now figures presented on the paper. I want to know the broad philosophical and political context within which these figures operate and that is the point of view that I intend to bear on this debate.

I am saying, Sir, that Government will be spending a sizeable sum of money in this economy over the next year. Government will have to raise that money by taxation and I am prepared to justify that level of expenditure to this Chamber this morning. I see it as being necessary. I see, as I said before, a critical role for Government intervention and state enterprises in Barbados.

We have heard, for example, Mr. President, even in this debate, outside of this debate, from time to time the view expressed that certain sectors of the public owned Barbadian economy should or could be privatised.

This morning Senator Alleyne dealt with the issue of privatisation as it relates to the Transport Board and I fully agree with Senator Alleyne's analysis of that particular issue. The Transport Board this year we will be spending, according to the Estimates, I believe, some \$6 million in increasing the capital stock of the Transport Board.
11.15 a.m.

Like Senator Alleyne, I see the Transport Board and I must say I am a member of the Transport Board, as being absolutely critical to the further development of this country. It is critical because the services that it provides certainly in servicing many of the outlying country districts of this country, in providing a service for a dispersed industrial development in this country is critical to the very future of this country.

However a point I should like to make is that I think that workers not only in the Transport Board but in all of the statutory corporations have to understand very clearly that there is an enormous amount of pressure on Government to go the privatization route. We have even heard some political parties speak about their intentions to privatize the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and to a certain extent the Transport Board as well.

I think that workers in all of these state enterprises need to understand that they have a responsibility to provide excellence of service simply because it is in their own self interest. They have to understand that there is a threat out there to their very livelihoods and that they have a responsibility to this Government and indeed to any Government that is committed to the maintenance of these state enterprises to support the Government by excellence of service. I think that this is a point that perhaps this DLP Government has not made clearly enough to the workers in the state enterprises. We need to bring home to them forcefully the realities of the position that there is pressure on Government to privatize a number of these corporations and that if the workers themselves, the people who work in these corporations do not by the quality of their performance support Government then Government may very well find its hand being forced.

As I said this obtains for the Transport Board. It also obtains for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Once again this year we will be spending a sizeable amount of money on the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. But to my mind, even if we cannot say today wholeheartedly that it is money well spent, I certainly would be prepared to put up the argument that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has the potential to become a critical developmental instrument in Barbados. Once again the corporation, its management and its workers have to realize very clearly that they owe a responsibility to the Government that is committed to their continued existence as state corporations, they owe a responsibility to that Government to provide excellence of service and so to justify their continued existence and to justify their continued subsidization by the people of Barbados.

In relation to CBC I should like to say that I do not think that at this time the CBC is doing enough to make that justification real and tangible because as far as I am concerned, CBC can only justify its existence as a state

enterprise if it is playing an educational and developmental role in Barbados. If CBC is going to be devoting 90% or 80% of its programming to mindless American situation comedies and soap operas then it is not justifying its existence as a state enterprise, an enterprise that is supported and subsidized by the people of Barbados. I want to make that point very forcefully that all of these corporations have to understand that Government is under pressure to privatize them and they must support the Government. They have a responsibility to support the Government by performing excellently and by producing. I think that we in Government have to get this message over to our workers very, very forcefully.

I see for example CBC having a critical role to play in giving our Barbadian people a vision of themselves as a Caribbean people because essentially when we get down to the nitty gritty the only way forward for the people of Barbados in the next century will be as part and parcel of a wider Caribbean entity. We can talk all about Estimates here and go into our little arguments and debates over how much money we are spending and what have you but the essential reality of the next century is that there will be no decent and acceptable future for the people of this country or indeed any other small Caribbean country unless we establish among ourselves a wider Caribbean entity.

Therefore I see CBC both the television and the radio station as having a critical role to perform in giving our people that type of vision of themselves, a regional vision of themselves. CBC needs to take up the Challenge that the Voice of Barbados seems to be throwing out under Julian Rogers and Linda Walrond which they seem now to have given up. CBC needs to take up that challenge and really push hard for regional programming and programming that gives our people a regional vision of themselves.

Another area, Mr. President, in which I believe Government has to play a stronger role, I know we are talking here about a large Government Budget this year, expenditure of over \$1 billion but at the same time when you look at the reality of Barbados, there are still areas in which Government is not playing a large enough role. The sugar industry is one. Once again, I must agree with Senator Alleyne's analysis of what is happening in the sugar industry. I am one of those Barbadians who is committed to the sugar industry. I believe the sugar industry has a role to play in the future of Barbados. We in Barbados have acquired a certain historical specialization in the production of sugar. We have acquired a certain body of knowledge and expertise in this particular field of agricultural production. It is a body of knowledge and experience that has not been acquired lightly. It has been acquired over a tortuous period of some three and a half centuries of again slavery and colonialism, of hardship being suffered by numerous people in Barbados. The fact is that we have gone through that history of pain, of discomfort, of

suffering, of exploitation but it is a history that we cannot deny. As a result of having gone through that painful experience we have acquired something out of it. We have at least acquired a specialized knowledge in producing sugar. I am prepared to argue that this is something that we cannot simply throw away or jettison. It came too hard. It was too long and too painful a process to have to acquire it in the first place to simply throw it away. However I believe like Senator Alleyne that the sugar industry as presently managed and owned is owned and managed under a very unimaginative and backward system of control and management. I make no apologies about saying that. The system of management and control is backward and unimaginative. If we are to make any real progress in that industry, we will have to change that. Who can change that? From my point of view, I see a definite role for Government to play in terms of a joint, hear my words carefully, ownership and control of that industry. I am not making a point for Government nationalizing the industry and taking it over totally. But I am saying there must be some sort of joint approach. I have also made the point that it is an industry that we need to retain but we need to be more imaginative and creative in how we use this industry.

We should be looking at the various by-products of sugar production. We should be looking to make full use of the specialized knowledge that we have acquired over the years and to take it further to look at developing the various by-products of sugar production. I know that some work has been done in this but it seems to me to always have been piecemeal work. It seems to me that there has never been a real commitment behind that work. I have been advised that there are enormous possibilities for sugar to provide in its by-products a number of products that are presently provided by the whole pharmaceutical industry, that there are possibilities in that direction. I am saying that this is a direction that we need to move into but again the only realistic way I can see of that coming about is if this Government of Barbados intervenes, gets involved in the whole process. Again no matter how I look at the Barbadian economy, the Barbadian situation, I cannot get away from the reality of the necessity of Government playing a crucial role in our economic arrangements. I cannot get away from that. I cannot avoid it.

I would go even further. I have recently been looking very long and hard at this whole issue of unemployment among our young people especially and ways and means of solving this distressing social problem. Once again it seems to me that this is a task that Government must take up seriously. If we are really serious about coming to grips with this unemployment problem particularly as it relates to our young people, then we have to, as soon as possible, get some alternative programmes going in this country. I make no bones about that.

11.25 a.m.

If we simply keep on doing the things we are doing now, the problem will only fester and progressively get worse. As I said, I have been giving it some thought recently but again I have not been able to escape the necessity of a Government intervention in the problem. Although we hear that we already have this \$1 billion Government expenditure, although we hear warnings about over-expenditure and uncontrolled expenditure, when we look at the reality of Barbados we find that there continue to be a number of critical and pressing social needs and demands that need to be met. When we look at the reality of our small island economy, it becomes clearer and clearer that Government has a critical responsibility in a number of these areas. What it may well mean is that Government may perhaps have to look carefully at prioritizing its expenditures. We may need to look more carefully at what we give priority to in terms of programmes and expenditure. But one cannot escape the necessity of Government involvement.

I want to give perhaps an example as it will relate to the solving or perhaps the redressing of the unemployment problem particularly as it relates to young people. Sir, we have a serious problem of unemployment among our youth and this problem is more severe in some areas than in others. One area with which I am very familiar has perhaps the severest strain of this problem in Barbados and I am speaking about our urban area, the Bridgetown area. A number of the communities in and around Bridgetown face a severe unemployment problem particularly among its young population and one of the things that is making this problem progressively worse is the fact that you are finding large numbers of young people leaving school who for years afterwards have not been able to find even their first job. Now this is a particularly depressing condition to be in. It preys upon the psyche of that young person and often leads them to a state of psychological despondency where they lose all interest in going out there and actively seeking work. This is a problem that we cannot blind our eyes to.

I appreciate that the Government in its proposed National Youth Service will be spending \$1 1/2 million in the next year in seeking to address this situation. Now up to now all the details of the National Youth Service have not been divulged and so it is difficult to comment one way or the other on the proposed National Youth Service. However, I wish to laud the Minister for at least beginning to take an initiative in that area. I would like to offer another partial remedy to the problem and it is the institution of something that is called the "job centre". The job centre is a well known concept in the United Kingdom and many European countries. The job centre is essentially an institution, a place that is set up usually in an area of high unemployment. I will argue in the Barbadian context that it is an area of high youth unemployment. It is a place that acts not only as a job placement institution, but it is a place where young people who have been unemployed for some period of time can come for counselling in self-

employment, training needs, and in employment generally in which unemployed young people can have access to things like photocopiers, assistance in preparing job applications, access to telephones in which the young person is given all the support that they need in terms of getting them involved in either some area of employment or some area of further training.

11.35 a.m.

Again I can see some of my fellow Senators getting restless, but the point I am making is that this is another area of governmental endeavour which we presently do not have and which, because of the pressing social need of unemployed youth in particular, we need to get involved in. Obviously, it has implications for Government expenditure, but I am making the point that this is a critical area and if we do not do something very soon we are going to be faced with large communities of especially young people being more and more psychologically depressed, being more and more dependent on drugs and falling into crime, and all of the various social evils that we lament about in Barbados.

I am saying that there is a large population of long term unemployed young people who need institutional assistance in Barbados. That is the essential point I am making. It is not good enough any more simply to tell them to go and register at Verona House, or to go and search about town, that they must keep knocking at doors and asking people for work. That is not good enough any more. They need more assistance, counselling and support than that, and I am saying that there is a crying need for some new institution to be created in Barbados to address itself to that need.

I am putting forward the case for a job centre. It is a concept that is well known in Europe and in the United Kingdom, and I am saying that this is something that we in Barbados, that Government, need to look at very very seriously, because those young people need that institutional support now. In addition to that, I am saying that because we have this large problem of young people who have not been able to find work for years after leaving school, and who as a result are becoming more and more despondent, and are becoming more and more unemployable because of their mental state, we have to come to a commitment to find employment for these young people in the immediate future. I am not talking about five or ten years down the line, I am talking about immediately.

Again I see a role for Government in this. I believe that Government can perhaps look seriously at a regime, perhaps we can begin with a pilot project, but certainly to look seriously at a regime of part-time employment in the Public Service for unemployed young people who have not been in employment for a number of years. I will give an example of what I mean. Right now in the Public Service in a number of the Statutory Corporations we have some workers who work for large amounts of overtime. I am

saying that in the present situation we have in Barbados we should have a general policy, not a total policy against overtime, we should perhaps have a general policy to reduce all overtime to a minimum. In so doing we open up room, we open up space for young people who have never been employed to at least get their first taste of being in a working environment, even if on a part-time basis, even if you give them three half days a week, something just to put them into a working environment perhaps for the first time to let them feel that they are involved in some useful and constructive activity, to build them up psychologically, to build them up to a level where they will once again have the self-confidence to go out there and look for work or perhaps even get involved in some form of self-employment.

I am saying this is something Government needs to look at very carefully. Based on my observations of Government enterprises in Barbados, there are a number of areas in our Government Service where some form of part-time assistance would be very useful. You can list them. Some record keeping jobs, some receptionist jobs, home help in the National Assistance Board, there are a number of areas where there is a need and I am saying that we should perhaps look at instituting even a pilot project to see how it goes, but some regime of taking young people who have not been in employment for a period of years and perhaps just giving them a taste of being involved in a serious working environment.

The basic point I am making once again, Mr. President, if the significance of what I am saying to the Estimates debate has perhaps escaped some people, is that from my perspective Government expenditure, Government intervention is necessary. I cannot accept these simplistic arguments that just look at a rate of Government expenditure and say that it is too much or too high. I think that Senator Dr. Clarke in his introductory remarks went into an analysis of the various components of Government expenditure and showed how much of that expenditure was in fact compulsory expenditure based on wages and other absolutely essential goods and services.

Again this is the central point I am trying to get over, that I am defending Government expenditure. I am saying that we need to have our priorities and we need to scrutinise a bit more carefully where our priorities are, but I am saying that even now there are some areas where Government intervention is needed. There are some areas where Government intervention does not exist today in Barbados but is needed. This is the point I really want to get over, because as I said, this is going to be the key political issue of the 1990s. Make no bones about it, this is going to be the political divide between the parties in Barbados.

So, Mr. President, that is my conception of how these Estimates need to be scrutinised. In the field of education, once again we are spending a large sum of money on education this coming year, but again I see in the field of

education need for an addition to the whole structure. For example, I am concerned that a number of our school children come out of secondary school without having been given any proper or adequate career guidance. A lot of them come out of school, I ask them "when you were in school what did you want to do when you came out?" The reply is usually, "I never thought about it." I ask them, "Didn't anyone ever sit down and go through with you all the various possibilities of careers?" No, no one ever spoke to them about it.

11.45 a.m.

A lot of young girls come to me and the only career possibilities that they are aware of is being an cosmetologist or secretary, and I sit down and tell them, but don't you know you could be an electrician, don't you know you could be a plumber, and this is the first time they are beginning to consider any of these possibilities; so I am saying that there is a crying need in our school system for a system of career guidance, and I would like to suggest to Government now that a very practical thing that could be done in the Ministry of Education is to provide a career guidance officer in every single school and to give that career guidance officer the responsibility not only to deal with the student as they are in school themselves, but I would say that the responsibility should extend to the student up to one year after that student has left school.

In other words, I am saying that after a student has left whatever school, Foundation, Ellerslie, whatever, for one year after leaving school the career guidance officer should keep in contact with that student, take an interest in the welfare of that student, keep on counselling that student for at least a period of one year, because a lot of students come out of school and lose their way in that first year of being in the wider society, and I believe that this is an area where our educational system needs to be beefed up that at least one year after leaving school the school needs to keep contact with those students and make sure that they have gotten themselves on the correct path. So again that is another area where I see a role for perhaps even greater governmental activity.

This week is the week for the disabled, and that is another field in which I see a need for increased governmental activity, and I know that Senator Forde will back me on this, because we recently had a conversation on this. There is a crying need in Barbados for workshops for the disabled, sheltered places where disabled people at the age of teenagers or adolescents, having learned skills, can go into and produce. I realise that this is one of the things which the Children's Development Centre was supposed to be getting involved in, but apparently it has never gotten off the ground, so again that is another pressing social need. This is not a luxury, it is a pressing social need that concerns a significant and very important segment of our population.

I was reading a brief on the Children's Development Centre and I realised that there are some 850 children who have been registered there, and yet that does not represent the totality of disabled population in Barbados. Eight hundred and fifty have been registered, but there are many more out there, so again this is an area where we are presently not meeting our pressing social need and demand, and that Government needs to get into very seriously. When you get into that area, it calls for spending money. You cannot get away from that. But my essential point is this, Mr. President. There are certain social and human needs and demands that have to be met and we don't live in a perfect world. These things call for money and money calls for making a sacrifice. If the social demand or need is a genuine one, is one that legitimately deserves to be met, then I think we should be happy to make that sacrifice. Certainly I would be happy to make that sacrifice. If I know that Government is going to call upon me to make a contribution towards providing a sheltered workshop for disabled children, it is a sacrifice on me but it is a sacrifice that I would be happy to make. If I know that Government would be calling on me to provide finance to establish job centres for unemployed young people in the city of Bridgetown, that is a sacrifice I would be willing to make; it is a sacrifice well made. I think these are points that we need to bear in mind very carefully because Barbados is not a developed society, and I come full circle to where I began.

Barbados is not a developed society; we are an under-developed country with a number of uncompleted tasks ahead of us, and there are so many. When you look around, I have been lamenting the fact for a long time that in the city of Bridgetown I can't see one skills training centre. Probably the geographical area in Barbados with the highest youth unemployment and it has been so neglected that there is not even one single skills training centre in this city of Bridgetown and that is something that this Government needs to rectify, and I would call upon this Government to rectify that; that in the city of Bridgetown this DLP Government needs to establish at least one skills training centre.

We heard in the Estimates about a centre being established in St. Lucy and about one being established at Sayes Court in Christ Church. I want to put on record now my call for a skills training centre in the city of Bridgetown, and I want to rationalise that call by saying that the city of Bridgetown is perhaps the area in Barbados where we have the highest youth unemployment. I don't have concrete figures on that, but I am willing to bet that we have perhaps the highest youth unemployment in this country in the city of Bridgetown, and there is a dire need for a skills training centre in this area, because a lot of the unemployment problem is linked to lack of skills on the part of those people who are unemployed.

Mr. President, I do not want to linger much longer. There are perhaps just two brief areas I want to touch on briefly before I sit down, and they are just responses really to some of the issues that were raised yesterday. In the area of tourism for example we had Senator Shorey making a claim that a so-called race debate in Barbados was running visitors from our shores. Well in the first case I don't believe that even the figures of arrivals to Barbados over the last two or three years support that. I think that there has been a progressive increase in the level of arrivals in Barbados, but in any event, I think that we are being narrow sighted when we cannot seem to recognise that the way forward for Barbados tourism is cultural tourism. This sun, sea and sand is a thing of the past. You can't go anywhere with that. For Europeans, North Americans, whoever come to these shores we would be creating a much more appealing tourism product if we focussed seriously on the culture of this country, on the history of this country, on the creative skills of the various artists of this country, and when we focus on our culture and our history, we have to focus on race as well, and a debate on race and culture in Barbados is not necessarily a negative thing. In fact I think it can be a very positive, enlightening and uplifting thing, and I think it can make a real contribution if we learn the lessons of that debate. If we explore our cultural history, our historical background and we extract something from that, I think we can learn a lot for the further improvement of our tourist product here; so let's not be afraid of scrutinising our history and our culture and the various racial segments of our population. There is nothing wrong with that. It only becomes wrong when certain newspaper columnists and other irresponsible persons pollute the newspapers and pollute the airwaves or go to New York and make ridiculous statements about racial warfare in Barbados or racial tensions and seek to denigrate and to assassinate the characters of intellectuals and academics who are engaged in this so-called debate. That is when it gets out of hand and that is when it gets nasty, when people revert to all sorts of character assassination and personal invectives and make totally irresponsible statements about persons.

11.55 a.m.

We also heard from Senator Shorey the complaint about growing disregard for law and order and the malaise spreading through this country and all the rest of it. Again, I want to conclude on this point because it is something I feel very strongly about.

I often hear establishment figures talking about these falling values and falling standards particularly among young people and they point fingers but they never point fingers at themselves and I want to make the point that a large part of the reason for the falling standards in Barbados is due to the fact that we in Barbados, the establishment in Barbados, particularly the business establishment, has determined for us that the past to our future is to be an americanised mini New York. That is to be our future. They

laud that part of development, this so-called free enterprise, free market cosmopolitan American type development. If you want that type of development, if you push it and if you push it in your stores and in your advertisements and all the rest of it, you are not only making money for yourself but you are bringing along all the other values, the materialism, the corruption, the falling away in community values that that system has with it.

I am only saying that those members of our establishment who lament the falling away of values and point fingers all around but do not point them at themselves I think that they must be examined and realize that they, perhaps, bear the biggest responsibility for that state of affairs in Barbados because they are the ones who have to determine the path of development that this country must take or should take and I am saying that brings me again full circle to where I began because what we need in Barbados is a more controlled type of development, a development in which the Government and the private sector are partners and in which the state has a critical role to play.

With those few remarks, Mr. President, I wish to say that I support this Appropriation Bill.

SENATOR M.deL. JORDAN: Mr. President, I should like first to address my attention to tourism, Page 158, Head 43. Much has been said about Government squandering large sums of money but I should like to say that I certainly support a policy of a sufficiently large budget for this the biggest foreign exchange industry in our country.

If we look at Page 158, we can see there, I am not going to give you a recital of all the Items, but we can exactly see how it is proposed to spend this money because we must recognise that if we are to look ahead with hope to the decade of the 1990s then we must give due prominence to the tourist industry.

Sir, because this is a labour intensive industry with many spin-offs from each aspect of the business, then our investment should bear some relation to the employment generation which is so important in a country such as ours.

It must be borne in mind that a budget of approximately \$27.5 million embodies not only tourism but sports as well and when we hear cries of squandering money, we should really have it more clearly defined.

I should say that we have already seen the success of the blending of these two Heads and I look forward to an even more rewarding result in the year ahead consequent upon also a lot more publicity and a lot more promotion of the tourist plant.

I am thinking in particular, Mr. President, of the completion of the Aquatic Centre and the vigorous

promotion of our sports facilities when they are completed in every detail.

We have experienced in the recent past the loss of the ARC Race and this has been very sad to me because I understand that about 700 yachtsmen usually come to our shores every year as a result of this race and there are so many spin-offs as a result of their presence here. It is, therefore, very necessary for us to put in place the infrastructure which is likely to cause not only the yachtsmen but others to return to Barbados and others to come here in the first place.

I would therefore support the development as well as the extension also of golfing facilities. We heard yesterday Senator Lewis talked about the expansion of golfing facilities and as a golfing enthusiast myself I can tell you we just barely scratch the surface and I gather that Sir Garfield Sobers was in Britain last year and that one of the purposes of his visit was to visit some of the better known and upscaled golfing facilities.

We should be able to attract a lot more golfing business in this country and I would, certainly, support the extension of these golfing facilities provided we do not waste any money in their development. So, there again, I cannot consider that to be squandering of public funds.

Now, it is with great pride that I say when I go abroad nowadays that we are constructing a gymnasium which will be of an international standard. The cost of this gymnasium is likely to be about \$21 million and I understand that the Chinese will be putting up \$16 million and the Government of Barbados the other \$5 million. I do not think that is bad for an international gymnasium judging from all that I have been told about the cost of other similar facilities elsewhere.

We shall be able to promote the holding of such sporting facilities as football, tennis, swimming, hockey and the lot, all within the central area of a 4 000 seater gymnasium. Now, that is a mighty big structure and I think we would be able to hold some of the biggest international sporting events here when that is completed. It all bears out what I was saying earlier that I was one of the early proponents of this combination of sports and tourism and if we have the right promotion we should, certainly, attract a lot more visitors to our shores.

Mr. President, Government must be congratulated on making the decision to provide the full cost of the infrastructure for this gymnasium. I am thinking of the cost of the roads, the lights, the water etc. and I understand that Government has agreed to provide the full cost of that.

Now, we have seen that we have attracted, say, 300 visitors to the Run Barbados Run event and that is a small one. If we were to advertise in some of the bigger and better known sporting magazines, I think we would be able to

attract even some of the better known races in the business, I am told.
12.05 p.m.

