
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

SENATE

Wednesday, February 20, 1991.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, February 20, 1991, at 11.10 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) (Leader of the Senate);

Senator A. MORRISON

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

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS

Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)

Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE

Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES

Senator J. J. PAYNE

Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, G.C.M.

Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT

Senator C. O. WILLIAMS

Senator W. L. INNISS

Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. SPRINGER

Senator J. G. BELLAMY

Senator J. A. F. COLE

Senator T. E. BARKER

Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

I should like to say what a pleasure it is to welcome all Members to this session of the Senate. It is indeed a pleasure to welcome especially those of you who are with us for the first time. I am confident that you will all make

significant and worthwhile contributions to the debates in this Honourable Chamber. We look forward to what I know will be your cooperation with the Chair.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations 1991;
2. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1991;
3. The Annual Report of the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation for the year ended March 31, 1990;
4. The Annual Report of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation for the year 1988/89.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for today's sitting to allow us to deal with the matters set out as Public Business on the agenda.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that in the absence of His Honour the President who is out of the Island and the arrangement for you to act as President, that we appoint Senator Joseph Payne to act as Deputy President for today's sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS the following Bills were read a first time:-

1. *Bill to amend the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office Act;*
2. *Bill to amend the Companies Act.*

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS
AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1991

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, during the last sitting of the Senate the CARICOM Enterprises Regime legislation was enacted. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce now proposes to make regulations under that Act. However, it has been discovered there is no provision for the Registrar to accept registration under the Act. This amendment, therefore, sets out to empower the Registrar of Corporate Affairs to perform any functions assigned to the Registrar not specified in that Act.

Now, just to refresh your memories and to inform those Members who were not with us during the last session what the CARICOM Enterprises Regime is all about. An agreement was first reached as early as 1977 to establish a CARICOM Enterprises Regime. The purpose of this Regime was designed to encourage and facilitate the mobilisation and utilisation of available resources within the CARICOM region for productive purposes.

A CARICOM Enterprise Regime is a business venture in the first instance. It is one that is regionally owned and controlled. It is one that brings together the resources of CARICOM countries for the production of goods and services in key sectors of the regional economy. It is hoped that through such enterprises these will maximise economic development through the deepening of the production processes.

11.20 a.m.

The legislation in place aims at encouraging the creation of more joint ventures between business within the area and is designed that if a company is registered in one territory, having been so identified as a CARICOM enterprise regime then it is free, upon registration within other territories, to act and behave as if indeed it was incorporated in those other territories.

This legislation is non-controversial and facilitates the Registrar of Corporate Affairs to be able to register these people under this legislation.

With those comments, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, we on this side have no difficulty in supporting the amendment as given by the Minister. However a few comments would be in order at this time.

The Barbados Labour Party takes pleasure in noting that we have developed the offshore sector to such an extent that it now employs over 3 000 persons. As we further develop this sector, the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office would play a very important part in this regard. Therefore we would like the relevant authorities to ensure that efficiency be the hallmark of that particular office. Because as you are aware, Sir, we are in a competitive world and there are many other islands which are eager to snap up any business that is available. Any tardiness or delay in that office would adversely affect the performance of the international business sector. It is too important a sector to neglect given the fact that our traditional export sectors are under such strain. Therefore we would like the relevant authorities to do all in their power to ensure that registration of trade marks and such things are done in a speedy manner and, at the same time, ensure that the interest of Barbados is always paramount. By that I mean, we know that there are a lot of sharks, if I may say so, in the international business community and we want to ensure that our name is not tarnished. But at the same time we must ensure that efficiency is maintained in that office. Furthermore as we try to develop a sense of entrepreneurship among our people, this office becomes of tremendous importance.

We support this Bill without any reservation but we would just like to note that we would want to ensure that this office be given the necessary tools, in terms of machinery, equipment and so on and the personnel with the correct training to develop this sector.

While I am on this point, we are not happy that the Double Taxation Treaty with the United States took so long to be renegotiated. We want to encourage the Prime Minister and those in authority not to wait until an agreement runs out before renegotiating another one. It does not work slow in the international community. Vigilance must be our key word.

Thank you.

The question that the Bill to amend the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office Act be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and the

Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR J. J. PAYNE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the DEPUTY PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991

Order No. 2 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Companies Act, Cap. 308.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this Bill seeks to amend the Companies Act to make it clear that a company may be a secretary or director of another company.
11.30 a.m.

Certain uncertainty has arisen as to whether or not the existing law permits a company to serve as Director or Secretary of another company. For many years, indeed up to January this year, companies were permitted to become Directors or Secretaries of other companies and several firms of accountants and attorneys-at-law have been registered over time as Secretaries of Companies, particularly the Off-Shore Companies. But, the recently appointed Registrar of Corporate Affairs was concerned about the interpretation of the Companies Act which, incidentally, is for all intents and purposes, a new Companies Act.

