

(EX-11)

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

SENATE

Wednesday, November 7, 1990

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, November 7, 1990, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator A. W. A. McCLEAN;

Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE;

Senator T. C. ESTWICK;

Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTING OF THE SENATE

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, during last week's sitting the Clerk on advice circulated a number of Resolutions which had not, at that stage, been taken in the Other Place so that notice with intention was presented last week. Today's Order Paper, as circulated, had no Government Business listed but there was an accompanying letter from the Clerk which indicated the intention to ask leave of the Honourable the Senate, to proceed with the matters as set out in the letter which was circulated last week.

I consider it prudent to advise the Senate that we propose to proceed with the items which are attached now to the Order Paper as Public Business. There are 10 items.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There being no objection, leave is granted.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1: RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER, 1990

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, when the Senate met on the last occasion various Orders relating to the salaries revision were laid. These Orders related to the implementation of the revision of salaries and wages which was agreed upon between Government's negotiating team and the recognised negotiating bodies excluding the Police Association. Agreement was reached within a period of time conclusively which probably sets the stage and offers complete evidence about the level of development of the industrial relations activities in Barbados.

The major unions which represent the Civil Service, the National Union of Public Workers, the Barbados Workers' Union and the Teachers' Unions were, on this occasion, able to recognise the ability and inability of Government to meet their just demands. They recognised the wisdom of coming up with a settlement which is acceptable to their members.

As I said, there has been unanimity among the principles in these negotiations on the level of increases. It reflects the very healthy maturity of the industrial relations bodies in this country. There obviously is never a total tune. On this occasion, a body which has, over a number of years, represented professional activities of the nurses sought to throw a cat among the pigeons and to suggest that they had some right to represent the cause of those nurses.

Indeed, in spite of their tardiness to submit evidence which was requested, Government was able to find out that of the approximately 500 souls whom they claim to represent, at least 300 of them are also members of the National Union of Public Workers and that, in fact, there are approximately 500 nurses, apart from the 300, who are members of both the BRNA and the NUPW. There are at least 500 other nurses who are represented solely by the National Union of Public Workers.

The results of their submission for any sort of representation will soon be determined. In the meantime it is abundantly clear that it is the National Union of Public Workers to whom Government would have to turn for any advice or recommendation in relation to those workers.
11.25 a.m.

In addition, I am reliably informed that the executive body of the BRNA do not identify with some of the public mouthings of the person who goes to the Press on their behalf. In the case of the Police, whereas the other unions made submissions and sat around the bargaining table, no such submission was made in the first instance by the Police Association. However, when agreement was reached between Government and the other unions, the Police were informed of the agreed increases and they made a response to that communication from Government and indicated that they would expect a level of increases higher.

Now I believe if one goes back to the negotiations that one recognizes that association along with one other union have never ever been in a position to communicate an agreement with Government proposals whatsoever. So that it is not surprising on this occasion that they wish to put in an alternate submission. The persons who take it upon themselves to publicly suggest that one of the answers to the problems of the Police Force is to increase it to a number which is probably drawn out of a hat is the same person who will publicly make comments about the printing of money by Government.

I am not certain in my own mind when persons who make public mouthings about things they do not know are taken seriously by the Press. Suffice it to say that many of the persons who shout about the printing of money have probably read about these things. They usually have absolutely no working experience in the areas that they appear to be speaking about. They pontificate on matters which by their very training they are incompetent to comment on. Even the ones who have had some theoretical experience and from time to time serve to mislead the public have never yet put their hands to the plough and have never run anything successfully. They have never had the burden and toil of day to day responsibility for these areas, but they can theorize on them and mislead the general public. This country Barbados has travelled many centuries and never have we had a situation before as we have today where everybody has become an expert on matters often in areas for which they have no track record.

On this occasion, Government would have preferred to have entered into an agreement beyond the two year period. Obviously, the constraints of events which have taken place since June 1990 have pushed Government to a position where the agreement reached has been one for two years. But the Government will seek on whatever opportunity arises and whenever the occasion arises to negotiate salaries to try to ensure that agreements are entered into for longer periods than two years. On this occasion the level of increases and the distribution of the cost of these increases spread from 7 per cent at the bottom of the salary scales to 3.5 per cent at the top salaries during the first year 1990/91 with a further 3 per cent across the board compounded in respect of the year 1991/92.

The estimated cost of the increases for the year 1990/91 is some \$25.156 million and for the second year \$14 491 000. On this occasion in addition to the revision of salaries Government has taken the opportunity to respond to some of the critics in terms of an Amendment of 1975 which provides for the creation of temporary posts. Never in the history of the Government of Barbados has there been the creation of over 900 posts during a four year period. In fact, between 1986 and the present time some 942 temporary posts have become permanent posts. This is indeed a pointer that the Government understands very clearly that you cannot have a state of Hollywood continuing and that the permanence of employees is important in terms of being able to market themselves. I am told (I have not passed that way) that many temporary officers have found difficulty if they go to the banks to borrow money. They find difficulty when they go to the business houses and they want to obtain credit facilities. They are always told that you do not have a permanent job. Well, for some 900 plus persons over the last few years they will no longer have this as a problem. In addition, on this occasion another 47 posts are being created as a result of examinations carried out by the Ministry of the Civil

Service and as a result of representations made by various Departments and/or by the trade unions.

The Addendum to the Resolution and the accompanying Civil Establishment Order will set out in detail the posts which are being established. But on this occasion it is important to mention some of the posts. I have made reference earlier to some magical number that the Police Force would be increased to if the people of this country made the mistake of their lives. Quite apart from that, this Government has recognized that there is need for continuing examination of the Police Force in terms of the numbers.

(At this point the electrical current went off.)

SUSPENSION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In view of the present situation, I am going to suspend the sitting for 5 minutes and hopefully we will be able to have the power returned at the end of the 5 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
11.35 a.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, before the interruption I was making the point that the provision for additional posts – 25 constables for the police and 21 posts on the clerical secretarial establishment – is a follow up to the earlier provision on the establishment of 25 posts. These represent only one stage of Government's responsibility in attending to the needs for an increase in staff and also an increase in vehicles which were granted to the police, representing another of the actions taken by Government. These, together with the activities which are on stream for developing facilities for the police at Hometown and other places, represent action by Government on various fronts to respond to the need for improved conditions and services and an increase in manpower for the Royal Barbados Police Force.

On this occasion provision is also made for the increase in the establishment of the Fire Service, some additional 14 posts have been created, and this allows the leadership of the Fire Service to respond to the need for fire prevention rather than responding after fires have gutted buildings at various locations. In the case of the Prison Service, there is a continuing examination of the establishment and it is recognised that there is need for additional staff based on any increase in the population of Her Majesty's Prisons.

These increases, Mr. Deputy President, will present a picture which shows that the cost of staffing, the cost of establishments to Government amounts to some 50% of the recurrent expenditure of Government. It is recognised that this is a situation which has to be kept continuously under review, and any further escalation in the cost of manpower is bound to affect the Government's ability to service the various governmental agencies. You can rest assured that Government is not looking at this lightly but recognises that it has the seeds of a problem for the future. But the answer cannot be in retrenchment, the answer cannot be in a reduction in the services which are provided on an annual recurrent basis, the answer has to be found by other means.

Yesterday I had the privilege, Mr. Deputy President, of talking with a certain businessman who made an observation. His observation was to the effect that over the past five years his business activity had grown ten times what it had grown in the previous five years. But he also made another comment. He said that five years ago he had two ladies on his staff and about ten gentlemen, now he has about 12 gentlemen and more than twice that number in ladies working for him; that the men who were responsible for households and their wives were not employed had no complaints. The complaints came from those persons who had working wives, and the complaints stemmed mainly from the fact that they and their wives needed to travel every year to go to Miami and New York in order to shop.

I think the message he was giving me is that as a small developing country the aspirations of the people are becoming more and more peculiar and they are not curtailed by the so called difficulties which this country is experiencing, but they are affected by the tastes which we develop. Members around the Table can draw their conclusions to how we are developing those tastes.

He also made the point about the educational system in this country, which is not part of today's debate, so I will not go down that road, Mr. Deputy President. Suffice it to say that the Resolutions before us represent a commitment of Government to improve the lot of those persons who are privileged to work in the Public Service, recognising that there are certain limits to which they can go and that any increases have to fall within the ability of Government to find the funds, and the Government has no intention of printing money as is suggested in another place.

At the same time that it is normal to grant increases to public servants, increases are made available to pensioners. Money has a way that when it comes out of the public Treasury it does not just stay in people's pockets, it goes into the system, into the economy and helps to fuel it. I am not a theorist like some people to talk about that, but I understand very clearly how money works and I understand clearly why it is necessary to tax people in order to run a country.

It is normal at times of salary increases to grant provisions to pensioners. On this occasion there is a Resolution which makes provision for an increase in pensions which represents a cost of living allowance of about 3%. The 3% is arrived at as half of the median of the existing salary increase in year one, 7% at the bottom, 3.5% at the top, approximately 6%, and half of that is the basis for granting a 3% increase on pensions. It works out at something like \$20 a month for pensioners who retired after April 1976, and persons who were on pension at 31st March, 1976 will be entitled to an additional \$5 on top of the \$20 which is being granted with effect from April, 1990.

Similar increases, based on that 3% increase, are being provided for old age pensioners, both contributory and non-contributory pensions.

Mr. Deputy President, with that brief, although interrupted, introduction, I beg to move that the Resolution which covers the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order be now passed.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, it is heartening to see that we have before us a Resolution which is based upon a negotiated agreement between Government and most of the unions representing various categories of Government workers. In the past we have not always been so fortunate as a country to have salaries fixed on that basis, and so I am especially pleased to be able to support this Resolution which has that level of support among the unions.

However, in doing so we should note and commend the unions for their sense of responsibility to the country, because they have agreed to a settlement which falls short of the increase in the cost of living either over the two years of the last agreement or the projected increase in the cost of living over the two years of this agreement, depending on whether you want to take a backward looking view of the settlements or a forward looking view. Either way you look at it, the unions have decided to settle for less in real terms than they would have had two years ago.

Quite clearly they would have done this out of an awareness of the difficulties which the country now confronts, out of awareness of the fact that the economy is in recession, out of awareness of the fiscal problems facing Government. We have to commend all the unions for their high sense of responsibility to country. I am one of those persons who have always argued that the unions in Barbados have always been responsible in the main when it comes to wage settlements. There may be one or two exceptions which, as the saying goes, might go to prove the rule, but the main unions in Barbados have been highly responsible in their approach to wage negotiations and they

have never really sought to insist on unreasonable increases.

12.10 p.m.

They have been rather restrained in their request over the years. On occasions when there were high increases it was largely or entirely because of a very high rate of inflation around that period of time. I am glad to see that that sense of responsibility has been manifested in the unions being able to come to an agreement with Government. Recently we have been hearing threats that Government would not hesitate to legislate a ceiling for salary increases if they felt that they had to. I want to suggest that given the history of wage negotiations in Barbados, if that should ever happen it would not happen because of anything....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. I believe that Senator McClean is introducing a hypothetical situation here and has nothing to do with what Senator Lewis introduced in the motion.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I am saying that recently there were indications that Government would not hesitate to legislate a wage ceiling if it felt that was necessary and I am making the point that given the history of wage negotiations in this country where the unions have always been sensitive to the circumstances of the employers and the workers and to the overall condition of the country that I do not think that Government has to be occupied with those thoughts and if perchance we ever found ourselves coming to that juncture it would not be because of any irresponsibility on the part of the union but perhaps because of the conditionalities imposed upon us by the International Monetary Fund, either as actual conditions subsequent to entering into an agreement or as a precondition because as we all know, talks start with the IMF before you enter into an agreement and the IMF in recent years has fallen on the strategy....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, there is nothing in this Resolution... On a point of order, Sir. There is nothing in this Resolution dealing with the IMF. Senator McClean must refrain from setting up strawmen just to push them over. Let us deal with the Resolution before us....

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, as I was saying, I am talking about wages, wage restraints, wage ceilings and so on and the only circumstance in which one could consider that a Government of Barbados could find itself in a position to have to impose any such wage ceilings, given the high

sense of responsibility of the unions is if it is imposed upon them by the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, this really is irrelevant and it has nothing at all to do with the actual case in point because that has not happened so you are just being hypothetical.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I am not making any hypothetical case. I am responding to comments that were made in public and I am commenting....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Not here, Senator McClean. Don't respond to the comments made in public here. You are free to do that in public as well.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Anyhow, the essential point is that the unions have been entirely responsible in agreeing to a settlement below the increase in the cost of living. I am sure that the unions will continue to be responsible in all situations facing the country and that there is no need for any draconian impositions which restrict the activities of the unions as far as negotiations are concerned.

Now, having said that however, we also have to take note that this settlement has come in circumstances where Government is experiencing a major fiscal deficit far in excess of what was projected by Government at the time that the Estimates were laid before us and the increases provided here exacerbate that situation of deficit. I think that it is the responsibility of Government to indicate to us in fairly specific and clear terms what plans they have for financing this deficit. I want to remind this Honourable Chamber that the Estimates as presented for 1990-91 Government was projecting a current account surplus of about \$12.1 million and that if you look at page 11 in the Memorandum to the Estimates, you will see that at a time that these Estimates were proved, Government had indicated that it was still to identify funds amounting to \$131.9 million to cover the deficit. This relates to a situation where Government was projecting a current account surplus of \$12.1 million, capital expenditure of \$229.994599 million, almost \$230 million and they said they had already identified funds amounting to \$98 million leaving a situation where they were yet to identify \$131.9 million, funds to be raised through loans etc. We know that none of that money has been raised through increased taxation. We know that Government has not come to this Chamber with any proposals for any substantial loan. We know that the deficit is considerably larger than is projected here. If they were saying it was \$131 million we can fairly rest assured that it is going to be at least twice that figure that they have to look for because in relation to the accounts and statements for the months of July 1990 prepared by the Accountant General on page 3 and 2 taken together we notice that for the period ending July 1990 - that's the first

four months of the financial year. Government Revenue was \$270.9 million approximately and its current expenditure as presented by the Accountant General was \$332 million, giving its deficit of about \$62 million current account, where a surplus was projected for the year. We know that since then, Government including now has undertaken additional expenditures not anticipated in the Estimates in March. So this deficit is not going to reverse itself and go back to a surplus at the end of the year. It is going to keep on expanding the current deficit. So this is why I say that Government instead of having to look for the \$131 million probably will have to look for at least twice that amount in additional financing for a record deficit this year and they have not yet raised any significant overseas loan. We have heard of a loan presumably raised by the Central Bank of Trinidad about US\$5.6 million. We also know where that went. That went to pay off in part a bond issue in Trinidad.