Tourism development is a dynamic process responding to and indeed vulnerable to the changing and discriminating patterns of world travel. It is imperative that we not only develop new markets from which we may draw but also we have got to develop new marketing strategies. I remember some years ago, people used to say to me when I was Chairman of the Tourist Board, they said you are not spending enough money on advertisement on television. But television advertising in the USA and in Canada is extremely costly and while I do agree that it is very desirable for us to advertise more in that medium, we just cannot afford it. We do not have enough in our budget to do very much advertising on television.

My suggestion is a little bit different. I think that we can piggy back on a number of advertising gimmicks and we can have some co-operative effort so that our tourist dollar can go much further. I will explain what I mean here, Mr. President. What we tried to do then was to work together with a number of organizations which would be publicizing their events on television and in that way we got the rub off, the spin off without actually having to put out the money which we did not have in our advertising budget. I think that if we were to have some marketing strategies such as those that we would be able to attract even more visitors.

We have got to remember that not only the traditional markets have got to be tapped but some of the less traditional markets, not only in Europe but the less traditional ones in the countries where we do a lot of our promotion, in North America as well. It also depends on the method in which this is done. I have spent a lot of time on this because I have made quite a study of this. We do not wish to attract to our shores a certain type of tourist. I remember we were exposed to the tourism of people who went in tents to certain parts of Europe and we went on a field trip, those of us who were studying at the time and we saw exactly what it was like. When we came back we had to write on this. I do not advocate that we must have numbers at all costs because it would not do our country any good and it is not the sort of exposure to certain cultures that I should like to see here.

Only a week ago, Mr. President, I had a telephone call from a colleague of mine in Austria who is interested in having an airline fly into Barbados. I, of course, referred him to the appropriate authorities. I am sure there is another member sitting around this table who can bear me out on this. But he has been very interested in doing this for some time and I mention it because we have also got to make a determined effort to attract more international airlines but of course we have got to marry them to the hotel beds at the

same time. This requires very careful planning as I know Senator Goddard is probably thinking. But we can do it.
12.15 p.m.

We hope that the Sherbourne Centre will also be able in some measure to be able to provide the additional convention facilities which we need so badly. Mr. President, gone are the days of seasonality in the tourist business. I think we have got to aim at full year round employment. That is definitely the aim which I see the Board of Tourism working towards and this is the most important objective.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Jordan, may I remind you that you are not to read your statements in the Senate. You are to make the notes and make the speech, but you cannot have the notes and read from them. That is the rule of the House. It is too obvious.

SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN: Thank you, Sir. I refer to Page 128, Head 39 and I am now speaking, Sir, under the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development. Under this Head, I should like to speak about the Coastal Conservation Project Unit. This was established in 1983 and I am very glad to know about this because I think that the money which is being spent in this regard is money very well spent. I myself remember the years when we could go to the Crane and really enjoy the beach there and this is no longer possible. There is a large sum of money of about a half million dollars which has been earmarked for this coastal rehabilitation project. I think that it is a very good plan indeed because I remember we used to go to what we call the "sugar caves" and this is no longer possible because of the beach erosion. I think also of the beach erosion at Welches, Christ Church and in other places. We really should benefit considerably as a result of the expenditure under this Head by the Coastal Conservation Unit. I should like to congratulate Government on the establishment of this unit. We understand that they are monitoring other areas as well such as the coastal changes at Spring Garden and the water quality research. Money is very well spent in these areas and I do not think that one could consider any of this as being money squandered.

It is proposed that about \$3 million will be spent on a feasibility study for the West and South Coasts. I am hoping that some of this, however, would be diverted to actual corrective measures and not only spent on a study. Much of this will be provided by the IDB and some portion of it by Government. But it is my hope that a sum as large as this would not be spent solely on a study.

Let us turn our attention under the same Head, Mr. President, to the National Assistance Board. I find it easy to empathize with the sum of money which is being spent there and for the purpose for which it is being spent. I read here that in the year 1990 to 1991 there is a projected cost

of some \$5.7 million and much of this is going to be spent on the provision of services for the elderly. Now a nation is to a great extent judged by the way it treats its old people, children, and the needy and I am particularly supportive of that sum of money being spent by this Board because I know from my experience in social work how much is really necessary. I should like to say that approximately \$4.5 million according to what I read here is being spent to repair approximately 800 houses and this is out of applications of about 3,000 persons which really is not at all too many. We can see from that how many are still not receiving the attention which the applicants desire to have.

It is also proposed to build a number of units and a single unit will cost about \$10 250 whereas a two-bedroom unit will cost \$21 000. Now it is important that they maintain their own units because, if not, eventually it will cost so much to repair them that they may have to scrap them altogether. The sum of money which may appear to be large can only scratch the surface because of the need of all of these elderly and indigent persons. In this regard, Mr. President, I think of the number of homeless persons and also the number of persons who are in need of care. I am thinking especially of those who come to the Salvation Army's hostel and those who require rehabilitation services. Quite recently there has been a decision to establish an adult rehabilitation centre and a decision was made to construct a centre which will cost \$3 million. This project has had the approval of Government but because of the overall cost it has been decided to do this in stages and, therefore, the first stage will cost about \$1 million. Already about \$300,000 of this has been raised and we are confident that we should be able to break ground in June. I mention this, Mr. President, because this all falls under the same Head of those who are attempting to relieve the suffering of the needy. I do not consider the sum which is allocated here to be too much for a purpose such as this.

Mr. President, I should like to support this Appropriation Bill.

Applause.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. President, from some of the submissions that I have heard presented in this Chamber by various Senators, there are three areas that I think Government should pay close attention to. One is agriculture, sugar especially. The second one is the health of our society. The third one is indiscipline in the schools. Now sugar, whatever else might be said against it, is the second biggest foreign earner in our country after tourism. Tourism has outstripped sugar but we seem to forget that most of what Barbados is today has been achieved over the years by cane sugar. Cane sugar has put us where we are today and do not let us ever, ever forget that.

Asides.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Pardon. Well, you can call it what you like but the point is that we got some money from it. I understand and I think Senator Ward will be able to confirm this that some years ago about \$30 million was taken out of the sugar money and used by Government. I do not know if it was ever repaid. I am telling you that I understand and Senator Ward will be able to mention that. I remember him saying that in this Chamber some years ago. Anyhow, I think that I am right and he will tell me whether I am right or not. Yes. He will explain that. I do not have to go into that. Another thing about sugar is that it employs more than 5,000 people and, if we let this go by the board, what will we be doing? We will be causing absolute confusion in this country. It was said yesterday by Senator Goddard that sugar is almost on the way out now and it will possibly soon collapse if something is not done to it immediately. However, I understand that about six million or seven million dollars if injected into the sugar industry now could revitalize it, reactivate it or resuscitate it, whatever word you would like to use.

Now yesterday Senator Phillips suggested that for a Budget of over \$1 billion, \$1 million spent on five coaches was no big thing, nothing to worry about. Well, what I am suggesting is that out of that \$1 million spent on the five coaches that does not bring in any foreign exchange. If you can put \$6 million or \$7 million, you will get a lot of foreign exchange out of that.

Asides.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: All right. Anyhow, he says that it is no big thing spending \$1 million and I am saying it is no big thing spending the \$6 million or \$7 million either. Now regardless of which party you belong to, I feel that anything that is of national interest, anything that is going to do something for the nation as a whole that partisanship should not come into that at all. It does not matter which party you belong to. If you belong to the BLP, NDP, DLP or whichever, it does not matter. If we can reactivate sugar in this country, we will be doing a wonderful thing for the country as a country. I think that all politicians should be interested in that. I have never been able to understand the mental logistics of politicians. Never.

Asides.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: I am no politician, man.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Yes, Mr. Deputy President, I am sorry. I will tell you how I was brought into this. I was supposed to be in here to look after religious interests. That is what I am in here for. Right. So I

was saying that the reactivation of sugar will be far more beneficial to this country in my opinion than the building of the Sherbourne Complex. Now for all that has been said about this Sherbourne Complex, I still have a lot of doubts about it. I still do not believe that that is a viable thing as compared with what I said should be done in the field of agriculture.

Now I have been told that it is going to be a conference centre, convention centre, and an examination centre and it was pointed out already that the examinations are only yearly. Once a year we have examinations and what it means too is that these examinations must be with the CXC only. It cannot be examinations for the Il-Plus. It cannot be because the Il-Plus have over 4,000 children sitting at one time. We were told yesterday that the examination room can only hold 1400 or somewhere around there. So it cannot be for the Il-Plus. It would have to be for the CXC and the higher certificates and so on and that would be only once a year. Now that does not make a lot of sense to this fellow. Since I was in education for all the years and was principal of a school myself and we have over 21 secondary schools here, I cannot see the point of talking about an examination centre in Barbados. We have been having exams for all these years and I have not heard of any complaints of any children going anywhere to take exams. Right. Anyhow, I have made the point about that. I do not think that that is money well spent. Despite all that has been said by Senator Lewis, Senator Alleyne, and Senator Phillips, I am not convinced about that.

12.25 p.m.

People like to quote statistics, but only last week I was talking with a friend of mine and he made a comment. I cannot remember who is the author, but this person said "some people use statistics in the same way as a drunken man uses a lamp post, for support, not for illumination." I am saying it is all right to talk about how many people are employed in Barbados, how it has risen over a couple of months or years, that now it is 15.7% unemployed as against 17%, but what does that mean to the man who has no job? Absolutely nothing. The man who cannot support his family because he has no job, these statistics do not mean anything to him. When you tell him it has been reduced from 17 to 15, or that over 100 thousand people are employed, it means nothing, but he is one of the hundreds who are not employed. That statistic does not mean a thing to him.

The point I am trying to get over to you all is this. It is all right to quote these statistics, but it is better to try to find some means of employment for the people who are not being employed. That is much more important, to look for ways of doing it.

I only want to say this. I have lived in a country, Tobago, where the main crop was coconuts. I have been there when we had high winds of about 60 or 70 miles and I have seen where estates were completely destroyed as far as

coconuts were concerned. It is all right to talk about diversification of agriculture and all that – very good! We should do this too – but sugar cane is one of the hardest grasses ever anywhere. We have hurricanes, we are in the hurricane zone, and with all this diversification you are talking about, if we plant any other kind of produce, when we get bad weather those things can be destroyed. Sugar cane will fall down, lie down on the ground and come up again, so let us never forget this.

All I am saying is this. If Prime Minister Mulroney came here just last week and saved Barbados Can. \$23 million, that is what we owed them, my point is this. If we have escaped the payment of that \$23 million, why can't we not find \$6 or \$7 million to put into agriculture which could bring us so much? We can put \$40.5 million into Sherbourne, but we find it difficult to put \$6.7 million per year into sugar. It does not make sense to me.

Asides.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: I am saying what I heard in here yesterday, and we have somebody in here who knows more about sugar than anybody else inside here, than anybody on the Government side. I mean Senator Ward.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Jones, please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: I am going to turn now, Mr. Deputy President, to Health. I was very pleased to hear the Leader of Government Business, the Honourable Harcourt Lewis, yesterday say that he does not think that any Minister would do anything in this country to cause damage to our water system. I agree with that. I am pleased to hear him say that, but I would like to remind him that there are sins of commission and there are sins of omission, and if the Minister says nothing and does nothing, our health may still be in danger. It came over the news, and I am sure all of you read it too in the Press, where the Town and Country Planning Authority ordered people to move off the Zone 1 area in the Belle. At least they sent out notices to people to move. A Minister was heard to remark that he is 100% behind his constituents, the people who have the houses there. All I am saying is this, I do not know who is right or who is wrong. I also know that the Manager of the Water Authority was also opposed to the idea of people putting houses on that Zone 1 area in the Belle.

I would consider it is the Minister's duty to make investigations of all his technocrats to find out if the people in Barbados are at risk as a result of those houses being put there on that land. That is all I want to know, because as Senator Shorey said yesterday, and I repeat, if we have one case of typhoid or cholera in this country, that will be the death of some of us who are here and it will be the death knell of tourism. I am saying that it is important for us to

know from the Minister, whoever is in charge, that he has made those investigations to convince us that all can be well, we are not in any danger at all, that there is no risk to our health, because I like myself and I would like to be around here for a little while.

I also read in the paper from the Manager of the Water Authority that that particular place in the Belle pumps about half of the total amount of water used in this country. He said it supplies over 100 000 people. That is what I read. If that is true, it means that many of us could be at risk if anything went wrong there. All I am asking is that we are assured that we are not at risk where that is concerned.

I just want to turn, finally, to indiscipline in schools. I have heard people in here talk a lot about education and what should and should not be done and about the indiscipline in our schools. I would just like to say this, that in my humble opinion nobody has really mentioned what I consider to be the root cause of all the indiscipline we are having in the schools, and it is this. We say we live in a Christian society and precious little is ever taught to any of these young children nowadays about Christ who was the founder of the Christian religion. I am saying this with all the authority I can say it. I am convinced that one of the reasons why we are getting all this indiscipline is that we have not been training our children in things that are moral, ethical or spiritual.

12.35 p.m.

I am convinced of that, and as Professor C. S. Lewis said some years ago, education without a moral or ethical and spiritual background only produces more clever devils, and that is what we are doing now, producing clever devils. You can see it all the time. Sunday schools have almost gone by the board, not in Christ Church. We have over 275 children in our Sunday school, so don't worry to talk about Christ Church Parish Church at all. We are trying to see that we can get in touch with the young people. I am saying that as things are going now, unless we can get our teachers to pass on some of these values to children at that age, and I mean specially in the primary schools and the secondary schools, but by the time they reach about fourteen years old now we have mothers of thirteen and mothers of fourteen, you might be a little bit too late; so what we want to do is to get the younger ones, and if we can get the ones in the primary schools and the ones in the first and second forms of the senior schools, then we might be able to do something.

What we do not realise too, Mr. President, is the impact that adults have on children. I remember when I was a little boy going to school, when we had prayers all the teachers were there. Nowadays when you have prayers, if you have a roll of 40 or 50 teachers and you find 12 at prayers, you are lucky today. Teachers are not realising that they are models or should be models for their children. Whether they believe in the prayers or not, their very

presence there does a wonderful thing for those children; but when the children see, and the children are no fools, that when they are having prayers the teachers are not interested in the prayers, they are not interested either, and that is what I believe to be at the root of all the indiscipline we are getting. Do you know why, the Book of Proverbs tells us, train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart therefrom, and we need this. And the Roman Catholics will always tell you, especially the Jesuits, give me a child for the first seven years of his life and you can do whatever you like with him after that, we have got him already, and that is what is wrong with what is happening in Barbados today.

I want to end by just saying this, remember we are teaching children a lot about science, and bringing in all these different things in science. Nearly all the scholarships won today are won in science, but science teaches facts, but christianity and religion teach values, and what the world needs today are values, not just facts.

May I just say that beyond the horizons of today lie the problems of tomorrow, and the way we think through our problems will lead either to success or failure. It is for us to decide which one we want, success or failure. I thank you.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. President, I don't expect that I will be too long, but I would like to speak, Sir, on two Heads and these are Agriculture and Tourism which are the Heads that earn foreign currency, and we have heard quite a bit about if we are short of foreign currency and if we are not short of foreign currency, but I believe that whether we are not short of foreign currency or otherwise that foreign currency is essential to our country to operate a decent standard of living.

In introducing the Appropriation Bill, Sir, last year and again this year Senator Dr. Clarke made mention of structural changes in the sugar industry. I wonder if this means management by a foreign organisation. If this is so and that organisation is the same organisation that is managing the sugar industry in Jamaica and I believe also in Guyana, it was recently reported in the press that that organisation claimed that it had arrested the decline of the sugar industry but it was sorry to say that it had not been able to get the Jamaican industry profitable. Sir, if this is so, taking the value of our Barbados dollar, a man's wage in Barbados is \$35.44, and that is 1990 wage. In Jamaica, Jamaica receives in their dollars three and a half times as much as Barbados receives for their sugar, and the wage bill of a man in Jamaica, I couldn't believe this one, but they assured me it is true, is Jam. \$33.89 which is approximately Bds. \$10.00; and in Guyana when you convert their sugar price into Guyanese dollars, they get about sixteen and a half times as much as Barbadian dollars. The wage bill in Guyana is Guyana \$40 a day for a similar worker, and that would come out at the unbelievable

equivalent of Bds. \$2.50. St. Kitts would get 1.4 times more than a Barbadian, and their wage bill is \$20.00 a day which would be about Bds. \$14.00.

Sir, if 15 per cent or 20 per cent of the sugar funds are needed to service the sugar industry wherever it is, you would be able to easily calculate how much more money the Jamaica and even more so the Guyanese sugar industry would get in their currency to operate their industry, especially with wages such as these.

Sir, if it came to the point where Barbados does decide, and I believe that they have intentions to subsidise the industry, it would mean that, as was said yesterday by I think Senator Goddard, \$6 million or \$7 million may be necessary per annum, not one time, to keep the industry going. But, Sir, when you look at whether Barbados keeps the value of their currency where it is and subsidise the industry by \$5 million or \$6 million or \$7 million a year, it all depends upon what prices we get and the level that we intend to subsidise it to, in my humble opinion that would be, I don't know how many times better than devaluing the Barbados dollar to six cents instead of a dollar to the six cents where the Guyanese dollar is at, so it is a case of maintaining the value of our Barbados dollar and using the small sum in relation to \$1 billion of \$5 million or \$6 million a year to keep the industry operating.
12.45 p.m.

If we had to devalue like Guyana, it would mean that everybody's standard of living - in fact, we would not know Barbados. It would be in such a pitiful condition.

Senator Phillips mentioned the discontinuation of the planting of a variety, I think, 37-161 yesterday. This variety is a very old variety because 37 means that it was propagated in 1937 and it has served Barbados well over the years but like all of us when we get old we begin to deteriorate and this variety is deteriorating and it is suffering from ratoon stunting disease and, therefore, it is not viable to keep this because we are dependent on six crops and we cannot just use a variety that will only give us a proper yield in the first year.

He also said that he does not agree with the taking of land and I hope he meant arable land, out of agriculture and I am in total agreement with Senator Phillips about this. One question I ask, Sir, is, what is Government's policy about the use of agricultural land. I see up in the centre of the island which is the most productive part of the island I see agriculture land go out of production, then you hear it is cut and is sold and that sort of thing.

Then you see in the poor rainfall parts of the Island land which could be used for housing and I agree with Senator Phillips with this that we have rab land that can be used for housing without taking all this good agricultural land and cutting it up. I only hope when Senator Phillips

said rab land he means not only rab land that does not belong to an estate but estate land also.

He mentioned the Scotland District and what would be done with the Scotland District. I was very glad to hear Senator Phillips on this one because as far back as when we had the Sugar Industry Association - I was Vice President of it at the time and Mr. DaCosta Edwards was the Minister of Agriculture - I went and had an interview with him and the ideas expressed by Senator Phillips were practically what I said at that time, years ago.

I agree that the Scotland District should be used for this purpose for tree crops. There are areas, where, if tree crops were planted and they broke the wind and the salt spray, that lower crops could be put especially bananas or root crops where they would be protected from the high winds that would turn over the banana plants.

A lot of the idle land in this country is small farmers plots. Often, Sir, a farmer would have two acres of land, perhaps. He would farm it in the past and he would support a family with this land, but then his children go out and get professions or work in the Civil Service or something and this land then is left, perhaps, to a son and the son tries to work it because he has some sentiment for this land, and he finds that if he puts it in sugar that it is unprofitable and it costs him money out of his salary that he is working for.

If he goes into vegetables, Sir, he has the weather as a problem. He has disease pests and if he gets over all these things and he does manage to have a very good vegetable crop, perhaps, Sir, praedial larceny, all the demands and after he had got over all these problems, there he goes.

Then there was a mention of hydroponics and this hydroponics has a large chance of success. I really feel that this is something where youngsters that do not feel to go out to work land could be very successful. But again, Sir, yesterday I heard Senator Goddard complain that he had a successful hydroponics operation and along came the white fly and he was out of business. He was shut down. I think he could verify that, Sir.

Food Processing Plants - This Food Processing Plant has full support from the farmers in this country which indicates their willingness to diversify into other crops because when you plant you never know whether you would get a good crop or not so you plant fairly full.

Cotton, Sir. As I mentioned when we were debating the guarantee of the \$10 million some time ago for this project, I mentioned at the time that the limiting factor of producing cotton in this country, especially Sea Island Cotton, would be pickers with hand labour. It is not a crop that you can mechanise. It does not grow like cotton in other parts of the world where it all comes in bloom one time and you can put a machine in it and take it out.

Perhaps, you get three pickings of cotton one after the other and if you only pick your first cotton, your profit would be in the second and third lot that you did not pick.

It is reported, Sir, that only about 50% of the Island's cotton crop will be harvested this year because there are not enough pickers. They are advertising for pickers all the time and the Island's crop this year in cotton is a very small one. I feel that the limiting factor in our production of cotton in this country will be the availability of people to hand pick cotton.

12.55 p.m.

I do not believe, Sir, that we will lose 50% of it. With my experience driving around, I am sure that they will harvest more than 50%. But perhaps the idea with non harvesting would be used to put the blame that the cotton crop was not as good as they expected it to be.

It was reported in the press that farmers were boycotting the cotton industry. But I do not think this is so, Mr. President. In my opinion when the farmers heard all of the controversy and the rumours that were going around with CARSICOT and its multiplicity of subsidiaries, I have never seen one industry with so many subsidiaries, never yet. If they were necessary in the cotton industry, we should have 30 in the sugar industry comparing the size of the two. But every subsidiary meant that that subsidiary was taking a slice out of the income that was serviced from cotton. Then it was published that some of the chief executives of these various companies were earning \$10 000 a month and one ex-patriot was earning \$30 000 a month. There was another Barbadian involved in the cotton industry, I know because he came in my office and chatted with me about cotton. But we never heard what his pay was going to be.

But, Sir, with all these rumours, not only rumours but knowledge that came out of this it was not surprising that people, farmers began to be very suspicious about this whole cotton thing. We now hear that perhaps there is going to be court action about the formation of this thing. They formed it from at top, like when you are going to dig a well, you start at top and go down. They formed this cotton operation from top coming down and then what they figured would be left they said, well you would have to go into that.

If this cotton organization had been set up like the food processing plant over and above board, farmers knew everything that was going on about it and so on, I am sure that it would have been very much further than it where it is today.

Mr. President, with those few remarks, perhaps it would be good if we were to look at a few suggestions that would perhaps help agriculture and the sugar industry in particular. It would be unrealistic, Sir, to expect an industry that is I think aptly described as being in crisis that this

industry could service an interest debt approximately of \$20 million a year. When you look at the debts of the sugar industry, not all I do not think are with Senator Phillips in his bank but the bulk is in there with him. But when you look at servicing interest on \$200 million a year and then interest on working capital during the year, it would not be far from \$20 million for the year in interest.