The Registrar was concerned about the interpretation of the sections which provided for the appointment of Directors and appointment of Secretaries. There have been many protests by those firms which service Off-Shore Companies at the position taken by the Registrar in denying the registration of companies as directors and as secretaries.

The matter was referred to and considered by the Attorney General and the Ministry of Legal Affairs met with representatives of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance, and with some of the accounting firms, because of their concern that the ruling of the Registrar could adversely affect the attraction of Barbados by Companies wanting to operate in the Off-Shore business sector. A policy decision has therefore been taken to amend the existing law to ensure that there is no doubt whatsoever,

that in Barbados, Companies will be permitted to serve as Directors by the Companies and to serve as Secretaries of other Companies.

There are concerns expressed about the veil of secrecy which can be provided in such an arrangement. However there is a proviso in the amendment which seeks to respond to this. The actual amendment therefore which we are asked to approve provides in the first section for the definition of 'officer' and 'individual', the definition of 'officer' by deleting the word 'individual' and substituting the word 'person' and by inserting another definition for 'individual'. Also, it provides for the purpose stated by me earlier that a company may be a Director or Secretary of another company. However, no company shall have as a Secretary to the Company, a Corporation, the sole Director of which is the sole Director of a Company, and vice versa, that no Company shall have as a sole Director of the Company a Corporation, the Sole Director which is also Secretary of the Company.

With those very brief explanations, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Acting President, I rise just to make a few comments on this Bill and in relation more so, Sir, to the question of the administration of the Companies Registry. I think you will find that most people dealing with the Corporate Registry have found in the past that there tends to be a fluctuation in the regulations and what is required of you in terms of dealing with them.

There also tends to be great delay when Company names are submitted and all of these things, Sir, go together to give the impression of a cumbersome process. And I cannot help but reiterate what Senator Barker said earlier that if we are to continue to try and be competitive and be attractive in the International business quarters, as my friend Senator Clarke pointed out when Senator Barker was speaking, that it is necessary, Sir, that we have efficiency at every level of administration that these people are going to be required to meet. It is necessary, Sir, that we do not give the impression of increased bureaucracy when we have other islands in the Caribbean, like the Turks and Caicos, like Tortola, like Bahamas, like Bermuda, all of whom have a solid base already within the international business quarter and who are looking to build upon that. It is necessary therefore, that almost an attitude is brought to bear in terms of how we deal, not only with the International business quarter, but I think within the manufacturing industry you will find similar complaints and we have to begin to get at the root of getting people to understand that to accommodate the process of business is not necessarily giving anybody any advantage, but purely giving them a free and unencumbered passage to get what they have come here for done.

In terms of the general Companies Law, Sir, this legislation as we all know, Sir, was introduced by the Barbados Labour Party, back in 1982, along with a number of other Acts dealing with the commercial sector and dealing with the Off Shore services sector. However, Sir, I rise also a bit concerned. Perhaps the time has come now for comprehensive review of the whole Act and not just a one by one instant. I know that Senator Lewis explained to us how this amendment occurred, but I am a little perturbed that after 9 – 10 years one finds that usually a review of legislation is required to see how efficient and how useful it has been in terms of the use to which it was put.

It also perhaps, Sir, calls for a review of other types of legislation in the commercial quarter which is needed which will primarily benefit Barbadians and particularly the small man in Barbados, such as a proper and comprehensive Sale of Goods Act which would come under the area of Consumer Affairs and will help to protect the consumer in this country.

We have had a lot of calls in this country for the last 2 to 3 years, especially in this area, and I think it is about time that Government looks at this area and see what can be done to deal with the problems facing consumers in this area and introduce the legislation which would properly regulate this type of activity. Thank you Sir.

SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Acting President, I just want to make a very brief contribution to the Bill which is before us and particularly I want to note that many times people make remarks about the delays at the Companies Office. From my experience, I do not believe that those delays result from the state of the law relating to Companies. I don't necessarily think that the delays result either from the staff or the experience or inexperience of the staff at that Department. But I believe if there is one way in which Government could move to improve the efficiency of the Department it is perhaps by computerisation. I believe that many people who have examined the system at the Companies Registry see a need for an improvement of information which is available to the Registrar.

Let me give you a brief example of what I am talking about. Let us say that Mr. A owns one hundred thousand shares in a company and for some reason or another he is going to sell those one hundred thousand shares to five persons, twenty-five thousand dollars each. When those individual share certificates or shares transfer forms go to the Registrar, he does not have that information available at short notice whereby he can check to see whether this forms part of a larger transaction or there are a series of transactions and very often people are able to get away from paying Property Transfer Tax on these matters because the information is not necessarily readily available. As you know, these transfers ... The first twenty-five thousand dollars is exempt from tax; so that if he can transfer those shares to five separate persons in lots of

twenty-five thousand dollars each, he pays no tax at all, whereas if the Registrar is able to check his records through a speedier system, he may be able to recognise the situation which would develop, so it is my view that if the Department is computerised, this would go a long way in improving the efficiency of the system. I want to some extent to support the call which has been put out. But I want to make it clear that I don't believe that it is a result of the state of the law nor the staff at that Department.