So, I am once again doing two things: urging that this Senate be apprised of Government's efforts or Government's plans to finance that deficit and I am also urging that Government, if they are not already doing that, should do everything within their power to ensure that they get the financing in place in the very near future. Because if this is not done.... One can come here and say that Government will not be printing money to finance the deficit but those words would be hollow words because the Government cheques will turn up on the doorstep of the Central Bank or will turn up at the Central Bank and I don't think the Central Bank will bounce any Government cheques even if it means that they will have to make some dodges around the regulations. The Central Bank will be leaned upon to finance that deficit and in the event that the Honourable Senator....
12.20 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. I cannot, in good conscience, sit here and allow Senator McClean to make statements about the Minister of Finance which are inaccurate. He is more or less suggesting that this Government has made no provisions at all to deal with the deficit and that it will use its power to pressure the Central Bank into accommodating the expenses. He cannot do this. It is not fair. He has no basis, in fact, for making the statement.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I have not heard him get up on a point of order yet. He is making a speech.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I shall take care of that, Senator McClean. Will you confine yourself to the subject matter of the Resolution? You may proceed.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I am sticking very closely to the subject matter of

the Resolution. But in response to what I have just heard, I do not know if it is a point of order or not but I want to say it is a misrepresentation.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I shall rule if it is a point of order or not.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I presume it is not a point of order then because you have not ruled.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is a point of order and I shall rule on that. You may continue your debate.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, what is the particular point of order which I violated.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have....

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I do not know. I have to find out because I do not want to make the same error twice.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will not allow you to be questioning the Chair. I say you may proceed with your debate, Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I am not privy to any plans on the part of the Government. I am exhorting that Government has not yet revealed any of those plans to this Chamber or to the country in any way in terms of how they are going to finance the deficit. Government has not yet come to Parliament to raise any loans to finance that deficit.

I am saying that this is late in the day and that Government should do it expeditiously otherwise you will end up in a situation where the Central Bank will have to finance the deficit by default. That is not intended to be a reflection on any Minister or anything like that. It is intended to be a statement of fact. That is a matter of hard, straightforward analysis. I am not reflecting on anybody. If it reflects badly on someone, it is not because of me. It is because of the person in relation to these facts.

We have a situation here where now we are exacerbating that deficit. We have had a presentation and there has not been so much as a word as to a recognition of this particular point. All we are told is to wait until Government should come, or wait and wait. Well, we will wait.

There are certain other matters too. This thing involves the question of back pay and things of that order. I am certain it would have facilitated civil servants if they had some idea as to when they could expect that back pay.

In the past they have had such indications and on that basis they could go ahead and carry forward their plans, incur debt and do certain other things.

I am wondering if Government could not be accommodative of the public servants again on this occasion to give them some idea when back pay would be forthcoming. We have been told that there is a certain nervousness among some members of the Public Service regarding Government's either willingness or ability to pay them sums due to them by way of travelling allowances. We have also heard of temporary officers who have not received their salaries for some period. That is the news that we hear. We do not know. They are some officers in the Ministry of Health.

The next point which we need to consider relates to the implications of the wage increases or the overall cost of the Public Service. The Honourable Senator has indicated that the staff cost in the Public Service will increase to about 50% of the current expenditure. Basically, I do not feel that one could have any hard and fast views as to what proportion of public expenditure should go in wages as opposed to materials, supplies and so on. It depends on factors relating to the mix of services provided by Government. If you have a service which puts considerable emphasis on education and the delivery of health care etc. where the major inputs are services of men and women, you would get that kind of bias towards a high proportion of wages and salaries in your total expenditure.

On the other hand, if you had a Government which placed greater emphasis on defence, buying arms and airplanes you would get another kind of bias. Before one can say whether 50% is high or satisfactory in terms of a proportion, you have to look a bit more closely at the overall mix of services provided by this particular Government. Indeed, you will probably find that it is bias towards things like education, the delivery of health service, tanks, guns and airplanes. You would expect a fairly high proportion of wages in there.

My concern, therefore, is not so much with the notion of 50% in wages and salaries as with the overall level of expenditure by Government including the wages and salaries, but also expenditure on other things, expenditure on concrete, cement, building arches, moving Nelson from one place and putting him a few feet further over and that kind of stuff. My concern is with the overall level of Government expenditure.

We have passed the danger point in this country. That is where we have a crisis situation. Government expenditure is too high in proportion with the GDP of this country having regard to the types of service that are provided by Government *vis-à-vis* the range of services that the people have to provide for themselves. I think last year the figure mentioned by Government was 36% of GDP.

With the economy going into recession and Government expenditure still growing, that figure will go higher. I think Government is using a GDP figure based on factor cost for that particular figure. That is altogether too high. That proportion has to fall. I am not saying that Government expenditure has to fall. It means, therefore, that the private sector, the non-government part of the economy, must be permitted to grow faster than Government.

There are two ways that can happen if the private sector grows rather slowly or even declines but Government declines faster, or if the Government holds strain, or even increases, but the private sector should increase even faster. What is important is that ratio has to change and the private sector has to grow in relation to the public sector in Barbados.

12.30 p.m.

The reason for that is quite clear and straightforward. The private sector carries the public sector on its back. You can employ people in the public sector because you tax the private sector. You can think of the public servants' salaries as net. You could never sustain the Public Service by taxing the Public Service. So you could put that to one side and think of the Public Service side as net and for them to get that take home pay to have to tax the private sector. If the private sector is not large enough to bear the burden placed upon it, it is going to collapse and Government will find itself in a most difficult situation. That is the particular reason why we have to be concerned with the cost of the public servants. The cost is too high even if the services were excellent in terms of what they were intended to be. The people of Barbados have been complaining about the quality of the services provided to them in the public sector.

There is a lot of room for improvement. The reason why there is this room for improvement is fairly complex. It relates to matters connected with low productivity and low morale which are bound up in the systems used in the Public Service which are also bound up with the political directorate in the management of the overall Public Service. So that the inefficiency in the Public Service – there is enough to go around – must go to the senior managers other than the political directorate. A fair share of that blame must fall on the political directorate. I think all of the political responsibility at least is going to fall on the political directorate. It is the political directorate's job to get things moving in the right direction. I am not talking about the day to day involvement of hiring and firing people, but I am talking about implementing structures and setting the framework.

So that basically Government has that responsibility to seek to make the Public Service more efficient and to do the necessary things to trigger a response within the Public Service which will make it more efficient. But there is a difference between responsibility and ability. The Honourable Senator likes from time to time to reflect and

he did it today. He got up and reflected on the ability and performance of others. I will not reflect on his ability or performance nor will I defend the persons on whom he sought to cast aspersions against such people.

So that basically what I am saying it is not only responsibility but ability. It is quite clear that this Government which started out establishing a Ministry of the Public Service to address the said problem has got nowhere in terms of improving the performance of the Public Service. So the men with great ability I do not know what they are doing with their ability. They are using it for other purposes. I think that basically any new Government will have to address this matter of the performance of the Public Service quite seriously with a view to providing better value for money and better services at a lower cost. We are not talking about necessarily reducing the number of people employed in the Public Service. We are talking about the balance between cost and the service provided in quality terms as well as in quantity terms.

The Honourable Senator in his introduction lauded Government for creating a number of additional permanent posts largely out of a situation where they were temporary posts. If I understood him correctly, there will also be an additional number of about 47 posts, which based on how I interpreted his statement, will be entirely new. He is lauding Government for shifting the situation of those workers and I will say they deserve to take credit for some for that.

Quite clearly those 942 workers are in a much better position today. But when one has a job and does it half way, he should not be too quick to take credit. If you have to clean a yard and you only clean half of it, do not go around shouting that you cleaned the half. Focus on your having not yet finished the job. I think the Honourable Senator has also indicated that we still have a large number of temporary people in the Public Service and also in the teaching service.

In the teaching service, we have a situation...I do not want to get into that. I was hoping to save that until later on. But since I have started I will just make a comment quickly. We have a situation the number of established posts fall significantly short of the required number of teachers known to the Ministry to man the classrooms year-in year-out and day-in and day-out. Recently, we have heard on top of that you had a substantial number of posts that are established but not filled. The teaching service deserves better. I hope that in the not too distant future the Honourable Senator will be able to rise in this Chamber and boast that he has made matters right by the teachers.

Now all in all therefore, Mr. Deputy President, I have supported the Resolution. But I have indicated that it raises a number of issues requiring urgent attention and many of

them are indicative of the shortcoming of the present Administration.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I rise in support of this Resolution which is before this Senate. In so doing, it is very seldom that I can share with Senator McClean the points in which he makes and I wish to join him in congratulating the leadership of the workers organizations for their understanding of what national development is about. Of course, I do not travel the entire road with him because the Senator is saying that the unions settled in a sense because they do not want to be held responsible for any difficulties which might develop in the country. I am not persuaded to that particular view. One thing that Barbados has always been fortunate in is the responsibility and leadership of the workers organizations. We have had the maverick trade union leader here and there. I remember around 1976 we had a case in the NUPW where you had some of the most unreasonable demands ever foisted on this country. All of us today understand why it happened at that time. Because before the ink was dry on the agreement, the Government was changed and the leader of that unreasonableness was made a Parliamentary Secretary and then promoted to be a Minister.
12.40 p.m.

Nobody at that time argued that trade unionists should not become Members of Parliament, but every day you hear people get up nowadays arguing that trade unionists should not be in Parliament, you cannot represent the workers outside the House, in the work place, and represent them inside here too. Nobody is saying lawyers should not be in Parliament, and they represent big business every day. Nobody is saying businessmen should not be in Parliament, and yet their interests in many respects diverge from those of the workers.

Mr. Deputy President, I am clear in my mind that the best persons to represent the masses of the workers – and when I talk about workers in Barbados, a good 95% working Barbadians are wage and salary earners – that is a fact – and the best persons to represent the masses of the people in Barbados are the representatives of the workers who represent them day in and day out in the work place. I have no difficulty in understanding that. I am a worker and I will always choose somebody in the working class to represent me.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President. I do not like doing this, but I beg fair comparison with the contribution of the Honourable Senator in terms of relevance to the debate, having regard to your earlier ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, I shall make that decision. I do not need your assistance. Thank you. Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Yes, Mr. Deputy President. I was saying that I am happy that the workers' organisations have shown the maturity which they have demonstrated on this occasion. It shows that we have travelled a very long way from the very difficult period of industrial relations under the previous administration when the workers were constantly at war with the administration.

Senator McClean made the point that the wage increases are somewhat less than the adjustments in the cost of living over the last two years or what have you. He went on to suggest that in this sense the workers have been very reasonable. If I understand Senator McClean correctly, and I hope I misunderstood him, what Senator McClean is saying to this Honourable Chamber is that adjustment in the cost of living is the primary factor which should be taken into consideration in deciding on a wage adjustment.

I will pause so that I can give Senator McClean the opportunity to correct me if I am wrong.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN *rose*.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, I shall not be having this cross talk. This is not that sort of debate.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: On a point of explanation, Mr. Deputy President. I did not in the least suggest that the cost of living index or the price index is the only thing that should be of relevance in terms of fixing of wages. Indeed, in my presentation I made reference to recession, so I am fully aware that there are other indicators. I never suggested that the unions settled because they do not want the responsibility if anything should go wrong.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Alleyne, in continuing you may ignore any irrelevancies.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. Some time ago, I think it was about 1976, I wrote a paper addressing this particular matter, the whole business of wages and incomes policies in a small, open, dependent economy. At that time I made the point that in a small, open, dependent economy as Barbados the critical factor which one has to consider in working out a wage policy is the capacity of the economy to provide the foreign exchange component of domestic expenditure.

I would expect that in a Senate, which is a place for mature debate, those of us who rise to speak on these matters would show a much better appreciation of these issues. It is in that sense, then, I wish further to commend the workers' organisations, because what they have

demonstrated is that in a situation of weak export performance it is no point going and trying to harass a Government to give money when you know that in Barbados every dollar of expenditure in one way or the other, either in consumer goods, intermediate goods or capital goods, 70% of it finds itself into demand for foreign exchange.

We also have to recognise that when the cost of living goes up – the research on the Barbadian economy has demonstrated beyond a shadow of doubt that it is not going up primarily because of Government's fiscal policy – it is going up because the prices of imported goods and services are rising, and when the cost goes up it is going up for the public sector as well. The major agent which feels the pinch of an increase in the cost of living is the public sector, so when the cost of living is rising it is not only that workers, housewives and so on are feeling the cost of living pinch, the Government sector is feeling it as well. So to suggest that the wage adjustments should concentrate on adjusting cost of living adjustments is a failure to demonstrate a basic understanding of economic theory in a small, dependent economy such as this.

Senator McClean at one point said Government's expenditure is growing too rapidly, but you cannot have it both ways. You cannot get up in here and convince reasonable people that more persons should be appointed in the Government Service, that more of this you should have, that more of that you should have and then turn around and tell me that Government expenditure is growing too rapidly. The two things are in conflict. Do not tell me that when Senator Lewis says that as a consequence of these adjustments the public sector wages bill will be somewhere in the region of 50%, and goes on to indicate that that trend points to danger in the long term for this country, do not tell me Senator Lewis is not talking eminent common sense. Anybody who understands political economy will know that the larger the portion of the current expenditure which goes towards wages and salaries, the smaller is the portion which is available for amortisation, and you can do absolutely nothing about that, you have to pay it. The smaller portion which is left for interest payments on the national debt, you have to pay it, unless you are going to default, and the only thing which is left for adjustment is transfers and subsidies. If you cut subsidies, you are going to lay off people. If you cut transfers, you are threatening the welfare services of this country, those provided by the National Assistance Board.

These people must not be allowed to talk with double tongues, you have to expose this kind of nonsense and contradictions. You cannot come and tell me expenditure is growing too rapidly and then in the next breath you turn around and tell me to provide more services here, provide more there, and so on. Where is the money going to come from?

Mr. Deputy President, it is unfortunate that people use language that they do not understand. Efficiency has several dimensions and I am not going to follow any asides and go down the track because my time is limited.
12.50 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish you would not follow asides and just address the Chair.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Now, some reference was made to the point that the fiscal deficit of 1990 apparently is going to be very high and to use Senator McClean's figures, I think, he says it is going to be double what the projected figure was and the projected figure is somewhat in the region of \$131 million. So he suggests it will be somewhere in the region of \$261 million. Mr. Deputy President, if you compute the ratio using his assumptions about what the fiscal deficit is going to turn out to be it gives you a figure somewhere in the region of 6%. That's what it is. I am not saying that you are right because very seldom, you are right. Mr. Deputy President, in 1981 the ratio of the fiscal deficit GDP was 9.1%.