Mr. President, it is unrealistic to expect an industry that is in this critical condition to service interest of \$20 million a year. In my opinion that interest should be waived. I am not saying that the debt should be forgiven because we are not all Canadian Prime Ministers but I am saying that it is unrealistic to continue to calculate \$20 million in interest and add to a debt from year to year. It does not make sense. I am not saying that the interest should be waived forever and a day. But I am saying that interest should be waived until the industry was given a chance to get out of this predicament which it finds itself in.

The support that is given to the sugar industry, if it is \$5 million, \$7 million a year does not materially affect the cash flow on the country because if it is given to the industry to make it viable, the money that the industry makes would go to the Barbados National Bank in the main to be used against the debt of the industry. It is not to say that the Government is taking up the money and sending it out of the island. This is money that is going back into the Government's bank. It is not being lost to the country. It is going back and Senator Phillips will be the person who will be on the receiving end. There is a little bit of any profit that would go perhaps to Barclays Bank but I think that is about the only bank that is servicing the industry other than the Barbados National Bank.

If, Sir, there are a few estates – and very few if there are any – that do not owe money to the banks at the moment, the owners of such estates would have the profit from them. If it is a good one, the Government would receive 35% of the profit in Corporation Tax and they would also get the benefit of the foreign currency that this exceptional estate would be producing. It seems, Sir, that somebody is afraid that in agriculture some agriculturalists would get a profit. But they should not be afraid of that, Sir. The industry has been losing money for very nearly a decade.

1.05 p.m.

Asides

SENATOR L. A. WARD: You ask Senator Phillips. Senator Comissiong said that not enough had been done about using our by-products. Well, Sir, as I just said for the last decade or very nearly a decade, the industry has been losing money and the first priority of the industry was to keep itself going with funds that were available. There was no money that could be spent in research. Research means that you spend money. Sometimes it is off and sometimes it

is a failure. The industry is in no position to do this on its own.

Well, Sir, that is as much as I intended to say on agriculture. But there are one or two comments that I would like to make about tourism. We have heard recently – I must declare an interest at this point and I should have done so on sugar also – from visitors to the country that the cost of food and beverages in the industry is getting extremely high compared with similar destinations and meals that they get from the various hotels in those destinations. This I have quoted in here already and Senator Clarke has a copy of the difference between the duty of the various liquors among the various West Indian islands and it begins at a low of something like \$58.00 for one and goes to \$178 I think it is. So any visitor to the country who passes through another island for part of his holiday and comes to Barbados will get the impression that the Barbadian hotelier is ripping him off. But really and truly it is the cost of duty on liquor. Recently, they are complaining about the cost of meals. The tourist knows the cost of his room before he leaves home, but when he gets down here he finds that the cost of food and beverages is very high.

Now, Sir, the question of the pollution and what it can do to the sugar industry has been thoroughly dealt with. I would not go into that again. I must say, Sir, that the problems the hotels were having with what I believe is commonly known as "beach bums" have been corrected in a large measure over the last number of months. We have had good support from the police with this. But Sir, the same people have moved off the beach 100 or 150 yards inland and they are molesting and robbing the tourists. I know it is difficult, but they have moved from the beaches and gone further inland and they are still picking a living out of the tourists.

Every year, Sir, we hear that the winter season is going to be a wonderful one and so on. This year I am sure that we are going to be very disappointed when we see the results of the winter earnings from tourism. There is one thing that I spoke of, I think it was last year, which I would be interested in hearing and that is, how well Heywoods and Hilton are doing. It would be of some guide to us in the industry to know whether we are doing well enough or not well enough. We used to see at one time revenue that came in from Hilton, but then it was put into the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and we do not see it anymore. It would be good to know, Sir, if they are making money because the balance of the industry is not doing that well. In today's Press I see where Ramada Inn is interested in taking over Grand Barbados Beach Hotel and that as you know has good management because the Hotelier of the Year is manager of that hotel. I thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m.

The question that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and was agreed to.
1.15 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, in rising to add my voice to this year's debate on the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates annexed thereto, I wish first of all to turn your attention to Head 12, Parliament.

My concern does not lie with the amounts of money that have been allocated to this Head for the ensuing year, but rather I wish to draw this Chamber's attention to the Constitution's provision for the composition of Parliament. In doing so I refer to clause 74(2) and clause 36(3) of the Constitution of Barbados.

First of all, I should express the reasons why I feel it necessary to draw this Chamber's attention to these matters, and that is because there have been some statements bandied about in public places, in the Other Place and in this august Chamber referring to the composition of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and the two Opposition Senators who represent the interest of the Opposition party in this Chamber. These statements have been made by no less persons than those who pride themselves and hold themselves out to be the constitutional experts in this country and it is for this reason, Sir, it is therefore very surprising that with the change in the personages who comprise Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the Other Place, and in the change of the two Opposition Senators in this Chamber, there should abound such vulgar cries which amount to allegations of usurpation of office, back raising of persons who were thought to be legitimately here or legitimately in the Other Place in certain capacities. It has even gone as far, Sir, in statements by the one Senator who has recently departed this Chamber referring to the interest which I represent in this Chamber as "that lot" "them" "they" and such what I would respectfully submit is unparliamentary language.

I do not wish to spend too long on this, suffice it to say that by clause 74(2) of the Constitution of this country to persons who comprise Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and the Leader thereof is the person who commands the majority of those persons who do not support the Government. By clause 36(3) of that very sacred document the Leader of the Opposition is empowered to recommend

to the Governor-General that two Senators representing the interest of the Opposition be appointed to the Senate. Might I add, Sir, the Constitution does not recognise the existence of political parties or party affiliation, neither does the composition of Parliament as provided for in the Constitution recognise such classes of persons. However, the Constitution fundamentally guarantees freedom of association and freedom of assembly.

Those persons who now represent Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the Other Place and in this Honourable Chamber have grouped themselves outside of that Place and this Honourable Chamber together and have called themselves the National Democratic Party. It is fundamentally a disregard for the fundamental freedoms and rights, a disregard for the conventions, traditions of that Other Place and of this Honourable one, that persons should seek to suggest, and in fact suggest and allege, that Members who outside of these Chambers call themselves the National Democratic Party have no right in that Place or this.

I wish, Sir, to place on record my feelings in that regard in the strongest manner. That such a situation has occurred in this country, in Parliament, Head 12, approximately one year ago could have occurred, was the kind of situation that was provided for by the Constitution. The fact that the interest which I represent has not been tested as a political party at the electoral level, and therefore at this juncture it is difficult to gauge officially the percentage support, in terms of support at the poll, is no fault of Members of the National Democratic Party, or indeed of anybody else. If anything, Sir, this is the Constitution that was drafted, promulgated and fought so earnestly for by no less a person than the late Right Honourable Errol Barrow, the past Leader of the other side. If therefore certain persons have problems with the existence of Members of the National Democratic Party in Parliament, it might be that they could cast their minds rather towards the fact that it could have been their short-sightedness which never allowed them to envisage that such a situation could have come about.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Brathwaite, I do not want to cross you, but is that something that is taking place in this Chamber? I am not aware that anyone has raised that issue.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, I have been very fortunate and privileged to be a Member of this Honourable Chamber for just over one year now and I have heard...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I want to know who has raised that matter that you are complaining of in this Chamber.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: I mentioned, Sir, the most recent allegations that I heard in this Chamber

were made by the most recently departed Senator, Sir James Tudor, the last speech he made, and Senator Comissiong.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Comissiong is not in his place and Sir James Tudor is no longer a member of the Senate, so I would not like a debate to be raised on something that is said about persons who are not here. One is a Member of the Senate and if you are taking exception to something that Senator Comissiong said I would prefer you raised a matter like that in his presence. It would be fair to him.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, I refrained from identifying persons because I recognised, first of all, the precise point...

Mr. PRESIDENT: What I am asking is, was it raised in this Chamber?

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: That is the question I answered just now, Mr. President. I understand that is the question you asked and it is the question I gave an answer to.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is it a matter you can give me Hansard to prove the date on which it was raised so that I can get the Officers to bring the debate to show me when this matter was raised?
2.15 p.m.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, I imagine that it is well within your knowledge as it is within mine that there seems to be an inordinate delay with the publication of Hansard. I therefore cannot point you to the relevant quotation in that document.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It would be very difficult to pursue a debate on something like this when there is no evidence that is going to point to what you are raising, because there is no evidence to hand.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, at the outset of my remarks I am sure I indicated to your good self that I would have been brief in my remarks on this Head, and really I have said all that I need to say on that point. I do not wish to turn it into a debate; I shall move on as I had intended to, Sir.

I wish, Sir, also just briefly to look at Head 28, Ministry of Legal Affairs and again just briefly I wish to place on record my deep lament at the absence of legislation being brought in this Honourable Chamber which is calculated to produce any fundamental social change in this country. In the just over twelve months that I have had the privilege to be here, all I have witnessed were Bills brought before this Chamber for land acquisition, land acquisition, land acquisition, land acquisition, and just to flavour it and colour it a little bit, acquisition of land. Just

for good measure sometimes splatterings of school buildings, the erection or repair thereof were thrown in. I think, Sir, it is nothing short of a crying shame that there could be such scant pieces of legislation. Certainly this Government must have a social conscience, must have its eyes and its ears open to the needs and the feelings of the country which it represents. That we have seen no significant piece of legislation which goes to the root of our social fabric with a view to implementing therein and thereon fundamental change for the better to uplift the standard of life and living for Barbadians, is a serious indictment on the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

I move on to Head 73 – Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. Senator Dr. Clarke in his presentation of the introduction to this Bill introduced a newspaper report or a copy thereof written by one Mr. Neufeld, which attempted to attest to the soundness of the Barbadian economy and the fact that good things might be on the road for us. First of all, Sir, I found it not a trifle amusing that Senator Clarke could find comfort in Mr. Neufeld's analysis or rather the report of that analysis, and I wish to invite Senator Clarke to respond to this, if he will, when he wraps up the debate, by what token has this Mr. Neufeld become an expert on the Barbadian economy to the point where his statement or the reports of those statements can be prayed in aid as supporting Senator Dr. Clarke's conclusions that the economy is on a sound footing.

In his presentation Dr. Clarke reminded us all that bankers are by nature conservative. I believe he stated that, Sir, to say that if Mr. Neufeld can make such proclamations about the Barbadian economy, and if bankers are by nature conservative, then it stands to reason that the Barbadian economy is much better than Mr. Neufeld is suggesting. That is a logical interpretation that could be placed upon Senator Clarke's statements.

Sir, I wish to refer, and with your permission, I shall make this a document of the House, to the statements of another banker who by Senator Dr. Clarke's analysis might also be conservative, and this banker, Sir, is no less a personage than the Governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Kurleigh King. Speaking during the latter days of January of this year, Dr. King advised the Barbados public in no uncertain terms that the top priorities of the Government at this time and at that time must be the preservation of our foreign exchange position which he said was experiencing problems. He went further, Sir, and said and I quote:

"A choice must be made between people losing a few jobs now because of the squeeze and many more people being put out of work if the current trend is allowed to continue.

There is no point keeping more people employed and then you run out of foreign exchange, because then you will have everybody employed, and then the next year nobody

employed. If you have no foreign exchange you can't do anything, so therefore you have to choose between your options all the time."

Those options, Sir, as reported by Dr. King, were on the one hand the preservation of the foreign exchange position, and on the other the placing of low priority on jobs and housing in this country. I wish, Sir, to invite.....

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir, I think Senator Brathwaite is trying to draw a conclusion which the facts do not present.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, on a point of order, Dr. King has issued a statement denying that that report from which the Senator is quoting is correct, and I invite the Senator to request a copy of the statement from Dr. King.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, I wish to invite Senator Clarke in his closing remarks also, to indicate whether or not this is the direction in which this Government intends to take the country, whether or not it is a fact that jobs and housing have been placed low on the agenda of Government in favour of preservation of the balance of payments position.

Sir, the Central Bank itself is not doing very well in economic terms and I am sure that Senator Alleyne would attest to this. Traditionally if there was one area where Government could expect quite a sizable proportion of revenue coming in to its coffers, it was in the area of special receipts. These, Sir, are the profits of the Central Bank which are transferred to the Consolidated Fund. At page (ix) of this year's Estimates we see that that figure is currently estimated at \$550 000. The figure for the last fiscal year was just over \$275 000, just a drop in the bucket, Sir, when compared to the figures going back to 1980-81 when the actual revenue which Government received from the Central Bank was \$6 million.

2.25 p.m.

In 1981 again \$6 million, 1982/83 the highest in the last decade \$8.4 million, 1983/84 \$6 1/2 million, 1987/88 it fell to \$19 000, 1988/89 \$432 000 and this year, Sir, just over half a million dollars, another indication.

Senator Dr. Clarke put as an issue the question of crisis of confidence in this economy and they are no magic words, Sir – crisis in confidence, crisis in leadership, crisis in capability. Those are words that were introduced into this debate by Senator Dr. Carl Clarke himself and when matters are put in issue it is quite proper for persons to debate them.

I have heard members on the other side wondered why Senator McClean in his contribution referred to or as Senator Alleyne used the key words of crisis and

confidence. That is the reason why Senator Dr. Clarke used them as his key words.

Do we need to look further why there is a crisis of confidence in the management in the economic affairs in this country when we consider the Japanese loan of \$80 million.

Senator Alleyne spoke earlier that the Government of Barbados has the ability and the potential to attract financing from international markets. This is a loan that we are yet to be told what it was borrowed for. It was held for two years. There were intimations that it was borrowed in case you had to pay back the Japanese yen then you would have the money.

Sir, have you ever heard of going to a commercial bank and borrowing money so that, in case you have to pay it back you would have the money, especially when you place that money that you borrowed on an account earning less interest than you paid for it on the international financial market?

This money was borrowed at 6.8%. It was invested at 4% and some almost two years later it was paid back, never having been used.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: It was used to pay back another loan, never having been used, 2.8% difference in interest and we were told that it was borrowed in case you had to use it. We need to look no further for examples but be that as it may. I can provide some further examples that lead people to feel that there is a crisis of confidence.

Still on the Ministry of Finance, Sir, Head 73, we look at the Prime Minister's statement attesting the health of the economy especially during the latter months of last year, the earlier months of this fiscal year and we note with consternation, that every time the Central Bank imposed posterity measures on this economy in terms of raising interest rates or raising the levels of deposits that the commercial banks were required to hold, those measures were always preceded by the Prime Minister's assurance that the economy was well and that there would be no further measures put in place and sometimes those statements preceded the Central Bank's action by less than 24 hours.

One might question whether or not the Minister of Finance had forgotten – Yes, I will leave it at that to be kind to the Minister of Finance – the measures that were about to be put in place. Need we look further for instances where crisis of confidence can develop?

We need not. Sir, in Senator Clarke's presentation he mentioned some companies listed on the Stock Exchange and he directed his allegation to the fact that these companies were doing well and they did well as a result of governmental policy.

Sir, if I remember correctly, Senator Goddard in his contribution last fiscal year to the Estimates Debate and again this year he sought to caution Dr. Clarke. Are you really on a safe ground to say that these companies did well as a result of Government policy or is it that they recognized that if they were to keep their house in good order they had to control expenditure and keep it within safe boundaries?

I would suggest to Senator Clarke, Sir, that he is not on safe footing. I do not know the internal machinations of the accounting procedures of these companies but, certainly, it is unsafe not to mention otherwise, in a situation where you cannot determine the reason for companies performance in the private sector to determine that that success has come about solely as a result of governmental policy.

Shall we look further for examples of crises? Still in the Ministry of Finance, Sir – Page (i) Revenue – Head 1, Taxes on Incomes and Profits, actual figures for 1985/86 as compared with actual figures for 1988/89 and we see that the revenue from taxes on incomes and profits were some \$204 million for 1985/86 as compared with \$222.6 million for 1988/89.

If the surcharge element which was imposed by the Budgetary Proposals of 1988, if that element is subtracted which represented approximately \$23 million as we can see from the Accountant General's Report for 1988 on Page 31, Surcharge on Income and Surcharge on Corporation Taxes some \$15.8 plus \$7.4 million approximately \$23 million. If that is subtracted from the total of Taxes on Income for 1988 we get back to the figure of \$200 million, the same tax level on Incomes and Profits for 1985/86 from a Government which promised to reduce the level of taxation on the citizens of this country, the same level at 1988/89 after the Budgetary measures as 1985/86 immediately preceding the election of that Government to office.
2:35 p.m.

It shows three things, Sir, that first of all there was no need for the surcharge that was imposed on the Budget in 1988 because if you subtract that surcharge it brought the tax level on incomes and profits down to the 1985-86 level. It shows also, Sir, the crisis of reliability and Government's fiscal policy. That is only another instance.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: On a point of Order. Mr. President, I should just like your direction on whether we are discussing the revenue side or are we discussing the Estimates because I am getting the impression we are

talking about tax collection and so on. I tend to believe this is the topic that relates more to the Budget than this particular aspect of the Appropriation Bill.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, I wish to continue with Senator the Hon. Dr. Clarke's statement in his introductory remarks. When he sought to use gross capital formation in the private sector as a percentage of the gross domestic product, he sought to use that as an indication that the Government is not crowding out the private sector and that the economy is doing well. And he used in evidence some figures.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should like to inform Senator Prescod it is the Estimates of Revenue so it includes things that you are inquiring about. Sorry. Go ahead.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: I could have said that, Sir, but I thought it best to leave it to your good judgment.

Senator Clarke sought to use as an indication the gross capital formation in the private sector as a percentage of the gross domestic product as an example that Government is not crowding out the private sector and that Government has left the private sector to perform creditably. But, Sir, the figures that Senator Clarke used in evidence are those from 1985-88 and he did state that he has got no further evidence for the post 1988 year. I do not either. What he has given us is enough for me to make these three fundamental points to point out to Dr. Clarke firstly the first Budget that the present Minister of Finance presented to this country was in the year 1988. Any fiscal policy that was promulgated as a result of those budgetary measures would therefore not have taken effect pre 1989. Therefore the fact that the private sector has preformed so well as evidenced by the percentage which the gross capital formation bears to the gross domestic product could not have been as a result of the present Minister of Finance's policies. Secondly those figures are more expressive of the impact of the 1986 Budgetary Proposals. Remember, Sir, there are figures up to 1988. Thirdly and this was the fundamental reason expressed by the present Minister for the reason for the surcharge in 1988, and that is that the private sector was not performing well, they were not keeping their end of the bargain when more money was put into their pockets and hence the reason for the surcharge. I have already pointed out, Sir, that there was absolutely no need for that surcharge.

But we have another reason – rather a contradiction. You cannot at one and the same time say the private sector is not performing well and therefore I am going to impose a surcharge and then two years later come back and use the performance of the private sector at that time when you imposed the surcharge as evidence of policy that you introduced and as evidence that the private sector is doing well.

Still on the Ministry of Finance, Sir, and in particular Energy. I have already cautioned this House in the strongest terms that the operations and policies relating to the importation of petroleum products by Mobil Oil Barbados Ltd. must be thoroughly investigated. I have already pointed to the need for Government to ascertain as a matter of urgency whether or not segregated products are being brought into this country by Mobil Oil Barbados Ltd. outside the terms of the Agreement which Mobil Oil holds with Government. I have also indicated that in those cases where it might be found that the letter or the spirit of the Agreement was not strictly adhered to remedial action must be taken post haste. I wish to add further concern today for a full account to be required of Mobil Oil Barbados Ltd. and for full credit to be given back, if any be found, to the taxpayers of this country. It might well be found that millions of dollars could have been saved the taxpayers of this country. It is not too late. It behoves the Government to heed that call and to do everything in its power to make sure that the Agreement is strictly adhered to in the letter and in the spirit.

Just briefly, Head 74 – Agriculture. I cannot agree with Senator Phillips' more when he stated that we have got enough rab land in this country to provide housing stocks for persons. As a matter of fact one might wonder why it has taken four years and four months for us to receive a fairly comprehensive statement on the policy and status of agriculture and agricultural products in this country from some person other than the two Ministers of Agriculture.

What Senator Phillips did not say to us, Sir, in relation to the Landell Mills Commodity Studies Report was that this Report cautioned Government in the strongest possible terms not to move land out of sugar cane production. The Report starts out at the outset to make a very bold and unambiguous statement. "Agriculture in Barbados is at a crossroad", it said. It sought to answer the question what will happen if nothing is done to change agricultural policy in a significant manner. It went on to say that sugar production has for so long been the backbone of this country's economy and a reliable basis. I recognize the importance and the contribution of tourism but I am speaking about a reliable basis for foreign exchange earnings in this country. It cautioned Government that unless dramatic shifts occur in the sugar sector it would be unnable to act as a leader in turning around our agricultural fortunes.

2.45 p.m.

It pointed, Sir, to the fact that the ecological makeup of the soils of Barbados is such that we need a grass if the soils are to be preserved from erosion. That grass, Sir, chosen from among others is quite creditably sugar cane because one and the same time it serves two purposes. It is a grass so it helps the ecological balance and, secondly, it is a foreign exchange generating grass.

It pointed out, Sir, the fact that if Government was thinking in terms of putting all its eggs in the tourism basket, it will be folly to do that not to mention the vicissitudes which might be set for the tourist sector. It went on to speak of certain ecstatic qualities of the sugar cane and pointed out that tourists might not like to see a Barbados where on driving through the countryside they are seeing the visions and images of a bush overgrown country or one infested with housing developments. It suggested that the sugar cane plant might be more visually appealing.

As I have said, Senator Phillips is the only person that I heard in this Chamber who has referred to the Landell Mills study. Many persons before, Sir, engaged in agriculture on the Government side have always operated as though they were in a position of ignorance that was commissioned by that Ministry of Agriculture. I am glad, Sir, to see that at least somebody has been honest enough to bring it out into the open. As I have said, Senator Phillips presented the truth of the report but there are other truths which were not highlighted.

Senator Alleyne, Sir, still under Agriculture – earnings from sugar, in his presentation he stated that in 1983 we had the worst year for sugar in this country. Sir, if we were to look at the Economic Report for 1988 at Page 56, we note that in 1983 sugar tonnes produced 82.8% in dollar value \$69.4 million and the export earnings from that sugar \$53.6 million. The export earnings value in 1989, Sir, was approximately \$50.5 million, Sir, and all evidence is that this year's production is the worst. So it is not quite true to say, Sir, that 1983 was the worst year for sugar not in terms, Sir, of the export earnings.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I stand on the report or information which I present to this House and I respectfully request Senator Brathwaite to differentiate between the tonnes of sugar which went into exports which were produced in 1983 as separate and distinct from the amount sold. Check and see what came from inventories.

SENATOR MISS V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, I wish in the few minutes remaining to look at Head 81, Subhead 11 – Youth Development Programmes and in particular the National Youth Service. Senator Comissiong in his earlier contribution made reference to this. Might I say, Sir, I am in full agreement with him. It is very sad, Sir, that just 14 months before this Government is constitutionally due to return to the electorate seeking another social contract, and I use those words advisedly, Sir, "a social contract", we can still hear cries for the Government to put human face on these proposals and those that have gone before. Like Senator Comissiong, I witnessed early the frustration on the part of young persons in this country of no jobs and nothing to do. Like him, young persons also approach me requesting of me some advice as to some gainful employment that they might

become engaged in. He mentioned, Sir, that especially the females amongst them usually their battle-cry seem to be typical jobs that females have found themselves channelled into such as cosmetology and secretarial studies. Sir, an alarming amount of them that I meet cannot even tell you what they want to do. They cannot even tell you what qualifies them for anything. To make a request for a job, you seek to elicit from them what kind of qualifications they received. They do not even know. They never even took the trouble to find out. When you ask the parents of these children, you are no wiser because the parents do not know either. They never took the trouble to find out from the children or the principal in the educational institution what certificates were received and what grades were received. They just do not know. They seem to be existing in some blissful ignorance.

Sir, the funds allocated in this year's Estimates to the Youth Service is nothing less than a tragedy, just a half million dollars more than what was spent in luxury coaches in this country. Sir, \$1.5 million was allocated to a National Youth Service after 4 years and 4 months of assuming office and then we wonder why there is a crisis of confidence and leadership in this country. We need wonder no more, Sir.

I trust that the contributions of Senator McClean and Senator Comissiong and myself have served to alert the Government of the reasons why there is a crisis of confidence and a crisis of leadership, Sir. I wish to place on record my very extreme sadness that the youth of this country continue to be a very serious casualty and we cannot excuse ourselves because we are the custodians of their heritage and we owe it to them to provide a good Barbados for them to live in.
2.55 p.m.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, I should like at the beginning just to touch briefly on the allegations of over-expenditure on behalf of the Government and to say that the Government's expenditure is conditioned by the requirements of the various Departments of Government and it is an exercise which is gone through year after year by different Departments in the submission of their Estimates, which go to an Estimates Committee and are very well cut down, restricted and restrained in some form or other. The political directorate cannot really attempt to deal with the majority of the requests coming from the various Departments, which are very much amended when they come to both Houses of Parliament.

In short, what I am submitting to this Chamber is that Government cannot involve itself as a Government in over expenditure, by the very nature of the fact that Departments are crying out for all kinds of services, all kinds of improvements which the Minister of Finance has to balance in his mind how much he can give this year, how much he can give the following year among various competing

Departments which might be in the red for a long time as far as improvements might happen in the particular Departments.

One sad consequence of this Minister of Finance we have now is that he has inherited over the years all the neglect that went in the last administration. Members are very well aware of policemen saying they were not going to work in those buildings any longer. We have had people saying the roads were bad. There was no maintenance done on Government buildings for a whole period of ten years or police stations, or hospitals, or almshouses, so one found oneself with a new Government with all these interests competing for scarce resources. What we see here coming as expenditure is a very mild form of what is really required in these various Departments, Sir. Even then we have to screen these requests very carefully, some have gone back over from year to year and as a result of that Government has had to be very stringent on its Departments by not letting them have things they feel they should have in any particular financial year. Some might be left over from last year and coming into the new year, so I do not see how one can accuse the Government of indulging in over expenditure at any time.

We find that we have had roads not being done in this country for over ten years. We have had a calypso on pot holes, a hole here and a hole there, and we have also had a ploy being used by the past Government where we are now committed to a new ABC highway which was done purposely at that time to draw away attention from the fact that the old roads were not being done. They built a new road, American style, through the island. That was a diversionary tactic which left us committed to a big highway. We would like it, but you do not get anywhere quicker, because by the time you let go the motor car you come to roundabouts, then you get the big batch of roundabouts on that new road, but that was done in order to divert people's attention from the fact that they were not doing the old service roads.

I submit, Sir, that Barbados has the best network of roads in the whole Caribbean. If you take St. Lucy in particular, there are so many roads in that parish that one's head becomes very big. If you go along several roads in St. Lucy, you can arrive at the same point from which you started. We have had an over abundance of roads in Barbados, so we did not need any new highway at the time. To crown it all then, we had a new Central Bank building where we had further expenditure, which again was intended to show off Barbados in a big way. That again has produced the kind of expenditure which I have not heard anybody complain about, but which has burdened this country to the tune of \$95 or \$96 million and which does not help with our financial troubles. As a matter of fact, it might increase our financial difficulties, because I am told that one day last year some rain came down in Barbados and it was the first time you had umbrellas in a building like

that. People on a particular floor had to use umbrellas in that building for shelter. That happened in this country, Sir.

Anyhow, be that as it may, Sir, I should like to make it plain that Civil Service expenditure is what we call inescapable. We cannot escape that expenditure with any amount of talk. I do not mind who comes into Government, they have got to deal with the Estimates as they are presented by the Civil Service. There are a lot of things that they go without, a lot of bills have not been paid, hospitals have not been repaired in that ten year period, and this Government has been the recipient of all that neglect and we have been doing very well. We have tried to remedy this thing now, another thing next time and we have been going very well.

I do not know how you could restrict or where you are going to cut. You cannot lay off people, because there again the salaries and wages component of the national budget is the biggest component, over 60%, and in that we were left with a mere 35% of that money, what we call Other Charges. Other Charges form a very small component of the overall budget. How then is a Minister of Finance going to allocate among the competing Capital Works to spend this small proportion of what is left back there of the whole national budget? I would like to hear Members give me some pointers as to how we should spend what remains after we pay salaries and wages in the best possible way as to bring maximum benefit to Barbados and the people in this country as a whole.

There is where I would like to see the argument rest, Sir, because we cannot get away from the Civil Service salaries and wages. That forms a big chunk. People talk about the National Conservation Commission employing too many people, but they do a good job.
3.05 p.m.

What would happen, Sir, if you cut back on all these services and you send home some of these people. You would then be accused of not employing people, people cannot find work, as we hear now that unemployment although it has come down by one or two per cent, yet a lot of people cannot get work. We have to keep those who are working employed, and a Government which has a social conscience must make sure that even though we look to other solutions in our struggles for better government and better financial management, we must keep those people who are working at work at all costs, because that is the obligation of any Government to its people.

Sir, I should like to move on. There has been a lot of talk about Government's agricultural policy. I did not want to get involved at this time in a debate on the agricultural policy of this Government, but it has been taking so many licks in the last couple of months by various people. Agriculturalists, people who walk the streets, or any politician who wants to get some fame just talks about

agriculture and he is on a very good wicket because it has become so sweet, it has become sweeter than sugar, and people like to talk about agriculture these days. Sir, I should just like to restate at the beginning that the Democratic Labour Party, despite what people say about the famous cane blade speech, has always been committed to agriculture and sugar cane production, and even though the late Prime Minister has been accused of this famous cane blade speech where he said he did not want to see a blade of cane in Barbados, he was the first one I know as Prime Minister who went into the fields of this country with me one morning, when we wanted to get people to cut the canes green again and get away from cane burning in this country, and for half an hour he cut some green canes to demonstrate to this country that we need the sugar canes and we needed to cut them green. So don't mind what is referred to as this cane blade speech, he had the courage to go out there in the cane field one morning at Wilkey and cut cane for half an hour. They said he cut one at a time, but he went and cut, so he took some sunning. Despite what you say, the man has made a lot of remarks about Barbados already on other subjects, but he did a lot for Barbados in other areas too despite his calling the civil servants an army of occupation; but he never did anything to hurt the civil servants. He made remarks in the House of Assembly about them being an army of occupation, but I have never known the late Prime Minister to do anything to hurt a civil servant, so although he made remarks about the cane blade speech, he has never done anything in his time to hurt the cane industry in Barbados. As a matter of fact he went all out to assist the sugar industry in Barbados. Even when we had the oil crisis and people were doing what they liked with the oil, he got the best price for sugar at that time. He marketed the sugar at that time on his own initiative and got the best price that he could get when the Arabs were playing vagabonds with the oil at the time in 1974 or 1975. So despite Mr. Barrow's words at the time he did not do anything to hurt the industry, so there again I am back to the point where I said that the Democratic Labour Party has always been in a position and we were always convinced that we need sugar cane production and we have stated that policy which still is a policy at work. There was one there when we said that we would grow sugar on about 40 000 acres of land in this country, and that we would reserve the lands in Christ Church and St. Lucy, the more shallow soil and poor lands for agricultural diversification, and we were the ones who introduced diversification in this country, and even though we were talking about agricultural diversification at that time, we always made the point that we must grow sugar on our best lands, and we have the sugar belt in St. George, St. Thomas, St. John and the other areas of St. Joseph, and we said that we would grow sugar on our best lands, high rainfall areas, and that we would diversify our agriculture into the poorer soils of St. Philip, St. Lucy and Christ Church.

In those days too, Sir, what has now come around full circle is that the people who produced sugar cane at the

time, in the 1960s and 1970s, like from St. Lucy, St. Philip and Christ Church were the ones who produced the best quality juice in this country, and they were never paid for it because they were being paid by the tonnage, and I remember Searles Factory in Christ Church had the highest juice conversion for tonnage of sugar cane to a ton of sugar of any factory in Barbados, and that is where the ball started rolling. The first factory that the Sugar Producers' Association pounded on at that time was the same Searles factory, the most economical and best working factory that ever there was in this country.

Here again I am talking about Senator Ward. The poor people's cane in Christ Church – this was an added glory to the management at Searles, because there was a man called Wason at Searles that some people may not want to remember, who used to make sure that he got the poor people's cane in first because they were sweeter, they had more juice, and he made sure that every poor plot was harvested in the first four weeks of the crop. So when you took Searles out of grinding, that was the beginning of the small man gradually coming out of sugar cane planting. It started from Searles factory.

We moved on then to where we got the sub-division of land which started in Christ Church. Some farmers at the time figured that if you were going to allow agricultural sub-divisions, then there was no use planting canes. I must admit at this point, Sir, that no Government in power has ever asked anybody to sub-divide land. A division application originates from the owners of plantations, not from Government Ministers or Government people. So if people in agriculture want to sub-divide their lands and they apply to Town Planning for agricultural sub-division and eventually they are granted, it started from them.

Sir, I would like to submit to you that it is still continuing, but the policy went wrong. I have nothing against agricultural sub-divisions, but I think what we should have done was to make sure that in sub-dividing agricultural land there would be something in place, some Commission or something whereby the price would be controlled so that the average farmer who is going to work land would be able to buy a spot of that land. We find now that agricultural land is being sub-divided and sold at the rate of \$25 000 per acre in four acre lots. Now if you look at that, \$100 000 for four acres of land, there is nobody interested in farming, no matter how well he can farm, who could buy that land, because if he buys it at \$25 000 per acre he has to pay back the bank the \$75 000 that he borrowed from the Bank, and I do not know when he will be able to pay back the bank in this day and age \$75 000 and want to be a farmer. He could not do this out of the land at all. So what we will find is that somebody who works at Barclays Bank, because the only person who can buy land is somebody working at a bank, a banker or some bank official, would buy that four acre lot for \$100 000, put a big castle in this land and submit the other three acres to

orchard or a big lawn with some trees planted once in a way, a coconut tree here, a lime tree yonder and so on. That is the way we have been losing valuable agricultural land out of production. It hurts me, Sir. It happened with Frere Pilgrim, it happened with Rowans, and now I understand it is happening at Ashford Plantation in St. Thomas where you have four acre lots that cost \$100 000.

Now, Sir, that does not get agriculture anywhere. Agriculture takes a beating in that respect; so we will have to define some kind of policy now if we agree to agricultural sub-divisions whereby we can pinpoint these farmers and place them on these holdings. The price should be within reason because here it is again, these are not the sins of Government, these are the sins of what happens in society.

3.15 p.m.

You have a farmer in St. John, to my mind, Sir, he is the most successful farmer ever there was in this country in the area of vegetable production.

There is nobody who has grown more vegetables than this farmer in St. John and has been more successful in marketing. There again, he has defeated even BMC and ADC making them look small in marketing his produce when you hear Senator Phillips talking about BMC and ADC being at crossroads and things like that.

But this man has no crossroads. He markets his vegetables, so I cannot see him wanting to subdivide his land, and the best lands in Barbados because people talk about St. George land and St. Thomas being the best land in Barbados. But the lands in St. John are the best agriculture land that I know about in Barbados. People like St. George and they like St. Thomas but I feel that the lands in St. John are the best agriculture lands known to this country.

So, Sir, when you get these kinds of applications where a man even though he has been in the forefront of vegetable production in this country and then would want to subdivide land again just for money ends, not for agriculture, when he himself has been a successful vegetable farmer in this context.

Sir, back to sugar cane again and vegetable farming, the Government and the private sector, the BSIL, must at some time come to some understanding. The sugar producers know things about the Government and we know about them also and there has to be some point in time where the two have to come together and we get something going because they also have some very successful vegetable production on some estates in Barbados. They are producing some very good crops on some estates and plantations in this country. Be that as it may, Sir, when it comes to accounting purposes when you are talking about sugar production that does not count at all. Even though we do not want to see the whole picture, Government would

like to see, at least, some kind of figures which would assist them in arriving at the same kind of support price which would be meaningful to the sugar producers and the plantation owners. But they do not show us even only a little thing about the vegetable production. I think that is where it has been deadlocked over the years.

You will notice that, as an old bargainer, Sir, in your line of work where you have to get around, I would have to enjoin your help, Sir, how to get at figures when it comes to plantation owners. You being not unaccustomed in that way in your line of bargaining over the years.

But, Sir, that is a real problem in that there have been some successful plantations and we do not deny them that, who have been able to grow some good crops and there are plantations again which have been benefitting from the little expertise in the Ministry of Agriculture by way of growing certain crops. You would doubt this now that even as we saw bananas being advertised on T.V., a lovely bunch of bananas at Halton in St. Philip and Lears in St. Michael and you would not believe this but the success of those banana productions is due entirely to the Ministry of Agriculture. The staff has worked there night and day to produce this kind of product.

The Ministry of Agriculture staff – I do not know why the Minister do not get into the House of Assembly and talk about the things that his Ministry has done for the people of Barbados – has been working on those products from morning till night and they are successful. That is a big input.

In the meantime, when that was happening I believe that certain small farmers were not seeing an Extension Officer for a long time. There, again, Sir, this is an added input to the plantation owners in that we have been giving free and loyal service by our technical people to help them to diversify in other crops along with the sugar cane production.

I figure, Sir, that at some point in time we must come together, Government and plantation owners and get sugar production going again in Barbados in the good old way because we need the sugar. We need the plantation owners and they need us also. When it comes to marketing the Government would be in the forefront of those who would try to get the best for sugar.

I believe, and it is my contention, that I would continue to grow sugar every year because it is one of those crops that cannot fail every year. One year you have to come good in price. The fluctuation in the sugar price is such a nice thing it comes down two, three or four years and come one year you get back all the money you lost so, therefore, you must have the sugar at that point in time to sell. If you do not have the sugar at that point in time you would lost on it and it has happened all through the ages

The price goes down and then the next thing you know, it comes back up and there is no sugar there so you do not get anything.

I think it should be in Government's interest to have meaningful dialogue with the sugar plantation owners in order to get things going because we need the sugar cultivation apart from the ecological balance which it provides and as a cover to the land to stop soil erosion, this is very necessary and we know the benefits that could accrue.

We also note, too that the Ministry of Agriculture has done a lot of good things. I do not think people know in agriculture that since we release the cows from the Livestock Station in the Pine and those cows have gone to the Hope in St. Lucy that the Hope Dairy has been very successful. If there is one point for Government that is good in the ADC is that the dairy production of milk at a Government estate has been profitable and by moving those cows another very good thing happened up at the Pine in that they have gone in for goat milk production and rabbit rearing and they cannot get sufficient goat milk to sell to the people of this country. By 7:30 every morning the milk has long gone and people are putting in orders every day to get on the list to get goat milk from the Pine and I do not hear anybody talking about it. They have been increasing the goat milk production, and Barbadians have gone crazy about goat milk and we do not have sufficient.

The rabbit production has been on the increase at the Pine again and the Government could feel proud that it has been able to bring about a new interest in rabbit rearing in this country. It is very high in protein alongside chicken and if we persist in that direction we would get something done in this country by way of rabbit meat.
3.25 p.m.

Also, Sir, the Scotland District which has been talked about in this Senate, the Government has made a breakthrough which I have not heard the Minister advertise. There are a lot of things about agriculture that are on the positive side and which the Government could feel proud about. We have made a breakthrough in the production of a new guava like a compass ball. No more small guavas now. It is a big seedless guava. We hope when we are able to cultivate more trees to be able to fulfil more of the requirements which will be needed at the dairy by way of guava drink and the rest of it.

We have been bringing land under cultivation for cherry tree production and we need to do more of that. We should have the whole over 3 000 acres in St. Andrew planted in guava trees and cherry trees by now. But we have had problems in that when you start to establish these trees the people still want to graze and they graze down the trees. You have problems with the grazing. Even though you

allocate land for the people to graze they still let the animals go. That is the position, Sir.

I believe that the Government can feel proud about entering the new production areas and providing the kind of impetus to the private sector to get on. In this respect, I think that the plantation owners by their very insistence should not try to do anything at this stage which would injure Barbados in the area of sugar production because it is very necessary that we keep the sugar production going. In the absence of sugar there is no other crop to utilize the land which would lay bare and idle in this country at this time because we are not so advanced in livestock production. We do not know where it would all lead to if we were to abandon these lands from sugar.

There was an estate out in St. Philip, a fellow who did vegetable production at Foursquare for three years and in the fourth the land just started to move. If you persist in vegetable production without intercropping with sugar, you get serious problems of erosion and there is no land left. The cover is laid bare, the wind blows the soil all over the place and you are worse off. We are not opposed to sugar production. What we need is some more dialogue with the plantation owners.

I think that what has further eroded the small man's interest – Senator Ward has said the small fellows do not plant canes any more – the last thing that killed them, when you shut down Foursquare in Christ Church, they had just mechanized Foursquare to do the syrup at the time and next thing you knew Foursquare was shut down too. I think that the BSIL should have been enjoying certain economies of scale in that they were shutting down factories. Therefore it meant that they had a more efficient operation because you were making factories less. You built a new factory at Portvale for which you do not know the cost anyhow. But what I am saying you carried the island to four factories in Barbados. Therefore that should even help minimize your overhead costs in production. We should be now enjoying the economies of scale by going to less factories. By doing that, you have one factory remaining in St. Philip, that is Carrington.

Back in the late 1970s when I also went out of sugar cane production because I had to wait a whole week to get one load of canes go to the factory. It became so tight that for the people in Christ Church to get a load of canes to go to the factory when we went to Carrington, one factory for the whole of Christ Church and St. Philip that I spent about 6 weeks to get 6 loads of canes to the factory. Canes would be on the ground for a whole week and the sun used to dry them out for a whole week and they would come for them on the seventh day. That is why Senator Ward poor people do not plant canes any more. I had that experience. It does not pay a poor man to plant a quarter acre of canes, cut them today Monday and get them drawn away next Monday. We just

could not get them to the factory because there were no more factories. You had to wait on this quota system. That killed the small man in sugar cane. Not that he did not want to be in sugar cane any longer. That killed it. When you did those things to people, you were ensuring that only people who got large acres would plant canes. We were very sorry for the poor man. Up to now the peasant cane production that it killed has had a very significant effect on the amount of sugar reaped when the year comes. Up to now it is still missing.

They still want to retain the people who are left because it is a very good little contribution being made to the overall area of sugar cane production in this country. But we lost it. I understand that we might even get less factories soon. I hear they are going to stop Bulkeley soon. I do not know how true that is. But if Bulkeley goes, what happens? You would then have to take canes from St. George all over to St. Andrew. That would be very serious. I hear the little ripple that Bulkeley might be the next to go. That Portvale and Andrews and somebody else would carry the whole load. Be that as it may.

Sir, I think that the Government is committed to sugar cane production even on reduced acreage. If you grow the sugar canes on the best lands and you have a couple varieties of sugar cane, I do not know where the varieties got down to the point now that they have been using one too long because that is an area that we were focussing on in the whole Caribbean. At Groves Sugar Testing and our Variety Testing Station at Graeme Hall used to test the varieties for the farmers. We used to be up with a lot of varieties that can be used. There again we had to stop one type of variety. You had to arrive at one that resisted cane burning at the time. We spent a lot of time by diverting our effort one time away from natural cultivating varieties to produce varieties not only that would produce sugar but were heat resistant and could bear the cane burning at the time. I know the 161 that we talked about is one of the best varieties that ever came into this country. I do not know if they have any more biological control in the Ministry. But in the days when you had the biological control we used to get better things to control those root borers when you had the fellow Adam and those other fellows there to carry out the parasites on the canefield and it would help work on the nematodes and stop certain things. Today everybody depends on chemical control for this thing and that thing. Chemical control is killing the country, killing the environment and producing some very unholy effect on the whole countryside. I cannot stand these sprays.

Sir, we are committed, as I said already, to sugar cane. We are committed to diversification. We have done a lot of trials. We are trying to move into cotton production and we believe that this could help us along the road. If in those lands in Christ Church, St. Lucy and St. Philip which are very shallow and are marginal for sugar cane we can experiment with most of these crops, because where we

have irrigation, we can go a long way to solving some of the problems that confront this Government. One thing we need, Sir, is food. We need to get our food production in line.

It is true we have had the white fly. There seems to be no easy solution to dealing with the white fly. The white fly has come around and he seems to defy all kinds of treatment. I do not know what you are going to do about him. But the fellows are working very feverishly, I can assure you, on finding a solution to the white fly. He is destructive. In one swoop he has your crop gone in two days. You would have your cabbage looking pretty and coming to maturity and the next thing you know the cabbage leaves fold up and die.

They have been trying to get some results also on the yam production and the Anthracnose has not been solved yet in yam production. Yet we discovered a very strange thing with people who have small crops of yam. They have not come down with any Anthracnose disease. Yams planted on a small scale seem not to be attacked by this thing, but are attacked on a large scale. People who plant an eighth of an acre of land or a couple of holes seem to get away with it because you got some yams this year which came out without any disease at all. That again is being worked on and we would expect that things would work for the better.

Sir, I should like before I sit down to make some remarks about the Port.
3.35 p.m.

I would like just to inform the House that we have been able to come to a successful conclusion by way of collective bargaining and rationalization of labour at the Port, Sir, and we hope in time to come we would realize some savings at the Port.