SENATOR A. W. A. MCCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President on a point of order, the Senator is misrepresenting statements made by me. The \$131 million is not even the projected fiscal deficit in the Estimates. That is the unfinanced portion.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I thank Senator McClean for reminding me of that particular point, but I have made the checks independently and the figure which is projected is somewhat in the region of 6% of GDP and I am saying to this Chamber when Senator McClean gets up and gives us the impression that this is creating some kind of record, it shows his understanding and his knowledge of fiscal management and policy in Barbados is faulty. In 1981 the ratio of the fiscal deficit was 9.1%. If you can do arithmetic you can understand that. Furthermore, Mr. Deputy President, the increases in pensions will in no way impact upon the fiscal deficit. The NAS has to finance them. So, when you start to make all kinds of wild statements, you have to be tamed....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Senator McClean also said that this Government raised some loan of \$5.6 million in Trinidad and Tobago quite recently to finance the bond issue of the Central Bank. I did not rise at the time, Mr. Deputy President, because I want to give Senator McClean, like anybody else, the opportunity to speak uninterruptedly. I believe that is a basic decency which I should expend to anybody and I am calling today on the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados to get up and tell

the public in clear unambiguous language what is the position in relation to this statement that is coming in from Senator McClean because it is an untruth. I am saying it is untrue. It is my certain knowledge that this transaction was initiated by the present Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago, Mr. Willie Demas and what Mr. McClean is giving us in here is misleading as I believe the Governor of the Central Bank has a responsibility to this country. If he can't do it, let Dr. Worrell do it. He speaks in a private capacity. He is a Deputy Governor, telling the country the specifics of the situation. I know what they are and I am saying that what Senator McClean says in this House does not represent the truth and we have a serious responsibility when we come inside here to speak the truth, and if we don't know the truth, not to mislead people.

I heard the Senator refer to the tax ratio of GDP and he says it is somewhere in the region of 36%. That is not true either. When you compute, when you take out non-tax revenue... I am reading from this. Every Senator has a copy of this – the 1989 Economic Report. You look at Table 4, Current Revenue by Functional Classification. When you take out non tax revenue – and I am talking about the tax ratio and if I am talking about the tax ratio, I have to take out non-tax revenue. Non-tax revenue is not tax revenue. An abc child should understand that. Then I draw attention to Gross Domestic Product which you will find on page 56, Table 23. Gross Domestic Product is \$3.4 billion – \$3,413.9 million which adds up to \$3.4 billion. When you express that, you express tax revenue as a ratio of that figure you don't get any 36%. What you get is 28.9% which is much less than 36%. When you add in non-tax revenue, what you get is 34.5%. But I go on to say, Mr. Deputy President, you can't compare goat with sheep. They are not the same things. Those of us who understand these matters know you have to compare like with like.

You cannot compare Barbados as an economy with any other economy in the Caribbean. Barbados today is like a mature middle income country. That is what it is like. It is not like Jamaica. It is not like Trinidad. It is not like Guyana. So don't let us get up and spout a lot of nonsense inside here. Our per capita income is the highest anywhere in the English speaking Caribbean. We have a per capita income of US\$6,140 at the end of 1989. No other country in the Caribbean, Central America the entire Latin America... Tell me how many other countries beat that. So, when you get up inside here, get up and talk sense and do credit to the profession.

The statement was made, Mr. Deputy President – and this is a common thing which is thrown around nowadays – the private sector carries the public sector on its back and I heartily disagree with it. It is a slander made on public servants in Barbados and the National Union of Public Workers does nothing to correct it. There has to be a symbiosis between the private sector and the public sector. We are not living in a Robinson Crusoe world and those

idiots who continue to articulate this kind of nonsense must be put in their place. If the public sector goes through the kind of attrition which people like Stan Reid advocates, what would happen to this country? The public sector has to create the policy framework and the environment within which the private sector can get on with its work. They should never be seen as in competition. They are mutually supportive and those who seek to project this kind of nonsense in this country, should not be taken seriously. If the people in the public sector don't do their work... I am sure, any serious businessman will tell you that to the extent that there is delay in the public sector there is delay in the private sector. All those who get up and say Government expenditure is too high, cut it, the first people to cry out in Barbados when you cut Government expenditure will be the private sector because the major direct customer of the private sector is the Government by way of contracts, by way of purchases and business services and at the indirect level again the public sector is the major customer of the private sector moguls. When you hear David Seale and these people start to talk you wouldn't believe that they understand any more than a little shopkeeper.

1.00 p.m.

The Government lays off the workers. It means that it is cutting the spending power of these people who go into the private businesses to buy goods and services. What arrant nonsense you come bringing to me when you talk about Government's expenditures so I cut it; and that the public sector is killing the private sector? It is foolishness.

Mr. Deputy President, I speak from bitter experience, this private sector foolishness. We have some first-class people in the private sector. We have some who are just as good in the public sector. Inefficiency is not confined to the public sector. There are some private sector firms doing well in Barbados not because the management is efficient but they are doing well because they are in the captive market.

The National Insurance lost a lot of money giving a private sector firm the job to computerise national insurance. We lost a lot of money, we lost a lot of time and we lost an opportunity to get on with the job and get on top of it. Who is doing the job today computerising it? Not the private sector but a lowly public servant who we have never heard about. He is making fantastic strides in doing it.

Do not let us fool ourselves and run down the ordinary people in Barbados. When you talk of the public servants you are talking about people who have come from the ordinary stock in Barbados. Every day we get on the airwaves, and we even get inside here and start to run down the public servants who are the ordinary people of this country. One thing I know, Mr. Deputy President, I know from where I have come and I know where I am going. I am not fooling myself on that.

Mr. Deputy President, I wish to congratulate the Government and the Minister of Finance in particular in the statesmanlike manner in which he has managed this very sensitive matter at a time given to silliness because this is the time of the silly season and you cannot do anything right if you are in Government. Whatever you do they will say do more. That is the nature of the season we are into.

The Honourable Minister of Finance has had the understanding and the good sense not to go and push himself into things prematurely. There is a call in Barbados today, generally, for the resurgence of bullyism and caudillism. The days for bullying and the days for caudillos are long gone. Anybody who tries to bully Barbadians will mash up the society.

I have to compliment the Honourable Minister for showing the patience and the understanding in dealing with this matter rather than trying to bully the workers' organisations and to rush the thing, force his will upon people. You sit it out and create the environment in which people can reason and reason can prevail on both sides so that you heal the country rather than destroy it. This nonsense which we are propagating in this country about wanting a strong man – one fellow said that we want somebody who is a bit of a tyrant to move on this country. You are looking to destroy it. What you need is understanding and that is what comes out quite clearly in this particular matter as we come to a conclusion.

Mr. Deputy President, I feel satisfied that the Government has done its job, it has discharged its responsibility fairly. In closing I wish to compliment the Minister and support this particular Order.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy President, I am pleased for the many civil servants who will receive an increase arising out of the passage of this Bill. It is not a large increase and I, too, would like to compliment the trade unions involved in arriving at a reasonable settlement. We know that we have inflation that is not high and the cost of

living has gone up but it will help all of those persons in balancing their household budgets. So I can share their happiness.

The fact remains however, Sir, that it is going to cost the Treasury \$25 million in the current fiscal year and \$15 million next year. That is where we have to focus. To use the Prime Minister's own terminology, I am sure the Ministry of Finance can cut and contrive so that saving can accrue from some other area of current expenditure, so that the aggregate of current expenditure does not have to increase.

I realize it is probably too late now because the negotiations by and large have been completed. But I do have a concern for those people working in the Tax Collecting Departments. I share this concern that Senator Frank Alleyne has expressed in other places, in that the Government revenue is essentially dependent on Customs revenues and all other revenues that the Customs Department collects, and the Inland Revenue Department and thirdly, although this is separate, the levies collected by the National Insurance Scheme. I think those two departments and the NIS need very special attention and I would like to think that attention started recruitment of persons with the necessary training, skills, and aptitudes to be recruited in that department. I do not know to what extent they are being trained. I assume that reasonable efforts are being made to train them. Whatever the efforts are, greater efforts should be made to train them both locally and overseas that those persons can see their career paths within those tax collecting departments. And, correspondingly, I would have no objection to seeing those persons within those tax collecting departments receiving higher rates of pay. I do not know what problems or imbalances it will cause within this Civil Establishment. I am not aware of those problems, Sir, but I think that they are so important and so fundamental to the fiscal affairs of this country.

It seems that tax collection is a problem of most if not all smaller societies. Whether it is due to family connections, friendship, or other affiliations, I do not pretend to have the full answer. But it is not a problem peculiar to Barbados alone. I was very pleased to see my colleague, Senator Frank Alleyne, speak out in the strongest terms about the need for improving tax collection. If it were done efficiently, the Government would receive more revenue and it may be possible at the same time to even lower the rates of tax. So I cannot urge too strongly, Sir, attention to be paid to the tax collecting agencies of Government.

Tax evasion is nothing new. It is all a question of whether it is within acceptable limits. I submit that within this country of ours that it has surpassed what normally could be considered acceptable limits sometime ago. Tax evasion is dishonest. It is unjust. It is illegal and above all it

is demoralizing. Why should the honest taxpayers, corporate and individual, have to bear excessive burdens of taxation to subsidize those who feel that they can have a free ride through life, who make ever greater demands on Government and yet do not feel responsible that they have to make any contribution to the public Treasury.

Sir, I urge very much that the next time negotiations come around special attention be paid (if it is possible within the framework of the Civil Establishment) to the tax collecting departments.

The second group I want to refer to, Sir (and I had really no intention before this morning even commenting on this). But I am referring to those members of the Civil Establishment who have to deal with law and order, in effect, Sir, the Police and Defence Force. Those who have read today's Advocate (I will just read the first paragraph of that article) I believe will share my concern and shock. It refers to a university lecturer (I will not mention his name) and it warns that the 1991 general elections could be marred by violence of a revolutionary nature. I hope that the Police and the Defence Force are satisfied with their emoluments, terms, and conditions of work because if that warning is correct we will need their services to protect all Barbadians. Sir, that statement might apply to Jamaica where violence of a revolutionary nature is almost a way of life and only escalates at election time. I cannot equate that with the Barbados that I know. We pride ourselves here on social and political stability and with every justification for a very long time. We have a history of peaceful elections whether or not the Government has changed.

Applause.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy President, as a Barbadian, I hold this Constitution with reverence and respect. We are free people living in a free democratic society that is evolving. We as free people have the ability to direct and guide that evolution. Let us not look for prescriptions from the outside to tell us what we instinctively know we must do. I hope that all of us will look to the future in a positive manner, that when we object and analyze our situation now and in the future we will be objective, and that all of us will be constructive in our search for solutions to our common problems. After all, Mr. Deputy President, Barbados is our home. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR T. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Deputy President, I rise too in support of the Resolution that is before this Honourable Chamber. I, too, would like to congratulate the unions in particular and the Government (this word has been said many times today) for the "responsible" manner in which they went about coming to conclusions in respect to the wage negotiations. I think, Sir, we do not have to be self congratulatory when things like this happen. Throughout the day we have been hearing words of responsibility and discipline in the unions and I am one

person who would hope that this sense of discipline and responsibility can permeate this society from top to bottom. When I say from top, I mean from top in respect of certain statements that are made by Members of the Opposition Parties in another place. I was extremely pleased today to hear the contributions of Senator McClean which were without the glitter and glamour and the dangerous language of other people in another place because I do not believe that that sort of language which was plastered about the newspapers today can help this country in any way. In that sense, I support and fully endorse the statements of Senator Goddard. I, too, will look shortly at what I can only call alarmist positions by some persons in the society which can do it absolutely no good.

Sir, I have never spoken really in opposition to anything that Senator McClean has said, but I have to at least compliment him for the language which has not been in any way alarmist as given in the other Chamber which, as I said before, can augur not good at all for Barbadians or for those outside of Barbados looking at Barbados. That is the height of irresponsibility. Of course, I am not agreeing with the conclusions of my friend, Senator McClean. In that respect, I endorse what my friend, Senator Alleyne, has said.

2.15 p.m.

The unfortunate position in which Government finds itself today is that if Government gives, as it has given – and it has not given in the absence of an agreement with the persons who ought to negotiate on behalf of the workers – Government has agreed with unions to give. I think Senator McClean, even though he referred to this in the beginning, somewhat in the middle and at the end of his submissions here forgot that Government did not come to conclusions on its own, but there were negotiated settlements. Therefore, the workers, through their representatives, agreed and I think for that all must be complimented.

Again I go back to those words of responsibility and discipline, which I honestly hope every youngster, man or woman in this country will take to heart, because we need that at this time. Unfortunately, as I said, if Government gave, as it has given consequent to the agreement, we hear talk that they have given too little and in addition to giving too little, the Treasury is broke, and where are you going to get the money from to give them. If Government did not give, then we would hear "Do you see what we have been saying all the time? The Government is broke, you cannot give." So really in fact we are in a no win situation and the hypocrites – forgive me for using that term, Mr. Deputy President – come to the fore and say there is no money to pay.

Government, in an agreement, has given. It has given what the unions have agreed to and what the Government considers to be a reasonable settlement to civil servants in the circumstances, and I do not think this country deserves

this double talk. If the Government gives, it gives too little. If it does not give, you cannot give because you are broke. I think every simple-minded person out there would understand simple things like that. I do not know why it has happened to not come within the minds of the members of other parties in other places. That is why I say this hypocrisy in Barbados can do us absolutely no good.

Senator McClean also made a statement, which Senator Alleyne dealt with, but I will deal with it too because it distresses me somewhat, this talk about the public sector piggy-backing on the private sector. I do not think that that really is a statement which ought to be taken seriously, because it was out of Senator McClean's own mouth that he said that if you sweep a room half clean, rather than patting yourself on the back saying the room is half clean, you should finish the job and sweep the other half. The statement that the private sector carries the public sector falls right into that mould. It is not even a full half statement, if I can call it that. Senator Alleyne dealt with that and Senator Goddard looked at ways and means in which the public sector helps the private sector.

It seems to me the logical extension of Senator McClean's argument would be that the Government of a country, the State, the public sector, should have no control over what comes in or what goes out of your ports of entry – Bridgetown Port, Grantley Adams Airport. It seems to me to be moving in that direction. It seems to me that the Government is not to know how much money is in the country, what is happening to that money or anything like that. I do not believe that this party, of which I am a member, and on whose side I sit here, has ever said that the private sector in this country must be destroyed, must be demoralised and things like that. To the best of my knowledge, persons in other places have shown where this Government has done almost all in its power to ensure that the private sector is well looked after, well maintained and in a position to launch off on its own. I think we have never denied the private sector what it wants to the best of our ability and the capacity of the country, and I think it is unfortunate that a statement of that type could be made in a Chamber like this.

Furthermore, Sir, I believe, with respect, the most mischievous thing that was said today was when Senator McClean – and he was smiling when he said it – asked the Government when it was going to pay back pay. That is mischievousness and I think he will agree with me, because he is bating the Government, trying to set up a Government, and I do not think it is fair to anybody. If back pay is due, I am almost certain back pay will be paid, and there the matter should rest. He should not try to make political mileage out of something like back pay, it will be paid if it is due.

Sir, I have earlier spoken about the alarmist position taken by certain persons in this country over this public

sector/private sector debate. Though I digress a little, forgive me, but I think it is extremely unfortunate that persons who should know better in a society that is conscious of the sensitivities of the different persons that make it up should go down that road seeking, whether in ignorance or otherwise, to provide fire to situations which ought not to be fired up. I think that in itself is unfortunate and the further away we keep from alarmist statements the better it will be for us all.

I sit now, Sir, with the statement that I started with, I am in full support of this Resolution as it stands.

The question that the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE OMBUDSMAN (SALARY) ORDER, 1990

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution is the second in a series of seven relating to the salary increases and, as the Addendum says, the increases range from 7% at the bottom graduating to 3.5% at the top with effect from April, 1990.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PART-TIME OFFICERS) ORDER, 1990

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the Resolution No. 3 in the series relates to part-time officers attached to the Police Department, Prisons, Government Industrial Schools, Ministry of Health and the Fire Service.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support this Resolution, I would like to clarify a few matters for the benefit of those who seem not to understand certain things very well.
2.25 p.m.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: The first point I would want to address would be the question of the impact of these increases on our foreign exchange. Senator Alleyne informed this Chamber that 70% of every dollar of expenditure finds its way into the demand for foreign exchange and I respectfully submit that that is very far from the truth and I would hope that if Senator Alleyne is persuaded that that is true that he will endeavour to adduce

the supporting evidence for that statement. In the meantime, however, to substantiate my contradiction of that statement....

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. My education and information on this matter comes from the work done by the Central Bank of Barbados. If Senator McClean has done work to the contrary let him make it a document of this House.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I presume that Senator Alleyne will direct our attention to this particular work done by the Central Bank which said that. Again, I doubt any such work exists, but to support my contradiction of that particular notion, I want to direct attention to Table 23, The Economic Report 1989, page 56, Table entitled Composition of Expenditure on Gross Domestic Product Current Prices. There you see the estimate for net expenditure on GDP at market prices which is the same thing as GDP at market prices as \$3,413.9 million and in the said table in an adjacent column you have a figure for imports, goods and services of \$1,605.9 million. If you express imports as a percentage of GDP that figure comes out at 47% and I am aware that some economists mistakenly use that figure as a measure of the amount of expenditure that will go into imports and it is possible that the Central Bank might have done the study using that kind of figure.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President. Senator McClean is misrepresenting what I said. I made the point that in the Barbadian economy it has been estimated that a dollar of expenditure eventually generates a demand for some 70% of that expenditure by way of imports for capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials and consumer goods. To take a report for a particular year and draw a connection between imports in that year and total GDP in that year is to misunderstand the point I am making because capital expenditure and the imports of capital goods in one year will not show up in the same time period in relation to the demand which was generated by that expenditure. So, it is in that sense Senator McClean is mis... I won't say he doesn't understand me, he is misrepresenting me.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Yes, Mr. Deputy President. I will continue. That figure comes out to 47% and I am aware that some economists have mistakenly used that figure as the measure of the amount of expenditure which will leak into imports and the reasoning behind it is that the GDP represents the totality of the incomes that we have and therefore in a sense represents our ability to spend.

But the figure, I wouldn't bore the Senator with that. I just make the statement. The figure however would

overstate the average import content in imported goods and the reason why it would overstate it is that some of the imported goods reflected here is also included in the goods we export, not the goods that we buy ourselves locally. So, the amount that we spend on imports and retain is less than this because some of it represented raw materials that went into the manufacture of goods which we in turn export. So, if you relate that level of import to another figure that is the gross expenditure on GDP you will find a figure of some 32% which would more closely approximate the average component of imported goods and the things that we buy, but not necessarily so.

Senator Alleyne has explained that he was talking about including capital expenditure and things like that. Maybe that is what he was talking about, but this comment covers that. I just simply remind this Chamber that we were talking about the expenditure of people who are getting wage increases here. Be that as it may, if anyone has any difficulty in understanding what I just said you just have to reflect on a case to case basis on expenditure on any conceivable item in Barbados and ask yourself if you go to the store and buy something for \$100 how much of that represents the cost of the imported item. Take a motor car; half of it goes to Government right off the top. Take gasoline; almost half of it goes to Government right off the top.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator McClean. I have permitted you to continue for some time in an effort to clarify anything which might have been in your opinion a misrepresentation of what you said before and therefore I did not stop you earlier, but we are here under a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) Order. I did not stop you before because I thought it only fair that you should have an opportunity to rebut any statement which you felt was not giving you justice. Having given you ample time to do that I must remind you that you must stick to the subject matter of this Resolution.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. Essentially, the summary point is that when you take expenditure on any specific item or take it in the round there is no way that you can perceive 70% of that going for foreign exchange. It is far below that and anyone who suggests that that is the case is misleading this Chamber; not misleading me, misleading themselves and this Chamber.

Again, we are speaking about the Resolution in relation to part-time officers and I submit that Government should sweep the whole yard. Don't compliment itself on sweeping half the yard but do justice to all of the part-time officers including the teachers and other officers also. In contradiction of that submission, it was indicated that it is going to cost a lot of money and you are saying that Government has a high deficit. Again that is a faulty conclusion. Senator Alleyne indicated that it is going to cost

money to appoint these people and I, in an aside, indicated that these people are already working. It is just a matter of an appointment to a permanent post not to a new post and therefore the financial implications of appointing someone who is now acting as a teacher to a permanent post is trivial. It might have implications somewhere down the line for pensions and things of that order but it is trivial in the short run. If you appoint a teacher tomorrow that teacher is going to be drawing the same salary as he was drawing when he was acting. You are not promoting him but the point of the matter is that if Government would want to point to the long run implications and to speak in terms of contingent liability which is not going to show up in the balance of the particular year as a reason why you don't want to appoint teachers, say that. Let the teachers know. However, to my way of thinking, in terms of priorities for Government expenditure, that is entirely a good and beneficial thing to do. But if Government is looking at a few cents and pennies, consequential contingent liabilities as attached to appointing teachers, well, let the teachers know why that is the reason why they are not being appointed. For a long time they have been wondering why it is so. I am saying that as long as it is demonstrated that there is a requirement for a certain number of people to do a job and you are going to be on a continuing basis employing people to do that job, we have a responsibility to put that person in permanent employment if other considerations so warrant, namely qualifications and other things. It should not be that people should forever have to be acting. And at that point it is fairly appreciated and recognised by the Honourable Member, but if his colleagues want to back away from that and criticise it, by all means criticise it, but I uphold that principle that you have to consider the welfare of these temporary workers.

2.35 p.m.

If you anticipate that fellow is going to be working for you for the next 10 or 20 years, do not keep him suffering all the time and disadvantage him. He is getting mortgages and everything else. So I reiterate my plea to Government to try and sweep the whole yard. Do not just stop short at part of the yard.

Again this Resolution has the same implications in terms of augmenting Government expenditure and the points which I made previously stand. I need to clarify the point about the public sector riding on the back of the private sector. I reaffirm that point. And to say that it is a symbiotic relationship between the public sector and the private sector. This not to contradict that point in any way. Both statements are true. You can have an egret and a cow living in a symbiotic relationship one on the back of the other. An egret might not be the best example. The egrets walk on the ground behind. You could have one creature living on the back of another one and they are still in a symbiotic relationship.

Aside.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: No. One is helping the other.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair. Do not address any side remarks.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: A parasitic relationship is only one getting the benefits and not the other one. That is like a love vine but if one is helping you out, it is symbiotic. It depends on whether there is a mutuality of benefits or one fellow getting everything.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us return to the subject of the debate please, Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: What I am saying here is that there is a difference of imagery. I know that there is a symbiotic relationship between the public and the private sector. Indeed, my party has pledged to deepen and strengthen that symbiotic relationship. The words "symbiotic relationship" and the idea of strengthening also appears in another Manifesto that I wrote so I know all about symbiotic relationships.

The point that I am making is this. You have certain areas that are prime generators of income. The prime generators of income in an economy such as ours would have to be the foreign exchange earning sectors to start off with. Government does not earn any foreign exchange. That is in the private sector. In addition to the foreign exchange earning sectors, other private sector activities make a fundamental contribution which is par to Government's involvement in the generation of incomes. Government has a role to play in the regulation and all sorts of things in the entire economy. Yes. But the point I am making is that if you push the private sector into a position where you cannot extract the level of taxes from it, you would soon find that Government cannot sustain itself.

I was not suggesting that Government should not be involved in things dealing with the private sector. The inference drawn by Senator Estwick about what I said and Government not knowing what is going on. I intended no such suggestion. All I am saying is that Government has to appreciate that there is optimal level to taxation and that when you exceed that it becomes counter-productive. In one year you get it and thereafter you lose. This is what is happening to Barbados now. We have gone into recession largely because the tax burden and the other restrictions placed on the private sector by the Government to make room for the Government sector to grow has forced the private sector to contract at such a rate that although the Government sector is still growing, the economy overall is contracting. We have to watch that otherwise we will destroy ourselves.

Senator Alleyne can jump up as he likes and contradict but he will not be making any sense as much as

he said before did not make any sense. It will all go down in the record anyhow.

I thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy president, I did not wish to break the trend of thought of the last speaker. He accused me of saying something which I did not say. No way in the record will you find today that I said you should not appoint those temporary officers. I gave him the opportunity to say it. You check the record thoroughly and you will find at no time today did I ever say you should not appoint temporary officers in the Public Service. I am for appointing everybody so do not set up straw men to knock them down to make yourself look pretty.

The other point which I wish to make is this. A lot of people stopped reading 20 years ago. The thing about life is that knowledge never stands steady. You either go backward or you go forward. I am not going to go backward. If you want to go back you can go. Pensions and pension planning is a serious problem for this country whether we believe it or not. The most recent study done on Barbados shows that the average life span is increasing. I have the study in my possession. I have studied it thoroughly. The mere fact that people are living longer and their basic salaries on which their pensions are going to be paid are higher and higher means that somewhere down the road you have a serious problem. To get up and say that the consequential things like pensions and so on do not matter, they do not matter? Do not let us try and start planning for it now and see what would become of this country.

I know of it because I have to deal with the National Insurance so do not sit down in here, just for the ignorance, and make those kind of statements. You had to stop reading a long time ago. But, Mr. Deputy President, I can tell you and this Chamber there was a study done by Eric Armstrong in 1968 on an input and output study and published on the tourist industry in Barbados at this time. What it showed was that in 1968 – it is to be found in social and economic studies – some 40% of all the expenditure in tourism leaked into imports in one form or the other.

The most recent study done in 1990 shows that situation has altered substantially. It is now 70%, not 40%. The world does not stay still for anybody. You would become backward over a time if you do not read. I have gone through that study and to get up in here and say that if you import a motorcar or what have you, Government takes half off the top is to misrepresent Government's fiscal position. They are certain things which are not axed. I used the tourist study because tourism is essential to this economy. I am talking about domestic expenditure. Tourism expenditure is a critical part of expenditure in this economy. It dominates the economy. To say that the recession which has stalled this economy has to do with

Government's fiscal policy is to demonstrate a blissful ignorance of the economic situation in this country.

Even people who have not gone to university should know that when we got into the second half of the 1980's in Barbados – these are facts and I have analysed them extensively – we went in on one leg on tourism. From the very early 1980's, around 1981, the manufacturing in this country was crippled. Certainly, CARICOM manufacturing because Trinidad went to pieces and for us in Barbados manufacturing exports to Trinidad. From the time the Trinidad market collapsed our manufacturing sector was just waiting to die.

In 1986 all of you know the enclave manufacturing sector collapsed, Intel, Carcom, Playtex, the whole set of them. Do not get up in here and bury your head in the sand. All of us know sugar collapsed around 1981 and it has had to be propped up ever since. We were lucky. But the Government was sensible enough to put in place the kinds of policies which have created new records in Barbados. So do not get up inside of here and make the point about Government's fiscal policies causing a recession.
2.45 p.m.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: On a point of order, Sir. I feel constrain to direct your attention to the question of relevance.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I am dealing with this Order. But in order to deal with it, I have to deal with things that were said pertinent to this Order. I am saying it is wrong to try to mislead Barbadians by saying that Government's fiscal policies caused a recession. I am saying, Mr. Deputy President, that the critical factor in our situation in Barbados is the availability of foreign affairs to buttress domestic expenditures. Once the tourism sector took the downturn which it took in the second half of 1989 you had no alternative as a Government but to put the screw on credit. If you did not put the screw on credit, this country would have gone the way of Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana. Fortunately, you have a Government which is more responsible and knowledgeable than that.

So to get up and say that Government's fiscal policies have caused a recession here and there is to show a misunderstanding of economic reality in Barbados. I hate to use the time of the Senate in this kind of way, but you cannot allow these statements to go unchallenged. The record is there for posterity. I just wish to repeat that I have never said and will never say you should not appoint temporary people. People need job security. That is one side of the equation. So I am not only going to talk, Mr. Deputy President, about job security. People need to recognize that once you have a job you have to get in there

and perform. I have no doubt that in Barbados we need serious Public Service reform. People need at all levels to be accountable.

I am happy to say about the Public Service of Barbados you have some public servants who compare favourably with any of the most efficient officers in the private sector. You have some slackers too and the slackers give a bad image to those very good officers. I know what I am talking about because I work with some of the best officers that you can find anywhere in both public and private sectors in Barbados and the Caribbean. But you also have some who pull them down and slander them. I am appealing today to those who know that they are not pulling their weight to pull their weight. Because in the final analysis who is the Government? The Government is we the working people of this country. The Government is not some fairy godfather or some abstract thing. It is the working people of this country. The Public Service has got to understand that they have got to help the working people to get on with the job of building this country.

Mr. Deputy President, I support this Order.

The question that the Senate approve the Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) Order, 1990 was put to the Senate and agreed to.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1990

Order No. 4 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1990.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass. It is similar increases. Let me give the Senate the assurance that Government is as a continuing exercise examining those 800 other posts in various areas of the Public Service which are still temporary posts. Government will not rush to create posts in the Teaching Service just for the sake of creating posts and will evaluate most carefully the needs where the demands are and over time will certainly ensure that appointments are made and that additional posts are provided at the schools after the evaluation is completed. Ever since 1986, I can boldly say with certainty that there has been a continuing exercise in the other areas of the Public Service and the posts which I referred to earlier as being established over time have been done on the basis of a thorough examination not only of the needs of the Public Service but also anticipating expansion of the Public Service over the years.

I beg to move that the Resolution be now passed.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the Order and in so doing I wish

to make mention of a few concerns in respect of the Teaching Service. The first concern I wish to draw to the attention of the Senate, Mr. Deputy President, is in relation to the curriculum being observed in all of the secondary schools of this country and the fact that the Order passed earlier in this session recognizes the establishment of two additional secondary schools at Kingsland and St. Thomas and that the General Establishment Order makes provision for Guidance Officers for those two schools. So in a short time we will have 23 secondary schools.

It has been a concern of mine for sometime, Mr. Deputy President, that Government's school system which with the introduction of free secondary education in 1962 has not seen an overhaul or review of the curriculum that is in place and that all of the schools are more or less required to adhere to the same sort of timetable. They all pursue essentially a secondary school curriculum. When the results of the Common Entrance are examined however, we find that children are located to secondary schools with scores that perhaps are neither in the interest of the child or the school when the child might well do with some other remedial education that is not going to be available to it in the school to which it is assigned. One secondary school of which I am aware took note of this and decided that there should be two first forms because some children were not able to go through the normal secondary school life in five years and probably would need six years or more.