Sir, as far as the Airport is concerned, we have to build a new taxi-way and also some more lighting and things like that. We realize the importance of the Airport to the development of this country and to tourism in general and we have in mind certain plans to make up there even more attractive to airlines who are coming here.

We are satisfied that the Immigration and Customs people have made a vast improvement in the handling of the passengers at the Airport and I would like to commend the Customs and Immigration people for having improved over the past year in dealing with people. We feel that Customs Department is coming on stream now in order to protect certain things that happen at the Airport.

We would like to make the departure lounge a more meaningful place for you to sit down while waiting on flights and we would like to be able to do something about that, Sir. We have certain plans in mind. As far as I am

concerned, I figure that we should have a split level. We should go upstairs when we are going out and arrive downstairs. That canteen to me is the best place where we should have our departing people where they can look at the whole thing, see planes and the taking off. But they are now tucked away in the back of the building. You cannot see anything. Lighting will help people a lot to remember Barbados as being a place that you would like to come back to especially when you are delayed and have to wait for another flight. This is very important. So I think we have got to get cracking, Sir, and do things at the Airport. Also, at the Seaport we have the same thing in mind to modernize the port. Our waiting hall is not the best, but there again we cannot always spend because the things that we want to do in this country we have had to do without. We put things in the Estimates every year to get certain things modernized but it takes time because the Ministry of Finance has not got the money to suit everybody at the same time. So you really cannot overspend in Barbados. You have to write with your fingernails sometimes. You do not have pencils sometimes. That was a very noticeable thing in the last Administration. People did a lot of things in the 10 years during 1976-1986. There was nothing at all to go by. But it just shows the constraints that are put on Government when it comes to budgeting because there are so many people competing for things that they really need and they cannot have them. You are conditioned by what Department you are. That is one area you cannot really say that you can control.

So we are hoping at the Port to be able to do some more extensions at the Shallow Draught and upgrade it where the fishermen will be put in a proper perspective and they will be able to get better facilities for the cruise boats and things like that and proper berthing facilities. We hope to spend some money in this financial year on the upgrading of the Shallow Draft, the eastern end of the port. We will become more security conscious at the same time, Sir, because that part now is exposed.

Sir, in closing I would like to compliment the Government for its Estimates that have been presented. I think that the Government is doing a very good job. I would like to disown any idea of there being any crisis or any extravagance or over-expenditure in this Government. We are people who are conscious of our commitment to the people of this country. We have got to produce goods in due season which will tend to benefit most of the people at least some of the time and we look forward to serving Barbadians in the only way we know how, to serve in producing equilibrium among the people of this society.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, I should like first of all to congratulate the Government for the preparation of the Appropriation Bill and to say that in looking at my Estimates, in listening carefully throughout

the period to what is going on in this country, and in analyzing situations, I am quite satisfied that we have presented to the people of Barbados what is necessary at this particular time and what is going to prove beneficial for the people of this country.

Sometimes we have to go back to the Scriptures and, like St. Paul, we have to say, well we know and we are persuaded that the people of Barbados are able to keep their composure, despite the fact of all those who are making the criticisms, and move forward. This is what we are going to do with these Estimates and with the amount of money we have we are going to use it sensibly. There will be no squandermania.

I should like first of all, Mr. President, to look under the heading of Education. Any country that looks after its citizens through educating its citizens not only in academic areas is a country that must be commended considerably. We talk about diversification and in the area of education we have diversified significantly. First of all, we must look at the whole question of free secondary education, free university education, and free tertiary education. Sometimes when we talk about this in the Caribbean region and even beyond the region people seem to think that we are making fun in a little two by three island. I know because I have had to represent this in Jamaica. When we started talking about it at a conference, people said well this is impossible in Barbados. We have more resources than you have. How could you arrive at such a situation? People in the United States marvel to think that Barbados, a small developing country as we are known in world terms, can reach such a stance. If you look at these Estimates, you will see that we are going forward and education takes quite a large portion of the economic cake. In this particular area of education, we have not left out anything. Somebody will say from the womb to the tomb we have been able to introduce education or from the very cradle when you look at the kinds of education that we are offering for the toddlers.

3.45 p.m.

If you look at the feeding problems that we used to have before, and since we have introduced the school meals in our primary schools, one regret I have is that in the secondary schools while there are many children who have been able to make it to secondary schools, their parents are not really able to give them the kind of nourishing meal that they deserve, and if there is one thing I would like to see is that the school meals service is extended to the secondary schools, because I know to provide lunch for children on a daily basis, especially when your earnings are very small, is taking a big toll on many of the parents of this country.

I believe in the same way that we made a start, we will continue and we will extend and expand the school meals service into the secondary schools. I have every confidence in this Government that we can move like Brian Eavis moved in the area of onions, and there was a little booklet

put out "From a Possibility to a Reality." I believe that we can move from possibility to reality in that area of the school meals service to touch those secondary school children whose nutritional levels are not that high because the parents cannot afford that kind of money. There are funding agencies who have great respect for Barbados, who I am sure will assist Barbados with funding in this particular area.

I also want to say that one of the features which this Government has put back on stream, and it was mentioned by the Minister of State, Senator Harcourt Lewis, is the area of the adult continuing education programme, as it was called. This is training for the adults in the evening who want to continue their education. This is a commendable feature. I myself used to be a teacher in this area in the evening. I taught English. Also I would like to see put back those programmes where we had Home Economics taught in the evening and these people were very beneficial to the hotel industry. They were beneficial to people in their homes, because they were trained people, and also they could find jobs easily in the United States, Canada and so on, because of this type of training and the level of training.

When we look at the Hotel School in Barbados, the training started off with people like Robert Kinder, who is now at the Westminster College in England, and I have visited him there. The curriculum here is no different from Westminster College in England, which is one of the top colleges for hotel and catering training. I am saying that we are exposed here in Barbados to some of the best training in the hotel and catering industry by some of the most highly qualified Barbadians in that area, who not only have the qualifications but the experience. They have worked at the Montreal Hilton, they have worked in England with the Grand Metropolitan, they have worked with Trust House Forte, they have worked with some of the British hospitals and they have worked almost everywhere in the world you can dream about, even in Saudi Arabia.

Therefore we in Barbados and we as Barbadians ought to be proud of our own people and be proud of our own institutions. This is sometimes something that amazes me, the amount of contempt with which we treat our own institutions and experts. We seem to feel that experts are people who come here with a brief case and utilise a whole lot of money in this country and take away a whole lot from the country. I think it is time that we look at ourselves inwardly and look at the kind of education that we have been offering our citizens. Indeed, there was a time when very few of our people were exposed to university education. The parents just did not have the money to educate children in law degrees, and that was unheard of. You had to go to England by way of the London Transport and then you wiggled your way somehow, and many of our lawyers here can tell you that that is how they were able to study law, by going on the London Transport. Today they can go up to Cave Hill and then they go on to Trinidad or

Jamaica, and we have great confidence in the training which they receive. They come back here as experts in the area of law. They no longer have to journey to what used to be called the Mother Country because of this type of exposure which has been added to the Cave Hill Campus.

Nursing Administration is now being offered at our universities here in the Caribbean region. These are things which we have to go far afield to get, but now we are getting them here in Barbados.

I should also like to look at the areas at the Community College. They are training people in draughtsmanship and land surveying, and if we look at the apparel industry, many times before in Barbados in the apparel industry, or what we would call the garment industry, people had to go abroad to be trained in drafting of patterns and that kind of expertise. Now it is being done at the Community College, we have seen many of these young people setting up their own businesses. They are making small loans and they are doing very well in the apparel industry.

The Polytechnic is also offering hairdressing courses which again people had to go abroad to learn, and they are able to turn out a significant number of cosmetologists and hairdressers here in this country. We have transformed from Home Economics to Department of Human Ecology, and in that area our youngsters are doing very well. The two year secretarial course is another example where many of our youngsters had to go to England. They are able to take the City and Guilds Examination at the Polytechnic, and go on from there to get their Corporate Secretary Diploma and even to go on further to the degree. We are getting a very high level of Secretaries. Further, the University is offering in their School of Continuing Education a two year course in secretarial studies, which fits persons for the Diploma in Secretarial Studies.

I think when we look at these kinds of packages, I cannot cite them all, that we are doing here in this country, and when we think of the size of this country, and when we think of the resources, especially the natural resources that we have not got, Barbados stands head and shoulders over many and will continue as long as we realise that we must not tear down our country, that we must build up our country, that we must utilise the human resources of our country and we must praise the human resources of our country. For God's sake, stop pulling down our local institutions and our people. What we should be doing is to be comparing with other people and praising them and let them know that we are satisfied as Barbadians and are happy that we can turn these kinds of people.

I want to say here, Mr. President, that there has been much talk about the centre at Sherbourne. I even heard in here today that examinations only take place once a year. I am saddened to hear that examinations only take place once

a year, because I think we can check with the Ministry of Education and find out the different kinds of examinations there are. Royal Society of Arts, the London Chamber of Commerce, the City and Guilds, and I could go on and on. It is not only the CXC. These do not take place once a year, they take place at different times during the year. I just want to make it quite straight and plain that this is something we must not forget, that examinations do not take place once a year.

3.55 p.m.

I want to say that we should commend the Government for having the initiative, whether or not something started as one thing. You may start as one thing, but then you have the foresight and you go forward and develop it into something more, and the fact that we are able to develop that into a conference centre is something that could assist tourism, and I will point out to you how it can. Those of us who have attended international conferences know that a well run conference means a whole lot to the persons who come to your country to a conference. Barbados has had to refuse many conferences, I do not mean necessarily the Government, I mean that many organisations have had to refuse conferences because they did not have the capacity to bring those conferences here or to accommodate those people at a suitable conference centre of this type and size.

I was happy to hear of this because I know that during the entire year you can have conferences going, especially since I hear of the interpreting facility. I have attended international conferences where they did not have proper interpreting facilities or they only had one or two. I am pleased to hear that we are going to have six or more different types of languages. It makes us sound like a mini UN. To talk about the constraints of the area being far away, that is a joke. I stayed at the Confederate hotel for the international conference in 1985 and this is in the country of Denmark, and we had to drive probably nearly 100 miles from that hotel every morning by taxi to get to the Velos Centre. The Velos Centre was in the middle of nowhere, and it was a United Nations conference, so you can check with anybody who went to that conference. One of our former Senators, Billie Miller, went to that conference. She was head of the Barbados delegation, and that was the conference to do with the mid-decade of Women. The Velos Centre was built in that area because that was the only suitable area that had that kind of land to lend itself to that kind of building, and people in those countries are accustomed to driving far.

The Disneyworld Hotel which is again in the centre of nowhere, two years ago I stayed there and we had to do the same thing, get a taxi every morning and get to the conference centre. The point was that transportation was available out there for you. That brings us to the area of coaches. These coaches can be utilised for those purposes and they can also have a linkage with tourism in that we

could offer some other things, like tours by night, seeing all around the city, seeing how people live in the city with the fried fish and all these things, take them to Bathsheba or some place like that, not only city tours, but tours of scenic beauty especially on moonlit nights, tours where they can go and see different cultural performances in villages.

(Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and Mr. PRESIDENT took the Chair.)

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: I am saying, Mr. President, that our coaches could be utilised in the area of tourism for making tours possible whether they are tours of the city by night. These are things you have in other countries, you see them in your hotels and the tourists are attracted to them. There are tours by night to places of interest, whether they are in Baxters Road or whether there is some other cultural event taking place in villages. People like to go to villages; there is the Pine Workshop to which people can go and see what those youngsters are doing there, and they put on some excellent plays which we have been seeing on television. All of these are things that can be added to tourism and the same coaches can be put under the aegis of the Tourist Board and make money by charging a fee, so that they can pay back for themselves. So I don't see the need for that kind of talk. Also, if Government is hosting conferences here, as we go abroad to conferences and people treat us with a certain level of decorum and protocol with which it is proper to treat people, we in Barbados have always been people known to treat people with dignity and to respect their offices. Therefore people expect, when they come here, to be treated in the same way. So there is no problem in my mind about the utilisation of any coaches.

Sir, in the area of education, I want to say that I am pleased to hear too that the centre is going to have a cafeteria, because the people will not have to go anywhere in search of lunches or dinner. They will get their lunches and dinners there and then they will be taken back to their various hotels. So I see this as a step in the right direction, a multi-purpose conference centre where you can see cultural performances. It will not deny the young people from taking their examinations, and not only young people take examinations; there are mature people who want to do something else who take examinations too, and therefore the entire population can have some use and some input into that particular centre. I will see that as a step in the right direction.

Sir, I should like to touch on the area of health. Barbados now has a health care system which can be compared to some of the countries with the best health care in the world. We have many trained Barbadians who have specialised in many areas of health care. We have a cardiac unit, we have a renal unit, we are soon going to be opening a burns unit which is a specialisation, because before people who had serious burns had to be in wards with other people,

they could not get that kind of really specialised treatment and care which would help them on to good health in a shorter time, and so the healing time would be delayed quite a bit. With this kind of specialisation and type of training which we have sent nurses to Washington to acquire, I think it is very commendable. Not only that. There are people who have realised and I have talked to quite a number of people - who have said that if they are going to a country for a holiday, let them go to Barbados, because in terms of health care, if you get sick, they feel quite safe here because they can be treated at the Intensive Care Unit and they have all kinds of hospital facilities here in Barbados. I think that, Sir, is a plus for us.

I was a little bit surprised that I did not hear anything said about health care by the various persons who talk so much about health and who shadow health and things like that. I do not know if health was forgotten, but health is such an important aspect in the life of any individual that health must not be forgotten, because none of us could be here without a health system which was put in place so acceptably by the Governments of Barbados.

If we turn our attention to the polyclinics, we are very happy to hear that the Black Rock polyclinic which has been under great pressure but still offering the kind of services to the community will be getting a new clinic. There are nurses there who see 35 persons a day, and I don't mean a whole day because they still have to go back to the clinic and work. They give insulin to diabetics, they attend to wounds, they help people to take their tablets and see that they take their medication properly; they leave the clinic in the morning and go to particular areas from that Black Rock clinic and from other clinics. I understand that by next year that clinic would have been built. I think this is a step in the right direction because Black Rock has actually outgrown itself with the numbers of people and they have taken in the St. James area.

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the nursing staff of that particular polyclinic for doing a tremendous job under the sort of strain that they are under, and for still reaching diabetics on time on mornings.
4.05 p.m.

Some of those nurses live far away from the Black Rock Polyclinic but yet they have been doing a tremendous job. I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate nurses generally because even in the Hospital they are working under great strain in that there are very few nurses to man a whole ward for a night or a day.

Some nights you get two nurses, or a nurse and a nurse assistant, and still the people are nursed back to good health and that says quite a lot for the nursing care and it says quite a lot for the dedication of those persons who live in this country Barbados and it says a lot for the kind of training that those people have and the kind of commitment

which they have exercised in the love for their country Barbados.

I would like to see a lot more people who have it a lot easier than those nurses would have it exercising that love, commitment and care in Barbados. I think it is a plus for them and it is a plus for the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health is stepping up in many areas. The Hospital is having areas added to it. The unit which they have started doing some work on will help alleviate the problems from the Casualty because a lot of people do not understand what Casualty is.

There is going to be an Accident and Emergency Unit where people who have accidents and emergencies will be seen there and where senior doctors will be able to examine these people and they will feel quite confident that their families do not have to be there waiting frustrated for hours and hours until the following morning to find out what has happened.

We congratulate again the Ministry of Health for that kind of forward look and we congratulate the Government of Barbados for that kind of thinking.

The St. Joseph Hospital is coming on stream and one of the things that has been concerning us in this society is the rehabilitation of drug offenders or persons who become involved in drugs, especially our young people, and we note with great interest that that Drugs Unit is going to be located at the St. Joseph Hospital.

This is going to do a lot to help the young people of this country and it is going to do a lot more to help those who are older than young because some are young and some are younger who have got involved, unfortunately, in drugs and need rehabilitation. They do not need prison. They need rehabilitation and when you become rehabilitated, you become a person who can be employed again.

Under the area of Employment, it is all well and good for people to sit down and say, well, what the Government is doing about employment? Let us ask ourselves what we are doing as citizens? Some of the people who have benefitted from the taxpayers money of this country have been able to study off the taxpayers money. What are they offering to some of the young people to help them, to even counsel them, to choose the right kind of job or to set up the right kind of industry?

Sometimes you do not need even \$500 to set up a small industry. I will tell you that from experience at the National Development Foundation. I hate to hear people continually condemning young people because not all the young people in the world are bad. They are taking some bad examples from older people who are not guiding them

in the right direction and, therefore, we must look at that situation.

But, in many cases, \$100 can put you on your way if you were making sugar cakes and sugar cakes can be built up into a big industry. It can put you on the way if you are going to start going to make coconut shell craft. You do not need a lot of money as I said. What you need is the technology and the simple understanding which organisations like the National Development Foundation has. The Government has decided to give some money to the Foundation for onlending through the Barbados Development Bank. I understand the National Bank is getting jealous and wants to give us some for onlending. Through these agencies they are able to get small loans where they can help themselves develop from small industries, again we can use that term, from a possibility to reality.

We have seen the emergence of many of these young people and from the examination by our Field Officers of their books, they are doing well. They are making profits. The business is increasing. They are doing better designs. They are learning how to market their products successfully so all is not lost.

We now as a Government have to look at some of the more important futuristic areas of developmental work in the field of industry. We must not only look at the computer parts and these industries that do not last too long. I have always said that the industry which people need to look at in a country is the food industry and if you were to notice the people who sell food around the highway they are still there because they are making money.

The people who have kept food shops around Barbados are still there. As my grandmother used to say, sugar and water can make money and they are still there. They have educated their families. They have built houses off what we would call sugar and water and I mean food. They have built houses. They have educated families out of a little food industry and they are still going. The doors are still open. They are still frying fish cakes. They are still making mauby. They are still turning out some nice bread. They are still turning out some pudding and souse every weekend and you will hear some people saying that they have been buying pudding and souse for 30 or 40 years.

It proves that these industries, if we are talking now about a more sophisticated level of a food industry, will make money because now you are entering into the area of teaching the people how to package properly, they go into a small place in the Industrial Development Complex, they have their nice little equipment, equipment which is not the same old time equipment; it might be small but yet very efficient and it is modern day equipment. The turnover is faster and more rapid because of utilisation of that equipment. You do not need a lot of staff and, therefore, we

need to concentrate on several of these small good industries.

I heard one of our ladies in this Senate say how she sold her cherry tree pulp to a young gentleman who was making cherry juice and it only goes to show you that somebody can grow a few cherry trees and make money from the pulp. All you have to do is to put it in a blender, bag it and they can sell it.

If the Pine Hill Dairy, and this is a proof, up to now has still to import so many tonnes of these various pulps for making their various fruit drinks, it proves that there is tremendous potential in Barbados for agro industries, not for one, but for several agro industries.

We have several people trained in the field of food technology, certain Barbadians who are just getting a little consultancy here and there who could be more gainfully employed to run those industries efficiently and we need to stop looking over and away. As we look within the Caribbean region, we have trained several people in the area of Food Technology, in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and these are people whom we could utilise in the area of food. That brings me to the whole question of agriculture.

4.15 p.m.

Our food import bill at this time is over \$200 million. In a small developing country like Barbados we have no right importing so much food in this country. Yet the complaint is that we are letting out foreign exchange. How are we getting these products into our country? We are not blaming this industry. We are talking all sorts of things and we are not talking about the trades that are sending out the money to buy some of the most ridiculous nonsense items that we can see in this country. I am referring to things like fish cakes from Formosa and all the different varieties of pickles that you can see coming from all over the world.

I have done a survey and I can bring the evidence for you to see because I have presented it to the Minister. We have done a survey of 17 supermarkets in this country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We import fish cakes from Formosa?

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: That is a fact, Sir. Mr. President, I can bring it to show you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not questioning you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: People are buying it and this is the reason why the importers will continue to import. If people were not buying these nonsense items nobody would import them.

The hotel trade is very guilty too because they are importing a whole lot of nonsense items. They get the impression that people come from abroad and they have been eating steak every day at a cheap price and still want to continue to eat steak and boiled potatoes. Nobody who comes to another person's country wants to continue to eat what they were eating in their country. They want to sample things. There are very few people – you go all over the world and people go to Polynesian restaurants and so to taste the food. They want to taste. Even if it is for once, they want to have a sample. Then when they have a sample and they like it, they will come back. People go to London, they will taste the Chinese food and they will go around and sample the Italian food and all the various foods. It is because they have eaten certain foods in their own country.

I had the experience of going to Italy as a scholar in residence. Shirley Chisholm can tell you this because we were there together. Shirley Chisholm was a New York Congresswoman of Barbadian origin. I can say who she is because I know who she is and we can be very proud of Shirley Chisholm. Shirley said to me, you know it is funny that we in the Caribbean region do not appreciate what we have but we have come here and we have to eat pasta dishes every day. Every day at that table you ate pasta dishes. They put the Parmesan cheese on the table. You had to sprinkle it on yourself whether you liked it or not. You were in the people's country and you had to eat what they gave you to eat. You could not ask for rice and peas and stew nor anything you got here in Barbados.

I am saying that to say this, that we have got to be very careful in thinking that all we must offer people is the sun and the sea. There is the food, there is a cultural development and there are several things that people need. One of the things they need and they will tell people about is if the food is very good. Also in the area of agriculture, I should like to touch on a few of the things that we can be proud about, such as our development of the paw paw industry in this country, one hundred and fourteen acres of paw paw at Constant Plantation. Ripe paw paw is a good source of vitamin A. It is good for the eyesight. The yellow pigment in a vegetable or fruit is what gives you vitamin A.

Also we are looking now at talking about foreign exchange. Our paw paws have been accepted in London, the United States and Canada. The last place that we have gone to and have added paw paw in our promotion is San Antonio, Texas. The people are very eager to have loads and loads of paw paws exported to them. This is something that the farmers can get into and the farmers will be able to export their paw paws because Constant cannot grow all the paw paws that we will need for the export market. I am just saying this to show you the marketing potential.

A lot of people have overcome the bumpy top disease by some means or the other. It has been overcome. Farmers are able now to produce successful looking paw paws. We

are seeing in our supermarkets good quality paw paws again. That is something that we can be very proud about.

We had the bumpy top problem and also we had another problem where we had some paw paws which were bad when they turned but now we are overcoming these problems. That is something that we can be proud about. It also helps us to realize that in agriculture you will get problems. We must face that situation. It is one of these industries where you have ups and downs like any other thing.

Government is starting to develop areas that are going to be of strong economic potential and therefore earn tremendous foreign exchange in this country. Look at Bullens Plantation and what they are doing with the production of flowers, the Ginger Lilies, the Heliconias and the foliage. The markets again in England and the markets in Canada are wide open for our Heliconias for they do better in Barbados than they do in a lot of countries. They are well developed and they are very beautiful. We have not only the red but we have the pink. Also the foliage that they are requesting, evergreen, very simple foliage that can be grown quite easily, Angelica, all of these and they are bringing in money. If a person had dry land without irrigation, they could plant some of the foliage even if they did not get into the area of flowers, and they could sell that to the Export Packaging Unit for export and earn some money. That is foreign exchange coming into the country. As I said the markets are wide open there. We just have got to supply.

I like Senator Morrison's point where he said we have got to get together the people in the private sector. That is one area that we must say with some measure of success that the private sector and the Government have been able to get together in, the production of flowers and foliage for export. They have been doing well because there is that co-operation between the two agencies and you are not getting this quarrelling and this confusion. They are growing and they are exporting. We have to get more people into that.

I am saying that these are things that we can start industries on and we can be employing people to package the flowers because they have to be packaged properly, they have to be boxed properly and they have to be taped properly. All of that will employ people. You need hand labour to do that. Therefore that is employment for people and especially young people who want to get into the area of arranging because that is another area. You could export flowers that are nicely arranged and they go by air so they are well protected. You would not have them crushed by the time you get there because you have the suitable packaging material to put them in.

Our Government is also in the Agricultural Development Fund Programme funded by IDRD and UNDP going to be putting up demonstration lots for the

planting of vegetables and flowers. I think that if the private sector is a little bit hesitant to do something, Government should take the step. I agree with that kind of initiative in taking that step to set up that kind of programme. Also the area of making the kind of tissue for packaging the same flowers, Government is in to that particular area.

4.25 p.m.

Mr. President, as was said in here today, there are many areas which can be seen to have tremendous potential for agriculture. If you were to look at the Scotland District and the growing of the various fruits in that area to assist the agro-industries in successful demonstration and so on, you have to demonstrate things to people and let them know that it can be grown at such a price and it can be grown to give you a good profit. Sometimes some business people will get interested. They want to hear about the money first. You cannot get vexed with them. But if Government takes that initiative and use the demonstration lots and show them that this thing can work, that you have markets, it is going to give you such and such a profit, they will get into it. They will employ people and this will augur well for the employment situation within the country.

So I am saying that all of us have a role to play in the development of employment especially in the agricultural sector for this country. Also, let us realize that in the area of agro-industry the Scotland District will be playing a very vital role. You heard of the number of fruit trees. Carambola is another one of the fruit trees that is being marketed as an exotic fruit, something like the tea weed fruits from Australia. They are now calling it at the exhibitions "star fruit" and it can be nicely packaged and bring you tremendous foreign exchange. The people in Florida are doing it and we have a lot of carambola from the Ministry and the ADC coming on stream very shortly. Barbados can earn a whole lot of foreign exchange from this particular area.

Mr. President, I strongly want to commend agro-industry, agro-processing, and the development of small agricultural projects as an income generator for this country and also as a means of development for this country. One thing I hasten to say is that we have to make up our minds in Barbados if we are dealing with a developmental industry or a commercial industry. If we expect an industry to be commercial, that is expected to make money. If we are making an industry for research and development, part of the statutory corporation is in research and development, then we must not expect that part to be aiming in the same way as the commercial sector. We must expect that will be helping farmers large and small, blue, black, white, grey or whatever colour and that that will be helping people to develop in putting at its disposal research and the technocrats of those farms and so on for the development of that particular industry.

So we commend agriculture strongly and we congratulate the Government on its trust which may not be seen at the moment because some people will not seek to see. But we also are saying that we must do much more in the way of promotion on the television and showing people what we are doing in this country so that people will understand that there is tremendous potential for agricultural development. They will stop talking about agriculture not being an industry which can have great potential.

Sir, one last thing before I sit down that I wanted to touch on is the Cottage Industry in the area of handicrafts. We are importing too much handicrafts in this country. We had a system where there was collection of handicrafts in homes. Therefore, this can help to stimulate employment. There are many trained people who are sitting down at home because this industry has suddenly stopped. We understand that this Government is going to set that in motion again where the van from the IDC will go around and collect handicrafts from people at their homes. Women who had a number of children were able to stay at home. They did not have to pay bus fare to come out from home and they presented the handicrafts. They had a Quality Control Officer on the vehicle who would examine the handicraft and pay the money in cash. We want to see this come back on stream. That is a burning desire of mine. It will ease the unemployment because many young people will be able to do it even in a community centre in their village on a large scale level.

Mr. President, I wholeheartedly support the Appropriation Bill and I say that what we need in Barbados is greater love for our country and greater commitment to the moving forward of our lovely island home Barbados. This country received Independence without bloodshed and we must learn that we have got to honour our country. If we want to say that we are honouring our country and we are committed to our country, then we will try to support the industries that we are trying to develop, especially agricultural industries, and stop making the statement that agriculture is bad and it could not be worse. We can make it better and by God's grace let us make it better.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to move the suspension of this sitting until 5.00 p.m.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 5:00 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to.
4.35 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is resumed.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. President, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for 1990-91, but before I deal with the main issues, there are a few points which I should like to clarify that were made earlier by Senator Goddard and Senator Ward, but Senator Ward has gone.

Senator Goddard in his opening remarks was talking about policing beaches and so on. I wholeheartedly support what he said and I would like even to go further. I think not only the beaches need to be policed against drug pushers and so on, but I had a very unpleasant experience on the last Bank Holiday at Gravesend beach. Every Bank Holiday we, the early bathers, have a little picnic on the beach and I made sure that we did not litter the beach after we were finished. To my horror and surprise, on Tuesday when I got back on the beach you could not believe that this is Barbados. I think the time has come when we, the legislators, have to get more serious about prosecuting people for littering. People are taking pride in littering the country. It takes money to clean these things.

What is annoying is that there are garbage cans placed there where people can put their garbage. If we could have done it I do not see why other people could not have done it. These same people will go to Canada, Great Britain or the United States and they would not risk to spit on the street, but in their own country they are unnecessarily littering the place.

The next point raised by Senator Goddard which I want to clarify was the amount of water being wasted. I am well aware of the fact that quite a lot of water is wasted. There is nobody who is more conscious about saving water than I, because I served in the Armed Forces and every time you saw 7 o'clock in the evening, no matter what the Chief Mate was doing he could never be too busy, he would come down and put as much chain on the pipe as you could tie a cow with and we could not get any water after that time. We had to go between 7.00 until 7.00 in the morning before we could get water. A day in hell would be considered a picnic as compared with an hour in the engine room of the ship I was on.

What I would like to say to Senator Goddard is that one of the reasons why we have not been metering all of the water services, which we should, because here in Barbados anybody who goes into a bedroom and turns on a light, when they are leaving that room they switch off the light, but the same people would turn on a pipe, use it and would leave it dripping. If they had to pay for it by meter this would not happen. We are paying over \$1 million when the year comes to Light and Power for water services, that is, getting the water up to the well head, to get it to you, and it is unfair that people should treat the Water Authority and

the water in this fashion. Water is the most essential commodity that we have in this society, but why we have not been metering the water services as we should is because our water carries a great proportion of lime and after a while the lime builds up in the meter and the gears do not work too well. As a result some people pay for more water than they use and others are not paying for all the water they use. This is the problem. It is also a big thing to repair these meters.

Another point Senator Goddard raised was on foreign exchange and other hard currencies. Senator Alleyne raised a very pertinent point. Up to now there is no one who can truthfully say that they have been to the Central Bank to get foreign currency and had been refused because there was a shortage of foreign currency. There has never been anybody, as far as I know, and I am taking the Honourable Member's word for it, who has been refused a supply of foreign currency. Where the problem with foreign currency comes in is that a lot of people – some known to some of us – accumulate foreign currency and distribute it out. That is one of the problems.

What I think we have to do is to start tightening up on these people going out. It is going to be difficult, but it is being done in Japan and in other places, and I think we can do it if we put the will to it. There is really no shortage of foreign currency as far as I know, any time I go to the bank to get money I get it. Of course I do not want a million like some people would, but what I want for my purposes I get, so there is no shortage as far as I know.

Senator Ward spoke about price support for sugar. The greatest agriculturalist in Barbados or that has ever been around Barbados is God. Agriculture in Barbados depends on rain. In other countries agriculture can flourish because they have rivers and they generally pump the water onto the ground to water the crops. Agriculture depends on water, and water is rain. If we do not get rain, agriculture does not produce as it should. If you start to use the water that I have to pay \$1 million to pump up, and I make them turn it off, next thing you will hear is that I turned somebody's water off and as a result we have no produce. This is the problem. Do not let us keep beating agriculture as though it is any one person's fault.

The next point with agriculture is that as far as I know there is a law which states that you are supposed to plant a certain amount of food every year, but a lot of the agriculturalists have not been doing it, they are a law unto themselves. They seem to have forgotten that a few years ago when the Labour Party built that old new factory in St. James....

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Yes, an old new factory, because they took another one to build that. It is an old new

factory and they took about \$31 million out of the Provident Fund or something like that to produce that. As the Senator was saying, the Government should subsidise the thing, but you do not throw good money behind bad.

The whole problem in the agricultural belt, in my view, is that it has been mismanaged, and as the Senator has said, it needs a new approach. We must not forget as well that all of us here and all outside are aspiring to be a little higher and we are not wishing to go into agriculture as it is now. This is what we must not forget. Everybody wants their son to be a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer or one of these collar-and-tie people. Do you notice there are not many tailors, joiners, carpenters, etc.? Everybody wants a collar-and-tie job. These are the facts of life that we must face.

It has been embedded and cultivated in us for years that when you go into agriculture only a certain type of person is in the field and another type of person is on a horse with a big corked hat driving them. We have to get away from that. I heard a Senator say he has four children and he is not sending any one of them into agriculture. I have a few myself and I will tell you the truth, I am not going to send my children into agriculture because the work is hard and the profits are small. I am an agriculturalist myself, because I keep rabbits, fowls and so on, but we must be realistic. None of us in here wants our children with hoes or forks on their shoulders going out there hoeing and forking ground. Not that there is degradation in that, but we all say we do not want our children to suffer what we suffered. That is the gist of it, so stop beating agriculture.

It is the duty of the Opposition to make the Government in office uncomfortable, but it is not the duty of the Opposition to be obstreperous and to create situations that they themselves cannot handle. Always remember that when you dig a pit for somebody to fall into it, you yourself might fall into it and there will be nobody to help you out. These are the things that we must be realistic about. We must also remember that the Ministers of this present Government or the next Government or any other Government are not from Golgotha, or Germany, or Japan, they are Barbadians like us and if we do not show them any sort of respect, who is going to show them respect?

5.15 p.m.

This is one of our big faults. We always tend to pull each other down too quickly and too severely.

Now they went on to talk about agricultural land being cut up. I do not think that under the Democratic Labour Party regime more land has been taken out of agriculture than under the Barbados Labour Party regime, but be that as it may, there is a lot of land in this country of which when you see the bulldozer go in, you are amazed to know that anything was growing there. The top soil is so shallow that

it is shocking. Even if you went on the highway now, you will see where they were digging what you thought would be mould, you saw how quickly people got down to marl, and this is one of our problems. I am surprised that we produced so much agriculture in the olden days. Of course it was a lot of intensive human labour more so than machinery, but now you have got tractors and so on, as soon as the tractor starts to plough, it ploughs up a lot of big rocks from the ground, and this is one of the problems which we are facing.

Now they talk about the land being cut up for house spots and so on. I did not hear when Senator Phillips spoke so I don't know what he said about it, but what I do know is that most of the land that is being cut up for house spots is some of the lands that were estate lands. If the estate people tried to get them sub-divided because they refused to plant them, the Government cannot go and take people's land and plant it like that, because the reason why you can't do that is, whom are you going to get to work it? If you go and do that, that is confiscation and you will see that in the Estimates there is over \$1 million put in to pay people for confiscation of their lands that have been appropriated since in the 1970s, so these are things we must be realistic about.

Now, I would like to mention a few points here because this is going to come up in the Budget too. We have one of the greatest and one of the best hospitals if not the best, in the whole of the West Indies, and I say this as a traveller. I have travelled extensively and I know what I am talking about. I will repeat, we have one of the best hospitals and hospital facilities in the entire West Indies, with the exception of Cuba. I forgot Cuba was a West Indian island. People go to our hospital and get some of the best treatment there free of cost. They get medicine. What makes me tell you this, Mr. President, is that my father-in-law suffers with emphysema. It is a disease that is caused by smoking; and that is why I keep warning my friend there about this smoking and he would not listen to me. As a result of this, sometimes it attacks you as though you are having a heart attack because one lung almost collapses, if not both, and you can scarcely breathe, and the other night he ran out of the inhaler that we got from the hospital for him, and this is why I am mentioning this about the hospital. I had to run about to see if I could get one because he might only suffocate in the night. Anyhow we went up to a drugstore which opens late and we managed to get one but we did not get the right kind for him, so we asked the druggist if he could get it for us, and he said, give me a number and I will call you tomorrow. He did get it and called. My wife told me that the druggist had got the inhaler, and I told her she had better find out from him how much it cost before you go up there and make yourself look ridiculous. She enquired how much it cost and it was either \$58.50 or \$59.50, but I know it was very close to \$60.00. The reason why I tell you that is that people go to the hospital and they are given these things free of cost, but if you ask these same people to pay a cent more on sugar or

flour or any other item or for water, they say that the Government is going to kill us, they have raised the taxes. We should not be afraid or ashamed to pay. Nobody likes to pay taxes, but if you have to pay it and you've got it and you can pay, pay it because it is for your own benefit. You are paying it for your brother, your sister and your sister's children, your own children, you are paying for the whole society. People should not be complaining.

I saw in today's paper where the Minister of Transport is denying a report where some nincompoop got down somewhere at a political meeting, because at a political meeting people talk a lot of tripe and its affiliate, and said that bus fares are going up. The Minister has to take up his time to come to deny that. Well I am going to say this now, I don't have any authority about any bus fares going up; I don't believe bus fares are going up, but what is wrong with bus fares going up in Barbados? Where else in the world you can get a bus service like this at the price you pay for it?

Asides.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Somebody said mini-bus. Let him go along and use them. You don't see how often they are turning over! There is nowhere else that you get the kind of bus service you are getting here for that kind of money, and I don't see why people should be worried if they have to pay 25 cents or 50 cents more for bus fares. These same people go overseas and they have to pay. The point I am making is that people should not be complaining unnecessarily because they have to pay a cent or penny more on an item because that cent or penny more is not going to be spent in Germany, it is not going to be spent down in St. Lucia, it is going to be spent right here in Barbados for their own benefit. School meals have to be given, books have got to be given, education has to be given. Not uniforms; they gave the people \$99.90 and thought they were going to give them uniforms, but they don't worry with that. People are getting everything about here almost for nothing, and yet when it comes to a small thing like bus fares you hear somebody shouting for murder. It has not gone up, the Minister denies that it has gone up or that they have any intention of carrying it up, but even if it had gone up, what is something about that to make a big noise about?

I remember distinctly, and those of you who were around here as long as I have been will remember, that the reason why our bus fares are where they are today is because of a cent. You know that because of a nail the shoe was lost, because of the shoe the hoof was lost, because of the hoof the horse was lost, and because of the horse the rider was lost. It was because of a cent and don't forget the famous statement that they will get it over my dead body. That is why bus fares had to go up and that is why the buses were taken over. We have got the buses now and there is no giving back of the buses to private concessionaires. What I

would like to say to other Senators is that it is all right when you are running a company, as I was just telling Senator Goddard, I was very pleased with the returns and so forth, because if the shareholders notice that the dividends are getting cut, they will tell you something is going wrong and they can also fire people, but a Government can't fire people, not so. Don't tell me anything about squandermania or that we are spending too much money. It is the duty of the Government to create employment whether by itself or in the society for its citizens. Everybody can't work with the Government, but the Government must create a situation where the people in the society can be comfortable. So you can't do this by cutting back. I am not saying that you are to go and spend money willy-nilly, but you are spending it wisely. There is nobody who can deny the fact that you are spending it wisely. It might not be to your approval, but in the long run you will find out that it serves a useful purpose.

Let me tell you something. When they were building the ABC highway, — as you know it is the Adams-Barrow-Cummins, but the truth is that it should be my name there before either one of them because that came up with me as Minister — I criticised the highway but do you mean because I criticised it I am not going to drive on it? Am I so foolish? I have been saying before and I say now that if I were the Minister when that highway was to be built we would not be spending money now on a round-about because if you study carefully, most of those roads came through canes, and instead of drawing the canes all over the public roads, I would have built a bridge. It would cost a few more cents then, but driving from down on the east coast to the airport was a straight drive. All you had to do was to put in ramps to come in and come off; now you have to go and put in roundabouts. What highway do you know has all these roundabouts? I have travelled all over the world, I have driven in all kinds of places and I never saw all of these roundabouts. But you have to do it now, and do you hear how much one round-about costs? I criticised the monstrosity we have behind here too from the point of view that it does not serve as many people as that road serves, because everybody uses the road, but everybody does not go into the bank. I was met by one of the people who was involved in it and he said how glad he was to see me in it, so I asked him if it was his money that paid for it and if I do not have to pay for it too? He was glad to see me in it as though it was not some of my money.

5.25 p.m.

I told him that he had spent my money so badly and is now telling me that he is so glad to see me in it. He is lucky. But it is ours. I cannot carry it anywhere. I am not going to knock it down. It is there but it was money spent badly so do not tell me any nonsense that he was so happy to see me there. You would think that that was his. I asked him if it was his.

I told him I also drive on the Highway but was not pleased about it. I criticised it but because I criticise it I am not such a village idiot as not to know that it is the easiest way for me to get to the Airport when I am going up there. It is the easiest way for me to carry my child to school when I am going up there. I get up there and get her back down quickly too but because of that you think that I am going to keep lamenting that they should not have built the Highway? Do you think I am going to go up there with a peck then and pick up the road because I do not like it? You have to be realistic in your approach to these things.

Now, going back to the Hospital, and I am just throwing this out, there is absolutely no reason why people should come on evenings at the Hospital and park in the Hospital compound without paying. It should be a paying compound. There is nothing wrong with that. The Hospital needs money.

We are spending millions and millions of dollars on the Hospital but we are not getting back anything. People do not pay for anything. It may look small to you but there is absolutely no reason why somebody could not pay for an hour or half an hour parking at the Hospital. The people who are working there could park freely until 4:00 o'clock. But you would be amazed to know how much money would accumulate over a period of time but people come and block up the Hospital and sometimes I believe some of them go and park there and go into Bridgetown and do their business and it is not fair to us.

Why should the Government always be expected to find all of these facilities for nothing? I am not trying to make any imposition on poor people because I am poor myself but, at the same time, as poor as I was when I was out in Canada I had to pay for everything that I got.

Those of us who go out there would know, whether you are in Canada or the United States of America that you have to pay for it and we do not get anything out of those people. If they give us any little aid, they do not give it to you in cash and they will send one of their people down here to make sure that they are getting the big part of it.

I heard Senator Jones speaking of the \$23 million or \$28 million that Mulroney told us to keep – but you realise that that has gone into a meeting turn ever since.

I am not saying that we should let agriculture fall through. Do not misunderstand me because it is what you would call a money spinner in this country. It is tourism now and agriculture, still making more money than any other thing that we are producing. But, at the same time, I think that agriculture – I am sorry that Senator Ward has gone because I would tell Senator Ward that he is not in agriculture anymore so he would not realise what was happening ever since. He has gone into tourism. He is doing things as a side line now but tourism is his big business.

The point is that the whole gist of agriculture has been handled, in my view, and in a lot of other people's view, badly. I say this because I know what I am talking about. I worked with the Union. I was a union member. That is where I started my career too and when I go at these plantations and see the amount of work because there was nobody who knew more about how much a cane hole was than me. I knew all of that, that you could put the horse in it and all that kind of foolishness because if I am going to learn anything I learn it properly.

But when I see what these people used to work for, right away in my mind I tell myself, thank God that I was born in Town and not in the country because I do not see how I could manage that. I am always what you would call a presumptuous, pugnacious, garrulous type of person, a bit obstreperous at times too and when I see what some of these workers used to earn at the weekend, I said thank God I had a trade, and I did manage to go out during the war because it takes a lot of courage.

People think that to come out with a gun in your pocket and stick it to somebody's head and tell them "Hands up and give me your money" does not take any courage because if the fellow had the gun he would not do it to you. But do you know what takes courage? When our foreparents got up on mornings and got the little hot water, two hard bakes probably sometimes and out in that field for the whole day and coming back home after a whole day's work knowing that, at the end of their life span, they are not going to become managers, not even overseers at the plantation. That takes courage. That is what you call intestinal fortitude. That is a lot of guts. I can repeat it for you. Those are the things that took courage, not a fellow when the night comes coming into your place with a gun or a knife and telling you a lot of damn nonsense.

I heard this morning on the radio – I was so pleased to hear, but now he said he did not say so, – that my learned friend, Senator Shorey had said that rapists should be dealt with – and I know the radio said it, I am not saying he said so, I was not here – and that in the second offence you should hang them. He said he did not say so. He said they should flog them.

Well, I am saying it now, if you are afraid to say so. My view is the first offence for rape, do not lock them up because you have to feed them and they are going to get fat. I just looked into the Estimates when I was perusing there and I notice that it has gone up \$45 000 to give them more food! Do not lock them up. Flog them publicly, first offence. Do you know what is the second offence? Castration. That is the only way you are going to stop them.

We have to stop playing that we are saints and letting the villains ride over us all the time. I have noticed that the criminal now has more rights than the people whom the crime has been committed against. They do not have any

rights at all. You get your eye knocked out or something, you do not have any rights. But for the fellow who knocked out your eye, a lawyer will go in there arguing if you did not take out your eye and have it on a finger pointed at him or some nonsense like that.

I say this, with all due respect to the two lawyers in here, that anytime a lawyer has three indictable cases, and loses all three, he should get some of the punishment he deserves. That will stop them from appealing in foolish cases. That is the only way you can stop them and do not worry to tell me that we are uncivilised or we are undemocratic.

Up in Malaysia, Singapore, they are just as democratic as we are, if not moreso, but you cannot spit on the street. If they catch you with dope, off goes your head in the second offence. I am not saying to kill the person.

Somebody mentioned praedial larceny. This is another reason why our agriculture is in so much dire straights. It is hard because I do not believe anybody in here dealt with more farmers than I have dealt with. I have dealt with farmers here in Barbados. I have dealt with farmers in Canada and when a man is going to reap his crop, he turns from human to beast. This is a fact, because he has borrowed money from the bank or wherever and he does not want to lose automatically. He does not want to lose a spud. If possible, he does not want to lose an onion because all of these things count.

Here it is a man plants his provision and it is not to say that a man goes and steals a carrot. They carry a truck and load up the truck with a person's cabbages, carrots, or whatever. Now, that is a big loss to that man. As a result the man would have to hire watchmen and all kind of people. He has to pay them so it means that it is going on to my bill.