What I would like to suggest, Mr. Deputy President, is that consideration be given to seeing if it is possible at some of our secondary schools which have the normal curriculum which is followed by what is regarded as the top performers to the others who are regarded as low achievers should not be structured to be secondary vocational schools with a curriculum that places greater emphasis and stress on the vocational subjects. It would mean there would be a secondary school component almost to what the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic is. There would be a secondary element in the school system with subjects of the academic kind but also the curriculum would be more structured and geared to those whose skills might be technical or vocational.

2.55 p.m.

There is a school, Mr. Deputy President, in Jamaica where things like needlework, plumbing, handicraft, farming, dressmaking, shoemaking, skills of even looking after small children are all on the curriculum, so that when the children leave this school they have skills that make them employable and not people who have a problem adjusting to the society.

I think some of the problems we are encountering with our young people are ones of frustration, that they feel not able to cope with the several pressures under which they are and therefore they cop out of at school and do not even try to use the little talents which they have been given.

The other issue I wish to address is the issue of discipline in the schools. I think that it is imperative that those who are in a position to influence matters should recognise that when you get into the business of what one might term bashing the teachers in public, you undermine their authority in the classroom. There is a tremendous problem of indiscipline in the classrooms across the schools of this island today.

People have to recognise that the teacher is the person who is in charge of the class and is sometimes the best person to deal with the problem, but you have a Head who would say you cannot send the child out of the classroom because the child must remain and retain instruction. You have a situation where children are walking to school daily with knives and other things and nothing very much is done in terms of punishing them. One Headmaster told me over the weekend that as far he is concerned, the first time a warning; the second time around, if you are of an age when he thinks that you have had the warning and you should know better, you are asked to withdraw from the school. I do not know to what extent he has got into any difficulty with the Ministry of Education, but a firm hand in dealing with those who carry offensive weapons is really the only answer to those who are guilty of indiscipline in the schools.

That brings me also to the issue, Sir, of the extent of the authority of teachers to deal with things that happen with children when they are in uniform. There was a newspaper report last week – and I have seen it myself on occasion – of vehicles licensed to carry numbers under ten carrying 30 or more children. In one case the President of the National PTA wrote and said he and some teachers followed a bus and told the children to get off the bus. They laughed at them and refused to get off.

Some time ago, Sir, I had to do research on a paper on teachers of the law and I discovered that in a school in the United States where there was a problem of a particular pursuit causing indiscipline in the school, the Head Teacher banned that commercial outlet from the school and to use that enterprise was regarded as a breach of school rules and was out of bounds. I think it is within the ambit of the authority of Head Teachers to put minibuses and maxi taxis, which they consider to be inimical to the good discipline of a school, out of bounds for use by pupils of the school.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I think that if a Head Teacher should say that travelling on a particular minibus is a problem, that if you are seen coming to school in that vehicle you will be subject to a disciplinary offence, eventually the message will have to get home. The authority of a school extends to deal with pupils during the normal school hours and when that child is in school uniform. I think the sooner that point is recognised and implemented,

the better. In fact, the authorities I found suggest that if a Head Teacher saw you guilty of something that was inimical to the school's good name at a weekend, outside of school, then you could be dealt with. I think the sooner that sort of general attitude is taken in the schools in this country, the better it will be for all.

I do not think that we must wait for an accident to occur and you have loss of life of young people, for then someone to say do something about it. I think it is within the competence of every Head Teacher to say that minibus which is a problem in terms of children getting to school late, dub – a bad influence – is not to come to the school, you are not to drive in it. There are other means of getting to school. I see too many Government Transport Board buses coming down empty with the other one going in front overloaded.

It is on these three issues, Mr. Deputy President, I wish to support this Teachers (Amendment) Order, and ask that consideration be given to looking at the curriculum in the schools, because I think that when we brought free secondary education into being we did not make any radical overview of our curriculum structure, we just continued the old system unchallenged.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. Deputy President, like other speakers, I would like to add my support to this Resolution now under consideration. There are one or two comments, however, I would like to make in connection with the provision relating specifically to teachers in our educational institutions.

Senator Blackman has quite rightly referred to some of the problems that face schools having to deal with youngsters whose performance on a particular day is below what one would hopefully have them do. Let us for the sake of argument call them our low performers. It is quite well known and easily demonstrable that there are a few schools whose intake is basically drawn from the group of low performers. I would like to suggest in this Honourable Chamber, for consideration by the Government of the day, that those schools need to have additional provisions. So far as I know, there are no substantial special provisions for those institutions, they get the same provisions per student body ratio, or what have you, as do the other schools, but it seems to me that if once we acknowledge that these schools are catering to youngsters who, for one reason or another – and not necessarily because they do not have the ability – are below the performance level which one would wish and expect, then it is in the nation's interest to make supplementary provisions, if one would wish to call them that, to ensure that these youngsters get the kind of additional and supplementary tuition and guidance they need to help them catch up with their peers.

3.05 p.m.

Information available indicates that where this has been done considerable numbers of them do in fact catch up and it seems to me that we can no longer afford to hope to ignore the requirements of this group of students. To put it another way I do not think that we can any longer consider as satisfactory a situation in which schools which have this level of intake get simply the normal set of provisions. In other words, Sir, I am arguing the case of additional substantial provisions for schools which draw their intake from the low performance range. Clearly the question is going to be where will the money come from. I don't share some of the views expressed in this Honourable Chamber on this matter. I want that one of the things – and this point has been clearly made, though perhaps not quite in these words – Government needs to do is re-examine its priorities. I have a feeling that Senator McClean made this kind of statement earlier on in one of his presentations. We have a small cake in *toto*. Of that, necessarily, a proportion which must be less than the whole goes to education. So that is by definition limited. What I think we have to do, Sir, with respect to the whole cake as well as to the portion allocated to education is to ask whether or not we are using those limited resources most wisely.

I would like to suggest to this Honourable Chamber that if one asks that question one would have to shake one's head and say that on rational grounds there is evidence to suggest that certainly within the education budget as in other areas, the priorities are wrong. Within education, if we look at the requirements for teachers and if we accepted the contention that the youngsters to whom I have been referring require additional resources, including personnel resources, and if we are accepting the inevitable conclusion that that provision of additional personnel resources will have a cost tag attached, and if we further acknowledge that this provision would have to be made within the total budget available to education, then I think it is fairly logical to argue that cuts would have to be made somewhere else. If we look at the expenditure within education one can point to kinds of expenditure which could not rationally and reasonably have the priorities which they have been given.

But, Sir, I am concerned not only about youngsters at the lower end of the performance range at say, eleven plus. The secondary schools entrance examination period. I am less concerned with those at the upper end of the performance level. It is true that 5, 6, 7 years on we as a country take considerable pride in the performance of those who do extremely well. This is all to their credit, to the schools they attend, to the credit of their teachers and parents. However, I wonder – and I don't have any data on this – if in fact even in those cases we are necessarily getting as many excellent performers as our country is capable of. Let me put it another way, Sir. I am just wondering whether in fact there may not be many other upper end performers who are not quite getting all the stimulus they need to make maximum use of their capabilities. I would like to be very clear. I am not seeking

to indict teachers for having failed. I am merely saying that just as I am making a plea for special attention to those at the lower end of the performance range, come 11+ age, so too and right throughout the school system it seems to me that we now need to direct equal attention to the high-flyers. I am just asking whether or not our potential high-flyers do in fact get the extra attention that they deserve. I am therefore inviting Government to give some consideration to this matter.

There is one more point I would like to refer to, Sir, briefly and that is I would particularly wish to add my compliments on the provision for staffing at the School for the Deaf. I think this is particularly important because our disabled persons have as much right as any other citizen to the resources, however limited, of our country. But having said that, I think it is also true that Government needs to be urged to look on a continuing basis at the other institutions, some of which are still basically funded from private enterprise, which cater to the needs of other disabled persons because I think that our community must now accept it as its full responsibility to undertake full catering for all our disabled persons. I am not saying that there is no room for private activity I am merely saying that under the law it is the Minister's responsibility to provide adequately for the education of all youngsters and that while tribute must be paid and paid unhesitatingly to the provisions that exist, for example, for staffing at the Children's Development Centre... Those are very creditable, but I do think that we need to go further and as a nation accept it as the state's responsibility to underwrite the provisions for all our disabled persons. Sir, I have absolutely no hesitation in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I should like to congratulate the Government and first of all to say that I welcome this Resolution and I am in full support of it. But, I should like to make a few points with respect to teachers. Mr. Deputy President at one stage just before this Government came into power there was a 10-year lapse of all the things that could make teachers more knowledgeable, much more keen in the art of teaching, also to protect teachers from some of the parents who could come to the schools and say and do things as they pleased. I want to make this very clear because it was the particular law that made the Minister sort of the big boss and the big chief at that time. Even if children became ill at the school, there were incidents cited clearly that you had to refer to the Minister and the teacher could have absolutely nothing to do with those children. There was also a time when Erdiston Training was put on hold. Training for persons to get their education because they were acting was put on hold, and therefore this would have caused the morale of teachers to sink to a new low. And I think now that we are trying our best to get these

things up to standard it will take a little while, because if a person was frightened out of his or her wits then that situation takes time.

3.15 p.m.

A person has to say to himself or herself, is this really true? Am I really able now to go to Erdiston College again? Am I able now to go to the university again? Am I able now to have the sort of jurisdiction to bring about discipline as far as the children I teach? I think this is very important for us as a society to look at. What is our role as citizens of Barbados in assisting the teaching fraternity and assisting the education system? What is the role of some of the organisations that assist in the educational needs of schools?

Senator Blackman mentioned the introduction of certain things in schools. I should like to say that under the Home Economics aspect of the schools curriculum, nearly all of these subject areas are there because vocational studies is included in the schools and is on the schools curriculum. The CXC syllabus carries home economics which includes dealing with fabrics, needlework and all of these subject areas.

One of the things that Barbadians have always missed is that these are not subjects for slow learners. This is the big problem. People always thought that agricultural science and home economics were for people who had no common sense or people who were low achievers. Now they have realised that when they look at a syllabus like the CXC syllabus where we are now talking about human ecology and not domestic science, where we are including certain aspects of chemistry, that you are not dealing with slow learners. Here is where the mistake is coming and has come. The attitude has spread throughout the society that a child is no use, let him go out in the school garden but when they realise the subjects that are involved in agricultural science, most of the children then tend to drop these things.

Now, one of the things I feel strongly about is if a child shows aptitude for a particular subject at an early age, that child should be counselled all along the way to guide that particular child to the subject area. He should be assisted in every way possible by even leading him to outside institutions which assist the school. When I say that I am saying this. Recently the National Development Foundation has, along with the Skills Training Programme, started a programme for young people who do not even have a skill and some who have a skill to train them along the areas of developing a small business when they finish that course, they will come out being able to operate a small business and to get a loan so that a person is fitted whether handicapped or not handicapped for life. That person is able to earn money.

I think this is one of the areas that we want to see developed very much. I know we have Business Studies but

I would like to see Business Studies to the extent where a child comes out from school that child goes straight into his or her small business and can get a loan. These kinds of areas should be taught in the Business Studies. Not that you just come and do a skill. When you are finished at the end of the day and you walk all over the place because you are not channelling the skill in the direction that can bring you a livelihood. This is highly desirable.

I want to reiterate the fact that these things are included in the CXC syllabus. It shows that not only the Barbados Government but the Governments of the region have seen the necessity to prepare the students for the needs of the country. I think this is one of the things we need to look at very seriously when we are talking about planning curriculum and curriculum development.

We have to look around at what our country needs. Does our country need more lawyers? Does our country need more accountants? That is where we can talk about prioritising. Why do we have to constantly import draughtsmen, or surveyors, people of this particular category? I feel it has to start within the school system not when you leave school because it is very difficult after some children leave school to try to study especially if they get a little job. It is extremely difficult for them because they now feel they are a man or a woman, they are earning money and they do not want to get into the area of studying.

I want to say, Mr. Deputy President, that, indeed we are trying very hard now to restore – I think in some measures we could almost say that the power has been restored – to the Principal. The Principal has the right to flog children for things they do that are not in keeping with discipline and order in the schools. I would like to see a back-up coming from the community generally. I find that one of the problems we have is that people are saying now that they are afraid to speak to children. Now, if our community reaches that stage, it has nothing to do with the Government. It has to do with us the people. If we see children out there in front of our eyes behaving badly or using abusive language, we should hold ourselves responsible as citizens to speak to those children, but people are telling you they are afraid to speak to him or her because they will pass on the same abusive language to them.

We have to decide who is an adult and who is a child. If we take that attitude then our society will never make the grade as far as discipline is concerned. I make it a point of duty, I do not care whether they abuse me or not but if I see children doing something or misbehaving themselves I make it a point to speak to them and let them understand that they are not doing credit to Barbados.

I think we have to sound a call to all Barbadians to remember that if the society goes down, we all go down. I think it is time we stop this foolishness of saying that this

person is no family to me, this child is not of my child's class and remember that there is potential in the development of that child. There are many children who have been known to be dull at the beginning and because they had people talk to them, the teachers were able to discuss with the parents how they were getting on much improvement was made.

We also have to look at the parents because some of the children's parents never go to the Parent/Teachers' meetings. They never try to ask the teachers how their children are doing. They never try to find out what is happening. They seem to be on a free lucky-go-lucky ride. They send the child to school and the teacher does everything. I think this is expecting too much from a teacher.

Mr. Deputy President, I hope that in future we as Barbadians will find it possible to realise that we are not living in orbit. We are living in the society that produces the teachers, lawyers, doctors, all of these people that have to go out there and look after people's interest. If we do not prepare them in the schools, if we as individuals do not offer assistance to go in and give talks, to give guidance and to help in those schools then we are not making education our business. Education is the business of citizens.

I am saying here that we have a lot of citizens who have benefitted from this community. They themselves have been educated in this country. I make a very strong plea now for some of these citizens who have gone to the university benefitted from the taxpayers money to come back and offer, at least, an hour or two to help the school system instead of getting on the radio and criticising every single thing that the Government is doing. It is our money that sent them out there to study. It is our money that made them successful. Therefore, if they think that something is wrong with a particular institution and they have the necessary skills and ability, I know they owe it to their own country to improve the situation. That is why you see some countries will keep on progressing because people take a sense of responsibility and commitment to come back and give to their school.

3.25 p.m.

I am grateful to God that we have some past students who are going back to their schools and giving assistance in the evenings in the form of lectures and helping with equipment and things like that. I want to see more of that in this society because this is going to mean a lot to the total development of our educational system.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Applause.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support this Resolution....

Aside.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Because I am a teacher. One must approach this Resolution in this way because it brings some kind of relief to teachers. I think it was the Minister of Education who has been credited with the statement that our educational system is under siege and I am certain that most teachers will agree with the idea that the schools and teachers are under siege. I think basically it is the responsibility of Government to do all it can to lift that siege and to do all it can to assist the teachers to cope, maintain high morale, and do their best in terms of teaching the children of this country. However, for a brief moment a few weeks ago it looked as though the schools were under siege from the Ministry of Education. But we heard that the Minister put an end to that siege. Yet for all of that the exchange which went on between the Ministry Official and the school teachers alert us to a number of things including the specific charges made by the Official but beyond that the general problems besetting the school system.

I do not want at this stage to get into any discussion as to whether the charges made against the teachers can be said to be charges which are representative of a situation throughout the school system or not. But basically what I will say is that it is not always the question of what you say, but it is the circumstances in which you say it and how you say it and so on that makes for a very big difference. When you make certain types of statements, you leave the public to presume that all other reasonable courses of action have been exhausted and this is the last effort to get some kind of response. The teachers have been aggrieved because they felt that that was not the case and they had hoped that such concerns would have been raised in a different forum with Headteachers, union, and so on, and one must agree with the teachers for making that statement.

Going beyond that however, the country is also concerned about any imperfections within the school system to the extent that if such imperfections exist the public would like to see them removed. We know that we have some teachers who are alcoholics. The essential point is that when you reach the stage of being an alcoholic you have a medical problem and you need to deal with that in a way which relates to the nature of the problem. You cannot stop a man from being an alcoholic by hurling insults at him. Consequently, it is the responsibility of the Ministry and the Headteachers and so on to find some humane and effective way of dealing with the problem of alcoholism in the schools in the same way that every employer should find some humane and effective way of dealing with alcoholism in his work place. People do not choose to become alcoholics. Therefore, we should not behave as though it was a voluntary choice on their part to behave in that manner.

The question of being sloppily dressed is of a slightly different order altogether. But again to the extent that there

are concerns, one would have hoped that you would have had the appropriate dialogue within the school system including the Ministry to establish a code of conduct and so on to address these things other than stay at a distance and rave at persons thus creating a situation which reflects on all teachers including those who dress impeccably. All and all I think that the Ministry Official indeed had some points in the things which he said. Now we must concede that but at the time I think he went about it in an unfortunate manner. We were told that the Minister called a halt to the matter but do not presume that the matter is dead because we are not hearing anymore dialogue. There is something to be attended to – that left a scar – and the Ministry has to try and involve itself in some kind of dialogue with the teachers and principals with a view to overcoming whatever fall out would have been associated with that particular episode.

Going beyond that however, I would want persons to be aware that if you see someone behaving rather differently or lacking in enthusiasm and so on there is often a cause. There are some recalcitrant people and no matter what you do they are going to behave badly. But most people react to circumstances and we need therefore to look a little further for the underlying causes of any shortcomings which we perceive within the teaching profession. One set of causes could relate to the terms and conditions of service including the remuneration. But I am not going to get into that. I have already gone on record as indicating that I do believe that teachers ought to be better paid *vis-a-vis* certainly other public servants. There are some persons who hold an opposite view and many who hold the opposite view, for instance, feel in their defense that teachers have long holidays. That has absolutely nothing to do with it and, indeed, the long holidays that teachers have are absolutely essential if they are to retain their sanity. Because teaching is one of the most intensive occupations calling for continuous concentration that you could ever have. If you did not have those holidays, teachers could not last more than a couple of years. So the holidays did not come about by accident. They came about because society recognized that they were necessary under the given circumstances.

So I think the kinds of terms and conditions and remuneration have to be looked at and recognize that many teachers have other opportunities if they are able people and a lot of them will take it. This will lead to your having to resort to persons of lesser ability and less suitable in other ways to be teachers. But going beyond that we also have a problem coming at the teachers in terms of their perceived relationship with the Ministry. I entirely agree with everything that Senator Fraser said about what obtained in previous years and that there has been some improvement. But teachers still feel that whatever authority they have it is merely by delegation from the Minister who is responsible

for the schools and countermands anything they do. So often they get instances of it and therefore people hesitate. 3.35 p.m.

Therefore, you have to demonstrate clearly to the teachers that we will let certain responsibilities devolve upon you rather than be given to you today and any time you can come and take over and carry out the responsibility. You have to signal quite clearly to teachers the areas of responsibility that they have where decisions would only be upset after some kind of enquiry or something like that, not willy nilly you go and complain to John Brown or somebody else. It has been changed to some extent, but not entirely so. Also, recently teachers were reminded of the power of Ministry officials, reminded that they could go into the schools and order them, in front of the children, to do what they wanted, so do not be too sure that has changed. The law has not changed to any great degree, only certain little things have been adjusted.

That is one thing which has to be done. We have to place a higher level of clear cut responsibility and authority within the schools to principals, teachers and so on. Then we have other kinds of problems involving the children. In our society we have a fairly widespread problem of parenting, so that the children that confront the teachers today are not like the children that confronted the teachers when I was a schoolboy. The teachers could handle them quite easily. If they told them to stand on the bench, they would stand on the bench and that was the end of the matter. Nowadays the teachers are fully aware that they do not command the same level of respect from students, largely starting with the problem of parenting, then with a general involvement in the way how people are socialised in the society. We are a society where we do not have the same level of respect for elders, for teachers, for parents or anybody nowadays and we need the society to come to grips with that.

This is a problem beyond the capability of the political directorate to handle on their own, but they have a part to play in that. We have to bring back stability and good manners to this society. We have a part to play by example. That is why we should display stability and good manners in Chambers such as, of all places, the Senate which has a strong tradition for that, which had been slipping in recent times. When we set those bad examples, the children pick them up and create problems for the teachers.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am very happy to hear your observation, Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: The teachers truly in many instances feel that they are not well placed to discipline the students, and many teachers have given up almost entirely any attempt to do so. We have to develop a strategy to turn this situation around. It will involve the Ministry, the teachers, the principals, the Boards of

Management, and as Senator Fraser said, the wider community. I think that the Ministry must think carefully of the particular role which it can play in this exercise.

I thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, just a couple of points I wish to make on this particular Order. I have been an educator most of my working life, and note I say "educator" because the fundamental difference between a teacher and an educator is that an educator tries to be an innovator and that is what I have tried to do ever since March 14, 1958.

When Senator Blackman was speaking, he made a call for reform of the curriculum in schools and, I think I recall what he said correctly. He said that since a fully taxpayer funded secondary education was introduced in Barbados in 1962, the curricula have not undergone substantial reform. I was hoping somebody would have made the point earlier that in fact a National Curriculum Development Council was set up in the late 1960s. I happened to serve on that Council at one time. I know within the last couple of years it has not functioned well, but I know that Government has recommitted itself to the re-establishment of this National Curriculum Development Council and to providing this Council with a staff to do its own research so it can be much more functional. So that takes care of that particular problem.

Senator Shorey was asking for the re-examination of priorities. Mr. Deputy President, I am sure Senator Shorey knows that priorities reflect one's values, and to the extent that the philosophy of the Democratic Labour Party Government is different from the philosophy held by Senator Shorey, there will always be a gap between the two. This Government therefore has absolutely no good reason to apologise for its priorities, or for the fact that its priorities differ from those which are held by Senator Shorey.

I well recall, and I have to be aware of it, because I am employed by the University of the West Indies, that Senator Shorey was in the forefront of calls to bring an end to a fully funded taxpayer education in this country at the University of the West Indies. That is a matter of record, but the Government headed by Mr. Erskine Sandiford has always been opposed to that position. In 1986 we said, as a matter of record, that we were committed to a fully funded taxpayer education and fortunately the people of this country changed the Government and saved the day, because a Commission had already completed its report and submitted it to the Government indicating what were the options open to the Government. I say, Mr. Deputy President, it would be a sad day in Barbados when we start to deny the young people of this country, because of poor circumstances, the opportunity to get access to a university education. That in itself indicates the divide between the Government's and Dr. Shorey's positions.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of correction. I have been very clear in my statements on the matter to which Senator Alleyne has referred. I have very clearly said that my recommendation was, has been and is that students, having been provided with university education at Government's expense, should on completion be required to refund a part of that cost. I am suggesting that the way in which Senator Alleyne has put it is a total misrepresentation of my position.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, perhaps Senator Dr. Shorey has had more than one position and the most recent position I am unaware of. I want to say, Mr. Deputy President, that teaching in Barbados has a history and the history did not begin yesterday. I remember the dark days of teaching. There was a time in Barbados in the 1950's and it was the late 1950's when I entered the teaching service – and this happened for about the first 12 months that I was in the teaching service – that when you left school on Fridays, you were not paid for Saturdays and Sundays. You were like a carpenter knocked off. You were not paid for vacations. That was under the Labour Party Government headed by Grantley Adams and later by Hugh Gordon Cummins, the Premier. This is not to say that the Labour Party in the pre 1961 era did not make a very valuable contribution to improving conditions in the teaching service of Barbados.
3.45 p.m.

I well remember when under Minister Luther Thorne, he set in place a scheme for the training of those teachers who were over 40 years of age and who could not get promotion in the teaching service because they were not qualified teachers. He instituted that over forties teacher training programme which was run at St. Leonard's Boys' School at the time and some of those teachers who were trained in that system went on to make valuable contributions to this country at the level of education administration as head teachers. So, I am not going to deny that the Labour Party headed by Grantley Adams and under Luther Thorne and was headed by the late Hugh Gordon Cummins did not make an invaluable contribution, but I am talking of the dark days and earlier. There was a time when the priests could look at you under suspicion. If you were a young man and you were suspected of impregnating a young lady and you were not married to her, you could be chased away summarily, sometimes without proof. If you didn't go to church often and you couldn't give a proper explanation to the parish priest, you were fired. Let us understand that the teaching service has a history. It didn't start yesterday. When we get up in here and start to talk let us show a sense of history. It didn't just start: the revolution in changing the conditions of the service started in 1961. Let us recognise that. The Labour Party after they came back to office in 1976 made a valuable contribution under the Hon. Louis Tull at that time. We have to be fair to the record; not so under Miss Billie Miller. Under the Hon. Louis Tull, Minister of Education this country made

progress. So, let us be fair and let us show a sense of the continuity in which the system developed.

This Administration has had to rescue the system in 1986. It was battered. A certain habit had developed in Barbados where problems of education administration were being solved by resort to the law court. I remember the agony Mr. Pilgrim, the Headmaster of Combermere faced. Had he lost that court case, Mr. Deputy President, he would have lost his house and more. I remember the agony faced by Mr. Hugh Barker at Foundation when he was put in court. I remember the episode at Lodge School when you changed more than 100 padlocks to get rid of a headmaster and you put him into court. Is that the way to manage an educational system? And what is sad about it is that you have certain educational gurus in this country who didn't have a word to say about it at that time. They have a lot to say now but when they have a lot to say they have to answer to me. I am the umpire.

So I am saying, Mr. Deputy President, that the quality of teaching in Barbados and the conditions of service have improved over the last 30 years in a way that those who enter the service today could never imagine that these conditions existed just thirty years ago. A hardback teacher ready for retirement in the 1960's was getting a princely sum of \$220 a month. I am talking about the early 1960's. At 65, he was retiring and fellows used to feel smart with that paycheck. If you were not a qualified teacher you couldn't earn it. I remember as a young teacher, when a fellow managed to pass an over-forties course and he got his very first pay cheque, he was at the maximum of \$220, he held up that cheque walking from Christ Church Boys School (we called it Waterstreet. That's where I went to school as a boy, and I taught there later) and walked straight down Broad Street holding his cheque in the air to let the world know that he had arrived. Nowadays, you cannot offer anybody in the teaching service \$220. They would tell you where to put it.

I have heard quite a lot of remarks made about the performance of teachers and children. Mr. Deputy President, I have said before and I repeat this afternoon that I do not believe that there are many persons in this Senate or for that matter in the other House, who have had the variety of experience in education that I have had the opportunity to have. I have taught primary. I have taught infants. I have taught secondary school. I have taught post secondary school in Jamaica and I have taught at university for the longest part of my working life. So, I speak from a background of experience.

Whenever we talk about the performance of children, people focus on teachers. I make bold to say that whenever children perform well, certain factors have to be present in that situation to explain it. And, the most important factor is the values held by the parents which in my view is central to explaining the developments and performance of the

children, because the values of the parents will determine the environment in which that child is going to grow up. There is no necessary relationship between the values held by parents and the access to wealth.

Also, the ability of the child. You can't make bricks out of straw. If you don't have the basic ability, you don't have it and you can flog that child from now until God comes, all you will do is cause it to be maladjusted.

In Barbados, today, we have some of the finest teachers who compare favourably with the legends of yesteryear. I make no hesitation in admitting that. I have sent all four of my daughters to the primary schools of this country and I have good reasons for doing it. When I put them in primary school they are going to rub shoulders with Tom, Dick and Harry and they will understand what the society is all about. That is why I refused to send them to private school. I have no regrets and I can tell you that one of the schools I sent them to is one of the best in this country and it compares favourably with any in the Caribbean. I don't believe that the quality of the teachers in that school is any less than the vast majority of the teachers in this country.

We have to stop pulling down the teachers and as parents get up and do our part. Stop putting the blame on the teachers. If I don't do it at night, I get up and do it on mornings. Senator Fraser will tell you that when she calls me I will tell her, "Look I can't speak to you more than a couple of minutes. I have to go and take my daughter through her lessons." That's my responsibility. It is not the teachers' responsibility. If I can't do it at night before I go to bed I get up first thing on mornings and do it. I am not waiting on anybody to take on my responsibility. That is mine. Let us stop blaming the teachers and recognize that the teachers are parents too. The teachers have their own children, their own family problems to grapple with. Why must teachers become our guardians? Get this notion out of our heads of letting go children at school. Too many parents today have a notion the school is somewhere where you let go children and I disagree with that. We have to develop a positive relationship with the school and get out this notion that you want the school to be open all the time or you are vexed when the teachers go on strike because you don't have anybody to keep your children. Teachers are not watchmen.

So, all I am submitting, Mr. Deputy President, is that Barbados has every reason to be proud of the quality of its teachers. I would like to see more males go into the teaching service. It is now about 80% - 85% women. The women are doing a fine job but I would like to see more males inside the service. We need more male figures because there is a limit when boys pass a certain age.

3.55 p.m.

When boys have passed a certain age, females find it very difficult to handle some of them. In fact, some of the mischievous boys can upset the balance of a class because rather than behaving as school children they want to make passes sometimes at the teachers.

I am appealing to more of our young people to think in terms of education as a career. I want to appeal to our males to consider because what we find is that some of the problems in the schools have to do with the absence of male figures. Again, I wish to re-emphasize that the country owes a debt of gratitude to the teaching fraternity which it can never make. Let us not pull down the Teaching Service because of one or two deviant people.

We have always had a couple of deviant people in the Teaching Service. We have always had a couple of deviant people in the religious Ministry. We have always had a couple of deviant people in the legal profession. We have always had a couple of deviant people and, perhaps, too many, in the university. We have always had them all around. The only place you will not find them is in Heaven. Let us look at the real world and recognise what we have to deal with. Do not let us take the brush and daub everybody in the Teaching Service as being deviant when we know, in fact, that the vast majority of our teachers are good, decent professional people.

Mr. Deputy President, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support this Resolution, I should like to congratulate the Government on reaching a peaceful settlement with the teachers on their behalf. I thought when I heard Senator Blackman start to talk about the vocational type of education that I would have had a further development from subsequent speakers along that line. I think that is the most important line to pursue. Very often people in this country are only concerned about the creation of Barbados scholars at Harrison College and the Community College, the whole system being that you are able to boast about your Barbados scholars.