I am saying now, and I will say again, that the time has come when we will have to change the law for people who have been caught stealing people's provisions. I still maintain – I do not care who thinks that I am barbarous, or I am anachronistic, or I am barbaric, you can call me whatever you like. I am still me.

5.35 p.m.

My feeling is that you should get flogged publicly when you are caught stealing people's provisions. The gentleman up in Wakefield has suffered disastrously. But he has a lot of heart because, like me, I would have to chuck it in. He must have the heart of the President. Many times I have seen the President gotten into things and I told him, you have more heart than me because I would have finished with that ever since. I feel that unless we, the Government, give these people the kind of support they want, it is going to turn the farmers' minds from planting.

Let me make something straight before I sit down because I do not want to take up too much time, other people want to speak. Why we are suffering with the sugar is that – we must not overlook these things – the Europeans – I do not count you as any European. You are a West Indian. You are a Bajan like me. Do not worry to make a mistake – set out to keep these independent countries as poor as possible. Do not mind all of this aid and thing that they give you. You are not to come up to their standard. They were trying to promote beet sugar over cane sugar. The beauty that beet sugar has on cane sugar is that you cannot burn beet sugar because it is down under the ground but you can light the canes.

You would notice that recently, I just saw in this paper today, there was a spate of cane fires. God has been so merciful to the lighters, he would not let anyone tumble down with bad feels and get burnt. When they are doing this, they think that they are hurting the Democratic Labour Party. They are hurting the whole economy. They are hurting everybody, white, blue, black, pink, everybody, rich, poor, small, tall, short and everything. It is very wicked to do that.

I would go on to say that the Europeans – and you can count Britain as a European country although it is not in Europe – are looking towards helping their own. There is no more bogey man in the Cabinet now to talk about communist rule because the communist thing has gone through the eddoes ever since – You know they used to frighten you saying they did not want this because you were a communist. Communism is finished now. They are looking towards Europe. They are not looking towards us any more. We are the distant cousin who has come down to the wedding who eats what you could and gets back quickly. They are looking towards Europe. So the little aid that we were getting from the commercial countries down here is going up into Europe. But you cannot blame them. Everybody looks for their own. The only people who do not look for their own are we blacks and we West Indians. We do not look for our own. This is the whole situation why you find that we are in the kind of straightened circumstances, as you would say, that we are in. But we are not in any bad condition.

I would still maintain that there is no West Indian country, with the exception of Cuba where the people are living better than we are living here in Barbados. It is alright for us to get in here and criticize. But in Barbados we are living good. Look at it, Trinidad has oil and asphalt, Guyana has bauxite, Jamaica has bauxite. Do you realize that all we have are black people? But look how we are living. We are living good. Nobody can deny that. Our standard of living is much higher than a lot of those big countries. Why must we run it down? Because you do not like somebody who is running it? If the people like you and they want to vote for you, that is alright with me. That is the

people's democratic right. But at the same time, do not look for faults where there are none.

Before I close, Mr. President, let me touch on schools and discipline. Somebody raised that here just now. I cannot remember who it is. Senator Jones, yes. We are on the same wavelength on that. I think one of the problems that we are faced with here today, when I say here I mean in this country, is because when I was going to school and a teacher flogged you, you dared not go home telling your parents that you got flogged because they would want to know why you got flogged and then they would want to flog you again. Nowadays a child gets flogged, he goes home and tells the parent and the parent comes over to beat the teacher. If they do not want to beat the teacher, they want to put the teacher in court. This is upheld by some of the so-called lawyers because the quickest person you could get to run to your aid when you really do not want it is a lawyer. They always come to mislead you. You have a good case. Then you go up there and they start begging for you. When you could have gone and begged for yourself you would do a better job of begging than he. With all due respect to you, Sir.

The point I am making on this is I think - I am going to touch on this slightly, I do not want to be unfair to Senator Blackman because he mentioned it and he asked me my views and I told him already, I am not convinced yet that this co-education has really served its useful purpose. I think this came in because we gave free secondary education. The other people wanted to play they were doing something for education and they brought co-education. But I still think there is a problem. Remember I said repeatedly to the members of the Barbados Labour Party when they were in here that in their haste to bring this co-education they did not even remember to put in toilet facilities for the girls and therefore the girls had to go and use the urinals.

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: It was a haphazard sort of thing. I am not trying to run anybody down. You try something, alright. You find it does not work. You are going to have to say but. I think that what we have to do is put back discipline of the child in the hands of the teacher, the headmaster. Therefore the headmaster can delegate any one of his underlings to flog if he so wishes. That is how I see it. But it is not carried out. You are talking about the Laws. How many people read the Laws? Only the few lawyers who want to know something. The lawyers only read it when a case like that comes up. I am saying that this is what needs to be done and stop these parents from going down at the schools and trying to make - you see, I have to use a bad word now - blackguards of themselves. I was going to say whiteguards but I do not want to offend anybody. Everything that is bad they say is black. But these are things which we have to be very serious about, discipline in schools.

Another thing I have seen and do not tell me anything about any constitutional right, I have seen a lot of children going to school with their hair needing cutting. If I were a schoolmaster you were not coming into my school with your hair like that. I would not care what they say. I believe I would have to give up teaching first. I would have to keep my own private school. I feel the schoolmaster has a right to control the child during the time that the child is in that school. No child has any right coming into that school with his hair swinging all down in his back and twisted up. We are trying to get away from the cave and they are trying to carry us back to the cave. What kind of nonsense is this?

They should have a proper dress code for these children. My view is they should come to school in a tidy looking condition. There is absolutely no reason why children should be going to school wearing anything and with their hair in that kind of unkempt way. I cannot put up with that kind of nonsense. When we get back to these basics then we will be on the right track.

Mr. President, I think I have taken up enough of the Senate's time. Other people want to debate. I could have gone on a lot longer. Thank you, Sir.

Applause.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, before I start my contribution on this debate, I wish to apologize to the Honourable Senate and the Members of the Senate for not being here at the beginning of the debate yesterday. Urgent legal business took me to Jamaica on Sunday and I returned last night. The only thing I can then say, Sir, is that to some extent I might be repeating what has been said before. But then it would be said in ignorance to what other speakers may have said with the exception of those contributions I heard today. Therefore, to the extent I repeat what has been said before, I crave your indulgence.

I prepared notes of some length but my good friend Senator Clarke does not like driving down the hills of St. Joseph too late at night and has asked me not to take my entitlement and to fly on a short string this evening. I would only go for about forty-five minutes and not an hour.

Sir, the first thing I wish to make reference to is that there is an excess of \$15 million estimated in revenue over the estimated expenditures shown in the Estimates for 1990-91. There is, however, an overall deficit of \$212 million having regard to the capital programme of \$227 million which is projected. However, Sir, I wish to make the point that even the projected surplus on Current Account is unlikely to be realized having regard to the historical development of Estimates in this Chamber from the time that we have been here. In the period 1986 to 1987 the Estimates had supplementary appropriations to the tune in one instance of \$120 million and in the following year \$169 million and for this current year as of the end of

February approximately \$40 million. There are some provisions in the Estimates which we have to consider which cause me some concern and I will draw attention to them when I come to the appropriate Head. They show an underestimation of expenditure even having regard to the actuality incurred in two previous financial years.
5.45 p.m.

Having said that, Mr. President, I wish to look at the Estimates of Expenditure with respect and in particular to the Estimates at Page IV for Land Development Duty. Last year Senator Clarke in introducing this Bill gave the assurance that a Land Development Duty Order will be made shortly. There is a question, Mr. President, outstanding on the Order Paper standing in my name since November 1988 relating to the issue of Land Development Duty on the ABC Highway and asking the question when will the Order be made. That was November 1988, Sir. An assurance was given in March 1989 that the Order will shortly be laid. A year later, Sir, I am not aware that the Order has been made and I still ask the question - why not? There are transactions going on on the highway where the Government is losing a chance for realizing revenue. In fact, Mr. President, the Estimates 1990/91 shows an expectation of \$175,000 in contradistinction to Estimates of \$250,000 in 1989/90, a drop of \$75,000. Now what is the difficulty? These Orders are not novel. Development Duty has been collected in this island on the East Coast Highway. There was an Order made which affected Bridgetown from Mannings over the bridge to Fontabelle and to the end of the Spring Garden Highway which expired in 1988, which all businesses in that area who sold land in that period had to pay a Development Duty. The section of the ABC Highway which runs between St. Barnabas and Wildey has been subject to an Order for sometime. The land out by the Airport by Parish Land is subject to an Order. Land in Belair, St. George is the subject of an Order. Why not the ABC Highway? I even posed the question last year, Mr. President. Who is being subverted to avoid the making of the Order? I really do not understand that after a year of undertaking given to this Honourable Chamber, a year and a half since a Parliamentary Question has been raised, nothing has been done with respect to that Order on the ABC Highway and I ask why. I really would like to know the answer from the Honourable Minister.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Which highway are you on now?

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: The ABC Highway, or the Boxill Highway as it should be renamed, Sir.

Mr. President, again on the Estimates of Expenditure, Senator Boxill made some observations with respect to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the terms of the quality of service given at that institution and I want to agree with him. Senator Wickham made similar remarks yesterday and I want to join with them. There is, however, one problem at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that I want to draw to the

attention of the Chamber and that is the question of security. A couple of months ago my wife was a patient at the hospital and she spoke to me afterwards that just while taking a stroll one evening on the ward some stranger came to the door. This is not the first time that strangers have got on to the wards of the hospital and terrified patients who are in no condition to deal with them. There is a lot of slackness in terms of people who wander into the hospital without no challenge whatsoever. I think that the issue of security at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital needs to be addressed. It is not just that you had the odd character like "Gearbox" who used to go up and wander into peoples' rooms, but there are other situations which give cause for concern. I think, Sir, that there should be some proper security in respect of the hospital.

But Sir, in respect also of the Page XIV of the Estimates, I raised this issue last year and I raise it again. The last time increases in fees were made at the hospital was in 1977. It is still \$30.00, or is it \$50.00 a day in the private ward? It has not changed really into real terms. I said last year and I repeat again, Sir. In the context where so many of those persons who use the private facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are probably having them subsidized by their insurance company anyway, there is a proper case where the hospital should be bearing more of its contribution to the National Treasury.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Well, the point is this. You can go after them. I shall also make a point in terms of the hospital. Their accounting records or accounting mechanisms are woefully deficient. They either do not bill you at all or they bill you several times for the same transaction. I know again of a relative who went in 1984 and my wife asked them for the bill many times over and the bill is not ready yet. However, in respect of my father who has been dead for 10 years, I get a bill every now and again about some medicine they gave him the day before he died or something like that.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, again looking at Estimates of Revenue, Page XV, Heading 703 - Corporate Affairs, I regret saying this but there is a projection of an increase of revenue from that Department - 15% increase in fees. It is also the experience of practitioners who deal with the Corporate Affairs Department that they are encountering a bureaucratic obstructionism that is having an impact upon the ability of Barbados to retain international business companies who come to the island. In fact, I know of one international accounting firm who, because they have an arrangement where they get a commission on referrals anyway, are sending work to the British Virgin Islands because of the lack of receptivity to doing business at Corporate Affairs.

You get delays. You get a run-around in what name you want to call the company and all sorts of problems. I draw this to the Minister's attention because sometimes one arm of Government can undercut what the other arm seeks to do by being difficult and being stupid and they really ought to address that. In fact, Mr. President, I would like to throw out the suggestion to the Ministry of Finance – this idea I do not claim originality for it. It has been tried in other jurisdictions – that there is need for a comprehensible and consistent policy between Government Departments so far as the dealings of people with the offshore international business sector are concerned so that people can do what is called a one-stop shopping.

5.55 p.m.

Government should look at having some sort of foreign investment board or committee made up of representatives of corporate affairs; finance, exchange control, immigration, inland revenue, customs, so that when you have to make an application to do business in Barbados you do not have to run around to several agencies and one telling you something different from what the other is saying to you, and at the end of the day create a whole delay factor, at the end of which you say there is no point doing business here.

I think there should be some mechanism whereby all the Departments that need to have a relationship with people to set up business in Barbados should sit around a table from time to time and discuss it, and you can go out with a decision, whether it is the end of a two week period, month, whatever the agreed period is, but not that you have to go and fend with ten different Departments, all of whom may not even be aware of a cohesive consistent Government policy. I think too, Sir, that at the end of the day applications to these agencies should be dealt with smoothly and efficiently, and that we do not create difficulties for ourselves.

I must say to Senator Clarke that increasingly the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs is acquiring a reputation for being akin to a graveyard, that projects die in the Ministry because decisions are slow in coming out. I do not want to pursue that, but if you speak to agencies like the Industrial Development Corporation they will tell you the frustration they encounter in getting approvals that they themselves have submitted. There was a meeting which took place between the IDC and some private sector groupings about two months ago and the consensus was that before Barbados goes out and tries to promote industry and business from other countries, we must put our own house in order first. We cannot sell Barbados effectively when our own house has problems that will negate what we are trying to achieve by trying to tell people that all is well at home.

Mr. President, I now turn to a detailed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure and I come to one of our

favourite whipping boys of this Chamber, something offered by some speakers as a fit and proper instrument for privatisation, and on which my good friend Senator Comissiong spoke at some length today, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

There is an interesting quote attributed to someone who perchance, just by happenstance really, happens to bear my surname, but we are no relation, in this morning's paper where there is an explanation on what privatisation means. He says, and I quote: "All privatisation means is that businessmen should be running those things and putting money in their pockets and not the Government. Therefore you can see that it follows as night follows day that privatisation leads to nowhere. It is a policy that enriches businessmen and it is a policy that is designed to keep black people living in the dark ages."

There is another side to that coin, Mr. President. Privatisation could also mean not draining the public purse. Privatisation also could mean that the enterprise runs efficiently, pays taxes and contributes to the coffers of the country and is not in receipt of grants from the Treasury. I repeat what I said last year, Sir, that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is a fit statutory corporation to be divested and stop being a drain on the public purse of Barbados. It is not an economic contributor, I question its social contribution and I certainly think that after 25 years and it has not got its act together, there is really little justification for keeping it on as a drain on the public purse.

I have some other comments to make with respect to how it is now being turned into a propaganda media station, but in the interest of time I will delete that one and hold it for another time.

Sir, I turn to Head 15 of the Estimates, page 20, and the provision there in respect of the Ombudsman. I would like to support the call in the Report laid in this Chamber earlier this year by the Ombudsman under the Heading paragraph 12 which deals with the safeguarding of the independence of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman makes the point that it was alarming "to have had the Estimates of Expenditure in my office for the year 1987-88 as well as for the next two years appearing in the book of annual Estimates as a Subhead of a particular Ministry. Just before the publication of the 1987-88 Estimates this undesirable situation was drawn to the attention of the authorities, and it seemed to have been too late for the correction to be made then."

The Ombudsman has the obligation to look into all the Government Departments and I think, with respect, it really does not take a lot of difficulty for that Head to be treated separately like that for the Judiciary, Parliament or the Governor-General and be accorded a separate Head. It is really not something that should detain the business of Government unduly.

I next turn, Mr. President, to Head 28, Ministry of Legal Affairs. I wish to commend the initiative of the Minister of Legal Affairs in respect of the drug laws which have been prepared on the forfeiture of assets and drug abuse. I wish also to place on record my appreciation to the Minister for his willingness to consult and accept the views of persons outside of that Department.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs has got criticism in other places for not being very forthcoming in terms of putting other statutes on the books. I think it should be borne in mind that the Ministry of Legal Affairs only translates into action what are the submissions of other Ministries and the criticism should really be applied to the other Ministries for not conceptualising a programme on matters which require legislation to be drawn. I think of legislation in terms of consumer protection and praedial larceny. In fact, I made a copy of the Praedial Larceny Act of Trinidad and Tobago available to the BAS, who made it available to the Ministry of Agriculture, and it is still languishing.

My track record, Mr. President, of bringing a Private Member's Bill in this place is not a very good one, because I do not get a chance to get them debated, so there is no point bringing it on as Private Member's Bill. If I get them debated up here and passed, the Other Place does not deal with them, so you go through the Ministry channels but nothing happens.

I think the Ministries of Government outside the Ministry of Legal Affairs have an obligation to conceptualise the laws as are necessary and pass them on. I will just give one case in point. A couple of years ago, in response to a Question asked by Senator Forde, the then Leader of the Senate, Sir James Tudor, gave a response that indicated that legislation would be forthcoming to deal with child abuse in an updated Offences Against the Persons Act. Three years later we have not seen it, and I would like to suggest, without in any way offering a legal opinion, that one of the difficulties that the authorities might well be facing in the incident that we have been talking about in relation to secondary school is that there may be no law under which anybody can be charged.

6.05 p.m.

That may well be the problem which is causing the police to stump their toe, and they really do not want to admit it, but every now and again the police will tell you that they cannot do anything about a certain matter because there is no law on which the person may be charged. There are so many things. The law tends to be reactive rather than proactive, and then you have to look ahead and anticipate certain things and put the law on the books rather than reacting to a given situation.

Sir, also under this Head, I wish to ask a question of the Minister under the heading of the Supreme Court when

is the necessary legislation going to be brought to this Chamber to establish a separate Court of Appeal. Sir, there is a lot of concern at the Bar about the difficulties for the administration of justice in the leap frog court that we have. I have expressed my views on that court in this Chamber before, and as some of you would know, I have been on record on it before, but when you have to constitute a Court of Appeal sometimes with a gentleman whose substantive position is not that of a Judge but is an acting Judge, and then he becomes an acting Judge of Appeal, and the people who have sat there have done their job with distinction and done it well, there comes a time when one might ask the question, is the Court constituted with someone who is not a substantive holder of the post dispensing the sort of independence of view that is desirable.

The Chief Justice in his recent lecture at the University made a call for additional Judges, and I know that as President of the Bar Association I made a call for additional Magistrates, but whether they are judges or magistrates, there is a problem that affects them both; they are not delivering judgments timely. There is a great delay in getting judgments, and judges who were appointed more than two years ago, new judges, already have a backlog of judgments outstanding. In that connection though, I wish to state that the judges would be assisted by giving them up-to-date mechanical aids. When I scrutinise the Estimates and the Capital Expenditure in particular, I see no provision for word processors to be given to the courts, and no self-respecting legal office today, Sir, would be without a word processor. It makes life so much easier to get work done instead of repetitive typing and each time you do it you are likely to make a mistake.

I turn to Head 75, Mr. President, the Police, and I commend Government for the provision under the Capital Head of the Police of a computer which I understand they have been asking for a while, and I hope it is not just a token provision but actually it will be purchased. Actually I am somewhat concerned about whether it is a real vote. Some \$25 000 is being voted and that is to cover plant, equipment and furniture, and you have \$400 000 to cover the vehicles and a launch, but \$25 000 to cover plant, equipment and furniture, and I think you really cannot get much of a computer for \$25 000. Can you get a computer and printer for that?

Aside.

Senator C. A. BLACKMAN: That would be net of duty. You will get it without duty, so it should cover that. I commend Government again because the police have been calling for one of these things for a long time.

Mr. President, I turn next to Head 34 Education - Co-education. Senator Boxill rolled the wicket a little bit for me; he was very kind not to take any of the things we talked about on the corridor, but I want to say that I have some

concerns about co-education. A letter appeared in yesterday's press from a Dr. Layne of the University which was rather caustic in terms of some views expressed by a Mr. Heywood two weeks ago. By a co-incidence I participated in a debate at Harrison College on the 17th where the same issue was discussed where a teacher made the point that when the College was a single sex school, you could get a choir of 70 boys. The school goes co-ed and you are down to five or six boys in the choir. You go to Speech Day at a school where the ratio is 60:40 in favour of boys, and 90 per cent of those who get the prizes are girls. You go to the school and you hear a boy more or less tell you, it is not that we are bad but the girls are better. The problem is this as I see it. Co-education in Barbados was not introduced, Mr. President, based on any scientific analysis or principle. It was influenced by just the mere matter of economics and saying there were not enough places for girls. You are better able in my submission to face the challenge in co-education at University level or even at Sixth Form level, but down in the lower schools there are problems.

I want to suggest, Mr. President, that the Ministry of Education consider as an experiment the following: that the Government should take say four schools, two older and two newer and have one older and one newer continue co-education at the way it is going at the moment, and then in what you call the controlled model within the same school structure, say in First Form, where most schools have four First Forms, you have two dedicated to boys and two dedicated to girls, and monitor that up to third form and see what the end result would be, and compare the results with the typical co-ed and what you call the controlled co-ed and see what at the end of the period that sort of analysis shows. I think this might answer a lot of what Dr. Layne in his article was asking and deal with some of the issues which were raised by the report commissioned by the Ministry done by Dr. Newton, Dr. Payne and Mr. Brathwaite and completed in 1988 to which I have referred before in this Chamber.

There was a debate some time ago in the newspaper, I think from Queen's Park, about men in crisis. Men are not in crisis now, but they may well be within the next five years if something is not done to examine the copping out that is taking place in our school system on the part of young men.

The other point I wish to raise, Sir, in relation to this Head is to deal with the increase in the non-teaching staff in administration in the schools. A couple of years ago Government brought in Secretary-Treasurers and changed the administration in the schools, and at that time the view was advanced that perhaps the way forward was to give every school its own administration.

The Government of the day did not like that and said that some schools did not have the experience. They went

the way of twinning schools where you had a Secretary-Treasurer here and an Executive Officer there. That was tried for two or three years. Now what they have done, Sir, is to move full circle. Every school now has a Secretary-Treasurer and an Executive Officer, where years ago all the schools could get by with one officer, an increase in the cost of the administration, two people to do the job of one. I think Senator Morrison himself made the point that the bulk of the expenditure provided in these Estimates goes towards emoluments and the rest goes in other charges. Two-thirds virtually go to expenditure. But there is no need sometimes to front load the administration when you can see if it can't be done otherwise, because if you ask a civil servant or anybody else for that matter if they want somebody to help them, the answer is going to be "yes". So if you force them to get by on their resources, they will do very well, but if you tell them you want to give them an assistant, they love an assistant, and then both will spend more time goofing off.

6.15 p.m.

Mr. President, I have one small point I want to raise on the question under this Head as well in terms of education. I made a remark when Senator Boxill was speaking and that is the question of the \$400 000 we provide for uniforms. It is a waste of time.

If you are looking to control expenditure, that is one that could be easily taken away. For one thing, the time you get the cheque you have the uniforms anyway. Lots of people who get it do not need it. I am not disputing, Mr. President, that some people in the community will need the assistance. There are provisions for that but you do not need uniform allowance.

Mr. President, enough has been said about Sherbourne Centre. All I would say about that is this. When this building was first mentioned in this Chamber a couple of years ago, I think the expense was mooted at \$25 million. I gather it has now climbed to \$36 million and may end up at \$42 million.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Forty? Well, whatever it is. I still say, Sir, that that was probably something that could have been done without but it is there already. As Senator Boxill said, I am not going to take a peck and knock it down. It will stay.

I would like still in relation to the Ministry of Health, Head 36, to make the point that the provision in the Ministry of Health in respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital there is a problem there in the provision for supplies. I have raised this on a previous occasion and I really do not know why they keep on under-estimating it to the degree that they do. It is at page 108, Mr. President, Supplies and Materials.

Provision for expenditure of \$7.2 million against an actual expenditure in 1988/89 of \$8.2 million and this is to cover chemicals, instruments, minor equipment, detergents, linen, clothing and bedding. Now, as I said on a previous occasion, things like supplies and materials do not cost less. In fact, you have extended that Hospital in terms of the wards and I question really the veracity of the estimate in these circumstances. Again the Item Operating Expenses where you spent \$2.1 million in 1988/89 and you only estimated \$1.89 million in 1990/91. I question that.

I turn to page 117 on the provision for St. Joseph Hospital. I was not here for the debate but according to the newspaper, Senator Clarke said that some \$11 million has been set aside for the continuation of the work at the St. Joseph Hospital. The money is to be used for commissioning and refurbishing the Hospital to be used as an acute health care hospital in the north.

The Estimates actually provides for \$6 million for that institution, an increase of \$2.4 million over 1989/90. When we debated the St. Joseph Hospital Act some reference was made to the institution with the possibility as being run commercially and I repeat the call I made last year for Government to treat it like how they treat the Hilton and Heywoods. Put it out under a management contract. Privatised that because there is no provision in the Estimates for recurrent expenditure. There is no provision in the Estimates for any estimates on revenue for that institution in the current financial year.

On the experience of what has happened at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we can expect that the St. Joseph Hospital will be a net drain on the public treasury of this country because, as I recall the debate when the St. Joseph Hospital Act was brought to this Chamber, it was expected to cater to the high end of the market and I question whether you really realise that.

I suggest Government should lease it as they have done for Heywoods and Hilton and, at least, be assured of their rental income and not be faced with the charge on the public purse that it will represent.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: You can make it a condition of the award of the contract that you have to provide certain public services.

I turn to page 123, Mr. President, to Head 37, Town and Country Planning. I would like to compliment and commend the staff of that Department for their professionalism in respect of issuing the notices to people who broke the law in respect to construction at the Belle but I also want to call upon that Department, Sir, to enforce the Act against the owners of a plantation in St. John for unlawful development. I call upon them to issue an

Enforcement Notice under Section 33 of the Town and Country Planning Act because removal of top soil is development within the meaning of the Town and Country Planning Act.

Development under the Act means, Sir, the carrying out of the building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under any land, the making of any material change for the use of buildings or other land or the subdivision of land and just as the Town Planning has been vigilant in respect of The Belle, I call on them to be equally vigilant in respect to what has happened out at Wakefield Plantation because it is a criminal act for a man to take off soil to say that he putting it on to a swamp to make a golf course without Town Planning permission when all he is doing is a sub-division in a roundabout fashion to get the land removed from agriculture so he can cut it up for housing later on. I think they should deal with that in the way it ought to be dealt with.

Mr. President, under Head 81, page 136, I wish to commend the provision of funds for the National Youth Service. However, I share the observations made by Senator Brathwaite that it is really too little too late and that more money probably is needed in that area to get the Youth Service. It is something that is long overdue.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Sometimes if you are late in rendering first aid you might not do much to bring the man alive. He is already moribund.
6.25 p.m.

Mr. President, I turn to Head 43, Tourism pages 157, 158. Mr. President, we have lost the race that came here and brought money to the country, the ARC Race. When that race came in 1986, people were promised certain marina facilities and we said there is no problem, we will fix them by next year. They came back in 1987 and they were told we are working on it. But in three successive years they came back and found no change.

I visited St. Lucia last year in December and went by the Rodney Bay area and I saw the attractions Rodney Bay had. You had these slipways where people could pull up and run lines to them and have all the facilities and so on. People said that the loss not only the loss in terms of the free publicity the island got but also that the visitors who came to the island usually stay here and bring their families out, a lot of spin-off benefits.

I think, Sir, that it is imperative that the areas of tourism that are self generating like that, something that really fell into our lap should not be allowed to wither for want of care and development. Whatever has to be done in terms of giving us the sort of facilities to ensure that other

ances of that type could be attracted to the island should be put in place.

I wish, Sir, to make some general observations in terms of the charge in terms of the Estimates generally. Sir, there is a "CIRCULAR NO.: 1/1990" which has been issued:

"FROM: PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

TO: Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments"

with respect to employment injury under the National Insurance Scheme directing that Cabinet at its meeting on the 28th December came to the conclusion that:

"any period of sick leave resulting from an injury suffered while at work or from an Employment Injury Prescribed Disease, the salary of the officer (temporary) or permanent should be reduced by the full amount of any injury benefit or disablement benefit payable under the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme in respect of that injury or disease so as to ensure that at no time the combined payments of salary and benefits exceed the normal salary payable."

Mr. President, with respect....

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I would so do, if you wish me to. I did not steal it. It was given to me in all good faith. It came to me in the mail.

I wish to say, Mr. President, that the Cabinet may well have come to a decision that may be well erroneous and prejudicial to people in the public service. Compensation for injury sustained while in a job has nothing to do with the basic wage or salary of the employee. It has nothing to do with that. It is not sick leave in that sense. It is compensation in respect of an injury.

All I would caution is this that this might well be a directive that might be subject to administrative review by the Court if it stays as it is at the present time. I also wish to say, Sir, at this point that Government should consider an amendment to the Severance Payments Act in respect of the amounts payable in circumstances of alleged wrongful dismissal because right now all that happens is that an arithmetical formula is used in the Act which says that the use of severance payment shall apply. So that they use the average of the last 104 weeks and multiply it by the number of years you worked in respect of unfair dismissal not severance. That is what the law is.

What I am suggesting as the law is in Jamaica and some other jurisdictions that the issue as to the amount of the award should be left to the discretion of the court because there may well be circumstances where you are entitled to money but not based on any arithmetical formula twenty times of ten times whatever your last salary was. That should be something that the court should take into account and not just deal with it on the basis of a formula. It should be a judicial discretion as to the applicability of the matter.

My final point on the Estimates is this. We tend in this debate and in other debates to take what I call sometimes polarized positions and sometimes I think it is more for the benefit of the people whom we do not recognize. But we do not speak unless they are there to make sure it looks good for them. There was a consultation a few weeks ago, Sir, at one of the hotels between certain private sector groups and Government agencies. But that was a situation where the Prime Minister declared it open and he said he would appreciate the submissions and so on and take them into account. But I think Senator Jones' sense of theology would say that you go straight to the Almighty. You do not go through an intermediary. You talk straight to God. I do not like intermediaries.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Do not follow down that garden path. I would like to see some sort of national forum consultation where there is no intermediary, where Cabinet with the private sector, the unions, the public service talk - four party. They talk to each other. Discuss the issues whither Barbados for the foreseeable future? Whither Barbados for the year 2 000 and beyond? As a result of that, we are not going on perceptions or reports of what someone sends on to you but we are talking as we talk across this table. In fact the structure of this debate does not quite permit the sort of dialogue I would like because you are hide bound by certain rules and you cannot always make the point to explain what you mean because the Standing Orders say you can only do it on a point of order or speak once.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Oh yes. We get away with it in certain sections.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Well then you would get all sorts of interruptions and they do not always give you the extra time that people took away from you. But I would like a forum where we can dialogue without Ernst & Young doing it or Chamber of Commerce doing it and charge you a fee to support their structuring it together. We do not need outside people to come in and tell us what

we need to talk to each other about. We want the people who are here to talk to each other and find a formula and a structure for where we are going.

Mr. President, this annual exercise is something that is really the high point of the parliamentary year and I am glad that notwithstanding the efforts of Senators Brathwaite, Boxill and Fraser, I was squeezed in this evening and that the debate generally speaking, Sir, particularly the usual pungent contributions of Senator Boxill tend to enliven the proceedings.

I am indebted to you, Sir.

Applause.

SENATOR MRS. P. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, this is the fourth occasion on which I have had the privilege of addressing this Honourable Senator on the occasion of the annual Estimates debate. I am bound to say, Mr. President, that I remain extremely unhappy about the limited progress which we have made in dealing with the social problems which confront us in our society.
6.35 p.m.

I refer particularly, Mr. Deputy President, to the problem of illegal drugs. I fully recognize that the war against drugs is an expensive one, but I think that Government must set up a particular department or agency with specific terms of reference. In the United States, President Bush has appointed a top executive with high Government rank. The President himself has become personally involved in the war on drugs.

I am not attempting, Mr. Deputy President, to compare the United States and our country Barbados in terms of the same resources. What I am saying is that the scourge of drugs is no less likely to destroy our young people than in a more developed country. All of the evidence suggests that the problem is getting worse and not better. The number of cases coming before the Law Courts suggest that we are losing rather than winning the war.

I go further, Mr. Deputy President, and suggest that the war against AIDS in Barbados is being more effectively waged. There is a high powered committee headed by Professor Walrond and the TV advertisements are very professionally presented and already have some effect. There is much discussion on AIDS in the community among various organisations and groups far more so than you hear on the question of drugs. It is my honest hope that similar attention will be paid to the war on drugs because these are two subjects to which we need to address our attention.

I choose, Mr. Deputy President, to begin my remarks with the concerns about drugs because I firmly believe that they place the greatest threat to our future progress and

development. But the Estimates now before this Honourable Senate have to do with Revenue and Expenditure. They have to do with the management of our economy. They have to do, as Senator McClean said yesterday, with fiscal discipline. The Sherbourne Centre at Two Mile Hill is projected to cost \$36 million. Yesterday, I think it went up a little higher. I am not yet convinced - I may be but I am not yet at this moment - that this money was well spent. The main priority must be to increase exports. Recent remarks from the President of the Manufacturers Association suggest that this sector is in serious difficulty. It seems to me, Mr. Deputy President, that greater urgency must be given to promoting exports if we are to earn valuable foreign exchange and to attack the worsening unemployment problem.

As far as the handicapped are concerned, and I hope all of you Members are aware that we celebrate the "Week of The Disabled" this week, with every passing year there is greater recognition of the need to improve the lot of these persons. It is a slow process and perhaps we are not moving fast enough. I am glad to see that some attention is being paid to them in the construction of the said Sherbourne Complex where I am told that we have 22 wheelchair seating accommodation. Many disabled people can be more independent and can function more competently and responsibly than is commonly believed and are quite capable of conducting their own affairs and determining their own destiny. All they need is for us able bodied people to put the facilities in place and they will function.

I would like to refer to a clipping or an article written in last Sunday's SUN which was headlined "Legal barriers add to the woes of the handicapped". It will not be possible for me to read the whole article, but I will just say, "Wisdom and humanity dictate that now is the time to remove all barriers which are disadvantageous to the disabled and grant them the same rights, legal and constitutional, as every other Barbadian citizen including the rights of the due process of equal protection of the laws of Barbados. Judicial action is the only decisive factor which will enable the disabled to affirm their status as citizens of this country. The time has come for educational policies and building codes to be amended and to make provision for more social services in terms of rehabilitation. Based upon these premises the rights of the disabled include the right to equal educational opportunities, the right to equal employment opportunity including job training, freedom from architectural barriers in public buildings and transportation systems, and the right to equal protection in the criminal justice system."

Mr. Deputy President, last year in my contribution to this Honourable Senate I said there was a case of privatising the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Two other Senators have already spoken on that topic today so I will not go into any further details. But indeed, Mr. Deputy

President, all unprofitable state enterprises must be carefully looked at. I will go no further than that, Sir.

Mr. Deputy President, there have been many road accidents recently with loss of life. I think the time is right for new legislation to be put on the Statute Books and enforced for the proper use of our roads. Added to that, the use of seat belts in vehicles should become law in this land and it will not be too soon to have that. While I am on legislation, I want to remind this Chamber that three years ago I asked questions in here about the legislation on child abuse. One year later they were answered but nothing yet has been put in place.

In conclusion, Mr. Deputy President, the year ahead is not promised to be easy. Whatever we do, we must pay close attention to preserving and enhancing our tourist product. As I said last year, all irritants which militate against stable tourism must be removed, for example, beach harassment, indiscriminate use of jet-skis, crimes against visitors and the like.
6.45 p.m.

Some of the decisions to be taken cannot be hinted at or gleaned from the Estimates now before us. Our future prosperity, to some extent, depends on the political will of the Government to take important decisions even if some of those decisions are unpopular. There can be no room for weakness. The time for decisive action is now.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, the debate over the last two days has ranged over a very wide area in terms of quality. It went from the excellent and exciting to the earnest and sincere, through the plodding, pedestrian and prosaic, and the repetitious and revolting and ugly presentations.

Pride of place in the category of the excellent and exciting goes to Senator Phillips for an excellent presentation in terms of the Ministry of Agriculture and to our new Senator, Senator Alleyne, who made an excellent and presented a scintillating presentation in this Chamber. Senator Goddard, somewhat out of his usual place in the batting order, decided to come one down because Senator McClean decided to send him up to face the attack.

We on this side, as he knows only too well, share his concern about improving the earnings of foreign exchange and we are committed – there are studies already in place – to ensure that we enhance the foreign exchange earning sectors in this economy. There is a study covering manufacturing and the other exporting sectors.

To Senator McClean and his counterpart I award the accolade for plodding, prosaic and pedestrian. As one trained, like myself, in the discipline of economics, a

discipline which concerns itself with the allocation of scarce resources and the maximisation of the use of one's time, I have been taught that if two words can do, never use three. I watched the Honourable Senator making up in his mind that he would fully use the two hours on the book. I am sure that the account could have been done very well within 15 minutes.

In spite of that, there were a few questions raised by Senator McClean. Senator Alleyne refuted most of them, but there is one he did not refute, which is at page 36, Object 19, of the Estimates, the interest rates on Treasury Bills, I believe it is, off the top of my head. Senator McClean in his attempt to question the accuracy and credibility of the Estimates, challenged why the Estimates should be reduced to \$50 million at this time. As you understand, I am sure, in the Public Debt, based on the prevailing conditions, you feel free to mix short term notes or short term paper with paper of longer term duration, depending on the market, and it is my understanding that the National Insurance bond will be converted from Treasury Bills into longer term securities in the bonds. That should be a full explanation for that observation.

There is a preoccupation in this Chamber with the raising of revenue and the spending of money. I think in my presentation yesterday I tried to set out what it is most economies try to do. When we talk about expenditure or the raising of revenue we cannot talk about these in a vacuum. We must decide what programmes we have on stream. I was at pains to go through and select most of the new programmes which will be coming on stream, which must be financed. I heard no one saying they were not desirable programmes, therefore when we talk of expenditure and over taxation we must concern ourselves with the social programmes and the economic programmes which are put on stream and not just with the dollar amount, which is but a reflection of what we are trying to do.

Senator Wickham belongs in the category of the earnest and sincere. I place him in this category for his brief but impassioned speech in the defence of the saving of the records of the Archives. For those of us who are concerned with doing research over time, there has been severe neglect of our records over very, very long periods and I think something needs to be done in this area. Government cannot afford to neglect its responsibility of being the true guardians of our heritage.

Senator Lewis was at pains to state the uses to which the Sherbourne Centre and the coaches will be put. In spite of the full and thorough explanations given, Honourable Members still went on to raise the question over and over again. I refuse to deal with it now, because it was dealt with when Senator Lewis gave his response. The charge, or the bogie man, of squandermania has been debugged, debunked and buried. Deal with the programmes. Get up in this Chamber and say that you do not like the

programmes. Identify them and say these should go and tell the people of Barbados what programmes you want out. Do not talk about dollars and cents, talk about programmes.

Senator Shorey – repetitious, revolting and ugly. His debate on education and the method of grading students was fully ventilated in this Chamber in the form of a Parliamentary Question, I think, and the answer was given. It was brought up again in here and engaged the time and attention of this Chamber for an extended period. Furthermore, and this is the area in which I find myself fairly annoyed and upset, we have been talking so much about the youth, we have been saying there is a lack of discipline, there is a lack of respect for institutions and people in this community, and Senator Shorey yesterday attempted to impute certain motives to the institution of Prime Minister and to the current occupant of the office. If we persist in destroying these institutions, what do we have to offer? What do we intend to put in their places? How then do we turn to the youth and ask them why they have no respect for anything? We are responsible for the state of the youth today. Do not stop looking at the youth. We have a responsibility for them and I think we should behave responsibly when we are talking about our institutions and the incumbents. It is most unfortunate when we tend to advance somewhat prematurely.

Senator Ward is not here and I do not want to be unkind to him. We have been talking about squandermania, excessive expenditure, tighter fiscal control and better management. Senator Ward is asking us as Senators to write off the interest expense of the agricultural sector – sugar – free them of this obligation and leave the operations in the hands of the same people who got it into the same place.
6.55 p.m.

I ask Senator Goddard who is a businessman if one of the branches of his operations was not performing satisfactorily whether he would write it off and leave the same management in place. The first order of business would be to change management if he did not divest himself of the department, and I would hope that, before any forgiveness of principal or interest expense is considered, we begin to look at the management that we have in place.

I mentioned some time ago restructuring of the industry. Senator Ward touched on it in his presentation. I don't want to go back through it again. I said it then and I am sure he understood what was said at that point in time.

In response to Senator Brathwaite, economics is a discipline and her fellow Senator has been teaching her. It will take some time to come home. There were certain assertions made by Senator Brathwaite such as that Dr. King said that jobs should be put on the back burner. Dr. Alleyne said that Dr. King refuted that statement, but I will

go one step further. With regard to your attempt to compare the statement that Dr. Edward Neufeld made, I was not present when Dr. Neufeld made the statement, I read it in the paper. First of all, from the rank that he has in an international bank, in his statements and his projections when he was talking to the bankers here, he was saying to the local bank here that, based on our lending policies, Barbados is good for X amount of dollars over time. This is the statement that he is making, and believe you me, he is not going to make projections of a rate of growth unless he was sure, because he is making a way for his local branch here to make loans either by taking Treasury Bills or other Government paper.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, no. This is not in town; this is in the Senate.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: There was a question that the Central Bank made contributions to the Consolidated Fund and will not now be in a position to make such contributions. Part of this problem is that we have to make the interest payments on the loans for the Central Bank. That building was originally estimated to cost \$10 million to \$14 million; I believe the final figure was somewhere between \$90 million and \$100 million.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order. I want to say that we are coming to the close, so let us close this debate orderly. I can hear all of the voices. I do not suffer from any disability of hearing.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. President, for protecting me.

In addition, there is the question of the wages settlement which increased the payroll cost. Utilities costs are running I understand at around \$1 million a year.

On the question of the Japanese Yen loan, we debate issues in here two and three times. When the guarantee came up here we were asked about it and we said what was the purpose of the loan. At the point I answered the question specifically as to what was the rate of interest we were earning on it and what we were repaying. My answer to that question in this Chamber is a matter of record. At that time I also pointed out that if you are talking about debt management, you want to have different types of securities, different maturation dates whereby you can move in and out especially if you are holding the foreign currency where you can use it as a hedge against fluctuations in the foreign exchange rate. I made that abundantly clear in this Chamber. Perhaps Senator McClean would explain at a more convenient time to his counterpart.

On the question of taxation, I said a study was already in place to determine the incidence of the tax on those

people who pay and the allocation of tax between direct and indirect. We are looking at this. We are not satisfied that we have added to tax over and over in a piecemeal fashion, and we feel the time has come when we should review the entire tax structure and come up with something more rational, rather than adding to it in the budgetary proposals year after year.

Senator Blackman raised the question of land development duty. The Senator came late and when you are late I think it is better to listen than to go over ground that has already been covered. There is no excuse for being late. I understand and accept it and we entertain you in your repetitious pronouncements.

On the land development duty on the ABC highway, I am sorry that I have not been in a position to bring an answer to you. We are working at it, it is a question of certain boundaries, especially around the Hinds Hill area. The political directorate cannot go out and do the work, we must rely on this work to be done and there are surveys and what-have-you going on all across the country. It is not forgotten and I really feel that we should have had an answer by now, but we just have not got the information to give you an answer on that one at this point.

On your concern raised vis-a-vis people wandering into the hospital, I promise that I will bring this to the attention of the Minister of Health and see if better security can be put in place.

You mentioned before fees at the hospital, but with the coming on stream of the St. Joseph Hospital we are looking at the whole fee structure for the hospital, and rather than addressing one hospital at this time and when the other comes on stream then addressing that, we want to look at it and come with one package in terms of the fee structure.

In connection with one stop shopping for the offshore sector which you suggested, it is my understanding now that the Central Bank has set up a Committee to look at this. We recognise the importance of the offshore sector to the earning of foreign exchange and to the overall contribution to the Barbados economy, and we shall do all in our power to ensure that we facilitate those companies when they come to Barbados and set up. However, we shall make sure that we satisfy ourselves that they are desirable and reputable companies, and we will not sacrifice the good name of Barbados on the expediency of the altar of hurrying it through, because there is no part of the world where you get anything done in any Government in less than four or five weeks, and people who come from North America know this only too well. Here they expect it to be done overnight with no questions asked.

Mr. President, finally I must again repeat that these Annual Estimates and the Appropriation Bill are but a means to certain goals, that is, we seek to achieve by means of this exercise balanced social and economic growth and development.

There is one point before I conclude, and it is that this Government is committed to upholding the laws of this land, and on the question of race, I would like to read to you from the Constitution of Barbados and this Government is committed regardless to what the detractors would say. This is section 23(1)(a) of the Constitution of Barbados. Senator Brathwaite is familiar with this and Senator Blackman.

7.05 p.m.

- (a) " No law shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect; and
- (b) No person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority."

This Government protects and intends to protect all its citizens from discrimination on the grounds of race, religion and whatever origin.

Mr. President, I move that the Appropriation Bill, 1990 be read a second time.

The question that the Appropriation Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to, the Senate dividing as follows:—

AYES: SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE, SENATOR A. MORRISON; SENATOR DR. FRANK W. ALLEYNE; SENATOR N. W. BOXILL; SENATOR MRS. V. C. FRASER; SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS; SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD; SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN; SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM; SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES; SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN; SENATOR MRS. P. Y. FORDE; SENATOR J. S. GODDARD and SENATOR DR. L. L. SHOREY – 15

NOES: SENATOR MISS V. P. BRATHWAITE and SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN – 2.

The separate questions that the Bill be read a third time and passed were put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, after two very lengthy days, I should like to move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question that the Senate adjourn sine die was put and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
7.10 p.m.

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