At the primary level, I have discovered over the years that sufficient attention is not given to the people who do not have high scholastic attainments. In any society, Sir, 10% of the population in the schools usually go to the university. There are about 90% of the people who will never see a university. Yet, I discover that we continue in primary school when people have not passed the Common Entrance Examination, the 11+, they still go on for another three years to do those same academic subjects although they will never get into a secondary school.

My contention is this. It is at that point that the children should be channelled into the necessary skills from a very early age and given the amount of reading and arithmetic which would help them to get through their skills

and they could all end up at 18 years old like the academic having gone through their City and Guilds in whatever skill they choose.

It is on the acquisition of skills, Sir, that a developing country hopes to succeed in the long run. The white collar workers, the grand scholastic people, the amount of money which is paid every year to the Barbados scholars where they go every year to do their particular subjects in their particular expertise, apart from the medical doctors, I do not see anyone of them come back here in Barbados. Every year there is a big exodus of people who go forward to study different disciplines and we do not see them reappear back in the working world in this country. When you read the bill that we have to foot year after year for the achievement of Barbados scholars, it is fantastic.

I have known in the 1960's when we had industrial schools, the ridiculous thing that happened in this country was that those industrial wings were put at Harrison's College, the Lodge School, Foundation School and not at one elementary school. I have known in my days at primary school where you had the small carpenter shop and those little wings. I would have thought that once you got the big industrial wings they should be there for the children in primary school who did not make secondary school to start doing their wood carving and iron works in that atmosphere at 13 years old so that when they grow up they would have some qualification.

We find that although a fellow might become an engineer from going at Harrison's College, he has the equipment to work with there at that industrial wing with all the physics labs available at Harrison's College yet he has the luxury of making metal furniture. Look at the metal furniture that Harrison's College is turning out but a fellow does not have to work at that eventually but the poor boy in the primary school who would need that kind of exposure, we do not spend any money on that kind of fellow. Then you say he cannot produce because he has not passed the Common Entrance Examination.

No effort is being made in this country for them. We have the Polytechnic now but that is only one polytechnic. I am saying that at every main school in every parish should have one of those polytechnical wings that a fellow should get the early advanced exposure. The girls doing Domestic Science should start at that time to get early exposure so that when they become young women and young men they would have had a start which would be comparable to the fellow who had been scholastic in his approach.

Sir, we seem to put all the emphasis and all the funds have been devoted towards making the scholar more scholastic and the people who would walk this road and look down on people because they have not gone that far to

secondary school as being nobody. The technician who is going to bring out any country, even if he cannot get work we could export skilled labour.

There was a time when Canada would take one in if he was skilled. If you had papers for a motor mechanic or engineering you could get to Canada easily. We have not been emphasizing this in our primary education. We have to get to that stage and we have to get there soon.

I thought I would have heard a bigger commitment being paid to that aspect of education rather than to talk about teachers deserving their money. I do not think they deserve their money. It is the primary school teachers who spend a lot of time with children in order to make them somebody. It is not at the secondary level that happens. It is the primary school teachers who sit down on evenings and get the children to understand something even to pass the same Common Entrance Examination.
4.05 p.m.

I commend Senator Alleyne for the stand he has taken about sending his children to primary school which is a very good thing. But we have in Barbados that it is very fashionable for people to send their children to a private school. It has become almost an obsession. From the time they get three years old, they are paying big money for them. Even some teachers who teach at primary schools send their children to private schools. I have never seen such nonsense in all of my life. I have always contended that children should go to school at the nearest school to them in the primary school system. All of my children went to a primary school nearest to where they lived. They walked to school and understood what it was all about. People take glory in knowing that no matter how much money they have to pay, they like to pay big money to say that my children go to this kind of private school.

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: These are the prestige private schools that people have been pursuing. They get good results and it seems that is the thing they are doing. But I think that we should make a very concerned effort to give the primary schools the kind of exposure and facilities that are available to the advanced schools so that they too could make a worthwhile contribution to the small people who did not get into the secondary schools. There is so much school business in this country that you would find a boy at Coleridge and Parry who is doing Fifth Form science, physics, or chemistry has a worse laboratory than a fellow at Lodge School. The lab facilities for a boy First Form at Harrison College is far superior to the lab facilities for a boy at Coleridge Parry, Foundation, or St. Michael. This kind of nonsense goes on in Barbados. They get the best facilities so they say they are the best schools and get the best results. But to my mind the people who work with

their fingernails and produce good results from the people at these other schools are better equipped to brag about their results than the people at Harrison College.

If we could equalize the facilities at these various schools, then there will be no need for anybody to want to go to Harrison College, Lodge School, or some of the other schools because things would even out very nice and sweet. I do not see why people should not be able to move around from different schools and teach at other schools too. They have some people at Harrison College who are entrenched there. They cannot transfer and teach at any other school. They are all graduate people. If a fellow gets into Harrison College as a teacher, well he remains there. They transfer civil servants. This is a whole luxury thing in Barbados as far as the whole thing is concerned. You criticize civil servants but a civil servant is supposed to be transferred in a day's notice. He has to move whether he likes it or not; but not so in the teaching profession. Some people enjoy the benefits from being at a particular school all their life. It would appear to me that when they produce these results they think that they have done their job. It is the primary school that is feeling the pinch. It is at that level, when the fellow does not get that attention and who leaves school at 14 or 15 years without anything to do, he will walk about out there. He has more time to think about mischief. So you have got to do something about him.

I have known boys at school in my day who were not so quick on the intake. I know a boy who used to make pins into pin sticks and pin holders, real patent. Anything like that he could do with wood. He could not do much in the classroom but he could make a pin holder or pin stick. You would think it was something patent. So there are boys given the workshop atmosphere who would be able to produce something of their own and become good craftsmen. We would then be giving full meaning to our anthem - "Firm Craftsmen of Our Fate".

Sir, with those remarks, I would like to support this Resolution.

Applause.

The question that this Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1990 was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISION TO INCREASE THE WAGES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND CASUAL EMPLOYEES

Order No. 5 was called - To move the passing of a Resolution to give effect to the decision to increase the wages of the public employees and casual employees of the Government with effect from 1990-04-01.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Resolution covers what is known as the key scale rates in the Public Service with 10 categories and then an eleventh one which is a fixed salary for a watchman.

I beg to move that this Resolution be now passed.

The question that this Resolution be now passed was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE SALARIES OF THE
PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL STAFF WITH
EFFECT FROM 1990-04-01**

Order No. 6 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to revise the salaries of the Prime Minister's Personal Staff with effect from 1990-04-01.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: The Resolution dealing with the increases payable to the Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister, Press Secretary and his Executive Personal Secretary as found in the Schedule of the Resolution are based on the increases granted to public servants generally.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question that the Resolution to revise the salaries of the Prime Minister's Personal Staff with effect from 1990-04-01 do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO
THE SCHEDULE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
(CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
ACT, CAP. 6**

Order No. 7 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the amendment to the schedule of the Governor-General (Conditions of Service) Act, Cap. 6 by increasing the salary payable to the Governor-General.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, as I said when we outlined the first of these Resolutions, there were seven related to increases in pay. In the case of Governor-General, in the body of the Resolution the increases ranged from \$104 700 to an increase of \$108 372 in the first year and in the second year an increase to \$111 624 per annum.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question that the Resolution to approve the amendment to the Schedule of the Governor-General by increasing the salary payable to the Governor-General do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.
4.15 p.m.

**ORDER NO. 10 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
PAYMENT OF INCREASED COST OF LIVING
ALLOWANCES TO GOVERNMENT
PENSIONERS WITH EFFECT
FROM 1ST APRIL,
1990**

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks to grant an increase of 3% per annum on the cumulative pension payable to pensioners at 31st March, 1990, which amounts to an increase of \$20 per month, and in the case of persons who retired prior to 1st April, 1976, a further increase of \$5 per month. These increases of cost of living will not apply to persons who retired after 1st April, 1990, they will apply to persons who on 1st April, 1990 were in receipt of a pension.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COM-
PULSORY ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF LAND AT
THE JUNCTION OF WHITEPARK ROAD AND
COUNTRY ROAD, ST. MICHAEL FOR
THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUC-
TION OF A JUDICIAL CENTRE**

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, as part of Government's committed plan for improving the existing office accommodation of members of the Judiciary, it is proposed to acquire certain lands at the junction of Country Road and Whitepark.

You will recall, Mr. Deputy President, that when we were discussing in this place the question of emoluments payable to Judges of the Court of Appeal, mention was made of the plans for construction of a judicial centre on the location at the junction of Country Road and Whitepark. This Resolution, therefore, proposes the acquisition of 7,250 square metres of land in that area. It is adjoining lands presently owned by the Crown in its right of Government.

The site is considered to be suitable for the construction of the Supreme Court complex which will accommodate not only the Supreme Court, including the Court of Appeal, the Judges' Chambers, the Supreme Court Registry, including the Court Process Office, the Community Legal Services Commission, the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office as well as the Probation Department. All of these various agencies at the present moment are served from various locations and the opportunity is being taken to bring them together under the same compound. The Town Planning Department recommends the location highly and Government is accordingly wishing to proceed with the acquisition.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I welcome this Resolution in that it is at last giving a realisation to something that has been talked about for a long time, and I am glad to see at least some action being taken to make it a reality.

There are a couple of things, however, that I wish to draw attention to in terms of the accommodation within the building and other matters relating to the judicial centre. There is a lot of concern in the profession about the integrity of the Court Process Office. Your ability or inability to get documents served depends upon extra arrangements you can make with the Court Process Officers. I know Senator Estwick may well be in a position to substantiate what I am saying. People who are known to all and sundry in the country cannot be found by Court Marshals, and it causes a problem. I think there is need for some scrutiny in relation to that Department.

There is also an archaic method in relation to the Court Process Office where large sums of money are retained in cash. There is no reason why in this modern day the money is not deposited in the bank and the people who have to be paid are paid by cheque. When there was a fire some time ago in the Court Process Office a lot of cash was burnt.

The other issue I wish to refer to in terms of this Resolution is this. I made an appeal some time ago for the centralisation of the several areas of Government which touch and concern the courts to be brought under one roof, and I am a little concerned that it is not indicated within what the Leader has said that the Land Registry is being relocated. That will still be out in the boon docks, as it were. I would like to think that in order to minimise on the loss of time travelling between Bridgetown and the Garrison that the Land Registry would be accommodated in the Judicial Centre.

My other concern in relation to this Resolution is in the area of sentencing. I have noted some grave disparities of sentence in the courts.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Well, the Resolution is dealing with the matter of the Judiciary and I just cannot look at it in abstract in terms of a building. I noted in the papers a few weeks ago two sentences in relation to the same measure of offence. They both involved wounding. One involved the loss of an eye, but the penalty was a fine of \$3,000 and another accused person, who was also convicted on the lesser count, as that man had been, was given 18 months' imprisonment. When you get a disparity of sentencing for essentially the same sort of offence, one has some questions to raise about what influenced Their

Lordships, Their Honours in sentencing. You get people going before the court in respect of drug offences. One person gets a term of imprisonment and another gets a fine, and there is no seeming rationale to justify this. I think that those responsible for sentencing must realise that the community has a concern as to whether the judicial discretion is being exercised in a way that is comfortable in terms of what people expect.

The other thing that needs to be rationalised is this. Occasionally you see a man being given 99 years, but he is only going to serve three, they all running concurrently. I think there are occasions when the offender has a record of such a nature that it is clearly inappropriate for him to be dealt with by the Magistrate's Court and he should be committed to the Assizes for a more appropriate sentence to be given to him by the High Court. There are too many fellows walking with 99 year sentences who are let out after 27 months and they start all over again.

4.25 p.m.

... And the final point I want to make, Sir, is this. In relation to the Judicial Centre and the appointment of a Court of Appeal in the near future, I would like to suggest that opportunity be taken to rationalise periods of time that the judges, in particular, take for a judicial holiday.

The judges have a court holiday in the month of August, but then they take their other vacation, as and when it suits them. One judge, recently, this year, took holiday for the month of July. He observed the court vacation of August and took the rest of his vacation in September. Now, in the other Caribbean countries, Jamaica and Trinidad, in particular, and in Guyana, they take two months vacation, August - September, and for the other 10 months of the year, they work. You know the judges are there. I think that the judges are not above setting an example for the rest of the country. People should look to them for an example and when judges seem to manipulate the system in this fashion, first of all there is no continuity in making sure that a matter can be disposed of. I think that the Prime Minister in making an order under the Judges Act in due course should take the opportunity of telling them what is expected. You cannot change the conditions of a judge to his detriment while he is holding his office, but certainly if he is going to have a change in terms of a salary, in terms of increase, there is an opportunity to rationalise any infelicities that there may be. These sentiments have been communicated in several other ways to the judges and those concerned, but sometimes you have to repeat them in other places and make them say it frequently enough so that something is done about it. It is no point muttering about these things in certain places and not airing them. I think it is a matter of concern that you are not getting anything approaching a full judicial year because of some people. A standard ploy of people in the private sector, sometimes, is to come and tell you that they want to take their vacation at Christmas. Whenever my staff come to me with that I say:

"Sorry, come again", because I know that they added in all the vacations, all the bank holidays and they end up having another extra week. December is a no-no where vacation is concerned. This is happening where people are manipulating a system and I think we should expect better of those who hold judicial office in this regard.

SENATOR T. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Deputy President, it is surprising to some at the Bar that the Government at this time could move in this direction when the Judicial Centre or new Supreme Court Buildings have been long promised by various governments. I say surprising at this time, because the Prime Minister happens to be a non-lawyer; but under previous prime ministers, who were all lawyers, the Judiciary and Bar itself were somewhat embarrassed. And it is a source of daily embarrassment when we have to show people around what now exists as a Supreme Court Building and we have to point out the libraries and we have to tell people from overseas that the lawyers don't have a changing room.

I have one difficulty, Mr. Deputy President, and that is, I am not hearing any talk about the Magistrates courts; because those of us who practise in the Magistrates courts and at times have to run over to the High Court will now be at a serious disadvantage, because we are moving between courts and from time to time we hear magistrates complaining that lawyers are being rude to the court by not turning up. But I think it is a human impossibility to be in two places at the same time. We go to court to work not merely to hold up the court by getting an adjournment.

I am glad, Mr. Deputy President, that at least there is going to be some centralisation of activity. In particular, I am not hearing anything about holding cells for persons who go to the Supreme Court. Right now the holding cells at the present Supreme Court Building is nothing but a 13th century dungeon, unfit for human beings to be in. I will take the side of the prisoner at this time and say that I am glad... that something really has to be done about that.

Now, one of the problems which I hope will be solved is that there will be some area for people, especially jurors, to get refreshment, because I think that a continued concern of attorneys who practise at the criminal bar, especially at assizes time, is that jurors often find recourse to the Police Canteen for refreshment. That is unsavoury. I am not saying that anything negative will happen, but human nature as it is, information could be passed or said aloud and the human mind will take information. I hope that when the Judicial Centre is opened that that sort of nexus disappears, because I think that something could go wrong in circumstances of this type.

If I may go down another road, Mr. Deputy President, in Barbados, and in many places of the world, when people go into a new house they expect to change their attitudes, behaviour patterns and modes of activity. I am earnestly

hoping that the new Judicial Centre will see a new approach to the administration of justice in this country. Right now, a lot is left to be desired. A lack of respect by the public and a lack of respect by judicial officers for members of the public. And if I can politick a bit, it will be seen clearly that whenever elections are held, that a former judicial officer who is now seeking political office will be dealt with by the electorate for making fun when sentencing people to a period of incarceration. There is no fun. I think magistrates and judges find no great joy in locking up people, but when you do it and you associate it with some sadistic pleasure and mocking and you are laughing, that, I think, Mr. Deputy President is a serious thing and I hope we move away from that very quickly. As I said I am hoping that new surroundings will bring different attitudes and changes.

If I may go on, Sir, respect for the judicial system is a two-way thing. The judicial system and its officers must respect the public and the public must respect the judicial officers and the judicial system. I do not think one can go without the other. Lawyers, I incorporate as part of the judicial system. I do not think one can exist without the other. I was more than disturbed the other day when we talked about an extension of legalisms to bring harm to people. I may digress a bit, but forgive me, Sir. There can be no law in this country or anywhere else in the world that permits a helpless person, in particular a child, to die for want of help when there are people around that child who can help. That is inexcusable. You all know what I am talking about. It is nothing but a glaring omission. No law can control people to the extent that a person can omit to do something to save a child that is dying. I know of no interpretation of a law unless it is under Hitler that permits that sort of behaviour.

And too, Mr. Deputy President, there is no law as far as I know that permits people to be in police custody for an unconscionably long time without anybody knowing where they are; and we know the consequences of that. I am saying, Mr. Deputy President that when we have a new Judicial Centre, I am hoping that new attitudes and approaches come along with the new building.

Getting back to the point of respect, no person who is bound over to attend assizes or given a date for court ought to be able to get on a plane, or for whatever reason, do not turn up in that court without a very good reason to the detriment of someone who is in incarceration and waiting for a trial.

I am hoping, Mr. Deputy President, that with the new building goes a completely new approach and new attitude to people's freedom, people's sensibilities and mutual respect of the public and judicial system. Without the two of those, we are going to get nowhere and the society, unfortunately, will go along a certain path that I hope to God it will never go.

I support the Resolution fully, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. In supporting this Resolution, I would like to say that I am happy and congratulate the Government for this. I have had recently to travel to an official's office on a rainy day within the complex of the existing building. I thought it was nothing short of a disgrace to see a pan on the floor and even the toilet facilities are most deplorable.
4.35 p.m.

One must always welcome things that are going to be new physically but like Senator Estwick I believe that we must also look at attitudes.

I share Senator Blackman's view about the disparity in sentences because just a few days ago I had an argument with a lawyer about that. I am no lawyer but there are certain things in this community, and my country that I feel very strongly about. I feel also strongly about some of the time that they give people who have been involved with dope. They make it look like "laughing sport." Just a few cents and these fellows can go out, get the money, come back and laugh at the Court and laugh at the system. I hope something like that is going to be looked into.

There are two other things that I have on my mind which are very near and dear to me which I would like to see corrected. One is that with the coming of this new building that we will see a complete change of the way how women are treated when it comes to this question of waiting for what we in Barbados call "child money".

I am strongly advocating that you can put the cost of the stamp with the amount of money you charge the man for that child, and that allowance could be posted to the woman. It is a disgrace to see so many women lining up then to hear they are not getting anything. This is something I have been saying for a long time. I want to see it come into being. It is a disgrace that you have to be standing up out there waiting for a man to give you money for a child which he is responsible in assisting you in getting. Then you go and find there is no money there for you. You go back day after day and week after week.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: I do not mind. I am speaking and I will continue to speak. I do not pay anybody at the sides any attention.

The other point which I feel very strongly about that I would like to see something done about is this whole question of rape cases being tried in camera. I hope that they have some nice, decent place in that facility for rape cases to be tried without the public viewing the people and the victim becomes the villain because everybody is

pointing fingers at that poor woman. Many women are not able to live that down. Some of them go crazy after that kind of experience. I sincerely hope that would be looked at in a very serious way.

I welcome the fact that the Probation Services will be there because that is, again, a necessary facility. The physical facilities needed upgrading for a very long time. I really think as Senator Estwick expressed that in keeping with new facilities we should have new trends, new innovations and new attitudes towards the things that affect our society.

I will reiterate very strongly that I hope that the whole question of the way how women are treated that the women are paid this money like how old age pensioners are paid, and that the women who are raped would be treated in a much more sedate and dignified fashion.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR A. W. A. MCCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I would like briefly to rise to agree with everything that has been said on this Resolution. Also to give my agreement to the idea that this concurrent sentencing is not to be desired. Indeed, if you reflect on the effect it will have on the criminal who is out on bail or who knows the police is pursuing him for a particular crime, you can see that is virtually an incitement to further crime because he knows it is open season for him. He will probably get 100 years, add them all up together and he would serve 3.

Unless a person is aware that he is going to get additional punishment for additional crimes committed subsequent to any set of crimes, there is no deterrent to holding him and prosecuting him for that crime. Indeed, in doing so you are wasting taxpayers money and the time of the Courts.

I thank you.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy President, let me add my little bit to this. I would say that I was not exactly instrumental in having the Courts out there but I had a little thing to do with it.

What I would like to mention here now is, I do not want to see a big edifice going up out there on the spot that we plan to put it and when you go inside that edifice you are shocked at the accommodation that the judges have. Right now the so-called accommodation that the Chief Justice and all the other judges have is deplorable. If you are going to have people to dispense justice, these people should be well looked after.

I am hoping that in building this new building that the accommodation for the judges be somewhere that the

judges can really entertain other people who come from overseas to visit our Courts, not something to be ashamed of and you tell the fellow you would meet him downstairs because he does not want the people to come upstairs but something where they can bring the people up to see.

I visit the judges all the time because I always go in there complaining to them about when they will not pass proper legislation or deal with the laws that should be dealt with. I would like to see in this new building that we give the judges something to be very proud about. In so doing this would make them happier when they have to dispense justice.

In agreeing with some of the things that Senator Estwick and some of the other speakers have said, I think the time has come when no criminal has any right – do not tell me that criminals have rights. Criminals do not have any rights. As you commit a crime you forfeit your rights. No criminal has the right to say he wants to go to the Lower Court to have a case tried. As you commit a certain amount of offences, up to the High Court where he can be really sentenced properly.

Here it is a fellow knows that he, as Senator McClean has just said, is out on bail for something that he is going to go to prison for anyhow, he goes there, commits a series of crimes, comes into Court and pleads guilty to all. He gets 99 years and by 27 months he is back out on the road to commit more crime. We are making a joke of this whole thing, a travesty of justice. The time has come that as soon as a man has committed a certain offence, especially an indictable offence, he has no right to have any opportunity to choose. He goes before the Supreme Court or the High Court, not at the Lower Court where he can only get three years at the maximum.

Another thing, I have said it repeatedly. I do not mind who is going to say I am anachronistic or old fashioned. I still do not feel that the taxpayers money should be spent on feeding prisoners. We should give them the minimum. Prison should be deterrent. We are making prison a hotel. A fellow comes and knocks out your eye, goes up to Prison and comes out fat, heavy. I know you are going to say this is inhuman, that the prisoners are human too but when these people are committing crimes against the society they are committing it against human beings too so why should we treat them any different?

It is hard on the police to go and find out who has committed a crime to go and bring in somebody. I am not saying that all of them are right. But after the police have worked hard to get someone before a judge or a magistrate do you think it is right for the magistrate to look at the man and give him 99 years and then talk about "concurrently"? It should be consecutively.

Prison should not be a place for people to go up there and come back down fat. It is not a hospital. We spend more money on prison than we are spending on the hospitals. We are spending more money on the Prison than we are spending on the Psychiatric Hospital. A man is not mad because he wants to go mad. People go mad because they are sick. People go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because they are sick. Why then should we be spending our money on people who commit crimes against these people who are trying to walk the straight and narrow path and they are being fed with beef, pork, eggs, bacon, and milk. I do not get those kinds of things.
4.45 p.m.

This is nothing I have been saying today alone, I have been saying this all the time. I am not changing my views. I feel that if a man goes to prison for child money, alimony or so, I can sympathise with that fellow, but when a fellow stands by and cases your joint, then breaks into your joint and steals your most valuable items, and nine out of ten times might knock your wife's eye out or cuts off your hand, are you going to tell me that you are to pay taxes to feed that scamp in prison? No, we are sick if we go along with this kind of thing.

Let me say this before I sit down, Mr. Deputy President. We are more democratic than Malaysia or Singapore and you cannot do these kinds of things in these places because you will pay the supreme penalty and there is no reason why we down here must be kow-towing to prisoners. Who wants any prisoner friends? It is a different thing when a fellow gets into a misdemeanour, uses more force than is necessary or so, but when a fellow is deliberately going up to prison three and four times, some fellows 19 years old but having more than 20 convictions,...

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: For whom are we rehabilitating him? To marry to whom? Not to my daughter or to my son. I am not going along with that nonsense. We are hypocrites if we are fooling ourselves that we want to rehabilitate the criminal because we want to make him useful to the society. But which society? To come back and steal more things? We are legislators in here, we are not joke people and we should be serious.

Do you know what is the whole gist of this thing, Mr. Deputy President? I think the whole problem is that a lot of us are worried about what somebody is going to say outside. You cannot always be right, I have always been saying this, but you must always be strong. Even God said he had made two mistakes. He would not drown the world again and He was sorry he made man. If God can make a mistake, so can you or I. Everybody is not going to agree with everything we do, but once we know we have done it and we feel justified in doing it, we are right. It is as simple

as that. Let them criticise as much as they like, but let us stop this fooling around with prison and making prisoners into heroes. This is all we have been doing.

You know, we would be in here talking today. How many of us – not me, I do not care, because I made my fame ever since – will be on the front page tomorrow? But a known criminal would be on the front page smiling. The papers have to carry a lot of the blame for it, because they have been eulogising and making these people into heroes. We should make prison a deterrent, not a hotel, make a fellow when he hears he is going to prison start to cry and pleading not to go up there, but they laugh. A man just got five years and he laughed. Do you know why he was laughing? Because he knows he will go up there and get beef, pork, milk, eggs, bacon, split peas and rice with a lot of pig tails and that kind of thing. If he knew that he would only get bread and water up there, and hard work, he would not want to go, he would be living on the straight and narrow path. Since you all have passed that foolish law about not hanging 18 year olds, the crime rate has gone up. Do not tell me that by not hanging people the crime rate will come down.

Now we are on the Judicial Centre there is another thing I would like to mention. I would like to know who authorised the people here to keep prisoners up there who have been condemned, found guilty of murder by their peers, the Judge has imposed the sentence the law stipulates and yet we have them up there getting fat.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Appeal? They can appeal after they are dead. We can send letters of condolence to their parents, but we are making a travesty of justice about here. I cannot go on with this situation here, because things are getting worse. Things are getting worse because we, the politicians, are afraid to do what is right and we cannot go on like this. I heard Senator Goddard talking earlier about a statement he read in the paper. I want everybody to know this is my country and I have nowhere else to go. I am not a Canadian, I have made this country into what it is today and I am not going to sit idly by, if other people are afraid to talk, and let a bunch of criminals run this country down for their own benefit, because whenever we are finished it will be no use to them and less use to us.

Mr. Deputy President, with those few remarks, I beg to support this Resolution.

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

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BISHOP'S COURT HILL, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, as long ago as February 1989 some 19 parcels of land in the area of Collymore Rock, Pine Road, Culloden Road and River Road were vested in the Crown in its right of Government for the purpose of the road alignment of that stretch of road which runs from the bend of River Road and the area known as Bishop's Court Hill.

This parcel of land, which is the subject of this Resolution, is only 1,105 square feet at Bishop's Court Hill which was used as part of the road improvement that took place. All of us are aware of the benefits which have accrued since the development of that road widening and the junctions which have been installed to improve the flow of traffic. We are also aware that the Pine Road/Culloden Road junction takes a very heavy load of traffic.

The acquisition of this particular parcel of land was held up, I understand, because of a legal problem which related to the survey plan, so that the matter was hanging fire. This Resolution is therefore only a tidying up process to complete the acquisition of the land already used.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, with the passing of that Resolution we have completed the ten Items of Government Business today. I now move that this Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
4.55 p.m.

CONTENTS

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTING OF THE SENATE 1934

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1934

PUBLIC BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER, 1990 1934

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1934, 1936;
Senator A. W. A. McClean, 1937, 1938, 1939;
Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. Clarke, 1938;
Senator Dr. F. W. Alleyne, 1941, 1942; Senator
J. S. Goddard, 1944, 1945; Senator T. C.
Estwick, 1945.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE OMBUDSMAN (SALARY) ORDER, 1990 1946

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1946.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PART-TIME OFFICERS) ORDER, 1990 1946

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1946; Senator
A. W. A. McClean, 1946, 1947, 1948; Senator
Dr. F. W. Alleyne, 1949; Mr. Deputy President,
1947.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS (TEACHERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1990 1950

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1950; Senator
C. A. Blackman, 1950, 1951; Senator Dr. L. L.
Shorey, 1951; Senator Mrs. V. C. Fraser, 1952;
Senator A. W. A. McClean, 1954, 1955;
Senator Dr. F. W. Alleyne, 1956; Senator A.
Morrison, 1958, 1959.

RESOLUTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISION TO INCREASE THE WAGES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND CASUAL EMPLOYEES 1959

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1960.

RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE SALARIES OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL STAFF WITH EFFECT FROM 1990-04-01 1960

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1960.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEDULE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, CAP. 6 1960

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1960.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF INCREASED COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES TO GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL, 1990 1960

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1960.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF WHITE-PARK ROAD AND COUNTRY ROAD, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A JUDICIAL CENTRE 1960

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1960; Senator
C. A. Blackman, 1961; Senator T. C. Estwick,
1962; Senator Mrs. V. C. Fraser, 1963; Senator
A. W. A. McClean, 1963; Senator N. W. Boxill,
1963, 1964, 1965.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BISHOP'S COURT HILL, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT 1965

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1965.

SUSPENSIONS 1936, 1944

ADJOURNMENT 1965.

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1965.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ALLEYNE, Senator Dr. F. W.
BLACKMAN, Senator C. A.
BOXILL, Senator N. W.
CLARKE, Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D.
ESTWICK, Senator T. C.
FRASER, Senator Mrs. V. C.
GODDARD, Senator J. S.
JORDAN, His Honour Senator M. deL.
LEWIS, Senator the Hon. L. V. H.
McCLEAN, Senator A. W. A.
MORRISON, Senator A.
SHOREY, Senator Dr. L. L.