I want also to say, before I take my seat, that I support the amendment which is presently before the House. I believe that this amendment will to some extent create more comfort in the business community. But I would like to see more public relations done when amendments of these sorts are being carried out, because to a very large extent they will also affect the public. It will affect those members of the public who have to deal with Companies and who do not necessarily understand the full implications of changes such as these.
11.40 a.m.

A company being an individual person will now be able to operate without that individuality which has occurred in the past. I believe that a public relations programme on changes of this kind would go a long way in assisting the unsuspecting public in understanding the full implications of changes of this nature.

With those brief remarks, Mr. Deputy President, I want to give my support to the Amendment of the Bill.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support this Amendment, I wish to note that this Amendment is not establishing a precedent because the Cooperatives Societies Act which was passed in 1990 contains a similar provision where a Cooperative Society can be a member of another society and, in fact, that society can be a director of another society. In a sense, this particular Amendment is not breaking any new ground.

I welcome the contribution of Senator Mottley but I do not support in total. I think that in a small place like Barbados we have to be punctilious in ensuring that there is integrity in our business regime. So far we have managed to develop that. Barbados has a very solid image with respect to its business environment. I believe, Mr. Deputy President, there is a price that you have to pay for that. You have to be careful in scrutinizing those who apply to register a company. I am very mindful of a recent experience which has occupied the attention of the Courts in Barbados where an American fugitive was able to register a company in Barbados and quite recently he has been taken back to the United States under protective custody to face the Courts in the United States. I do not know how long it took for that person to register that company in Barbados. But I am not satisfied, Mr. Deputy

President, that the matter was handled as carefully as it should have been handled. I am not satisfied about that.

In looking at one of the daily newspapers this week (I think it was Monday) it was reported that there was a transaction relating to one of the fix and floating assets. And one of the daily newspapers (and I emphasize)...it reported that in the intra-company transfer assets which are valued by the Commissioner of Valuations at \$3.7 million were transferred for less than \$1 million. There are other matters pertaining to it which boggle my mind.

I am saying, Mr. Deputy President, that the Cooperative Affairs Registry needs to be a bit more careful. I take the point made by Senator Mottley that there should not be any time wasting. I agree with that. But I believe to cut out that time wasting that we have to do a number of things. I take the point made by Senator Payne about putting in better information management systems so the left hand knows what the right hand does. But at the same time I believe there is a necessity in Barbados across the board for proper standards and mechanisms for performance appraisal. We need it in the public sector and you need it in the private sector too. We need to be able to put ourselves in a position to measure people's output of work so that we can say to them when it is unsatisfactory and we can put in place the measures to improve that performance. When we reach a position where we can say that you cannot improve, then we give you the opportunity to become self employed.

I do not have a difficulty in supporting this Amendment. As I said, it is nothing new and with your permission, Mr. Deputy President, while I am up, let me say in relation to matters pertaining to the growth of companies in Barbados that I am reliably informed that within the last 5 years there has been a tremendous rate at which new companies have been registered in Barbados. So that at the end of last year there were about 10,000 companies in Barbados that were registered and I have to admit that it is true some are paper companies of these international business companies. Over the last five years there were about 4,000 of them.

I wish to say in closing, Mr. Deputy President, that the business of these double taxation agreements and the speed with which they are sorted out and the likely impact on the way companies operate and so on have two sides as all of us would appreciate when negotiating, and the timing has to be right when you go into these negotiations. Let us bear in mind that there are several other countries in similar positions who are trying to negotiate these treaties and these matters are a little more complex than my friend, Senator Barker, would care to admit. I have no doubt he knows better. But I would hasten to suggest that if delays have been undue they did not come about because of any delinquent conduct on the part of the Minister of Finance.

Sir, I support this Bill and I am particularly encouraged by the constructive attitude of my colleague, Senator Barker, and his colleague Senator Mottley. Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I should like to support this particular Bill. But in supporting it I should also like to point out that I feel one of the areas that can strengthen and perhaps alleviate some of the problems, when it comes to the foreign companies or the companies that we do not know much about to be registered is our embassies where we can go and have some investigations done at that level. I think that will help us to expedite matters.

I was listening very carefully to Senator Mottley and I must inform through you, Mr. Deputy President, that a committee was set up since last year to look into all areas of consumer legislation. It is being worked on and recommendations have been put forward and several laws have been looked at. If you are going to deal with consumer legislation which you have so many hundreds of years ago, you have to look at the international community and you have to look at the international laws pertaining to consumer laws and upgrade not only your existing laws but also you have to look at what trends are developing now in the wider world. We cannot be in isolation and just sit down and draft something. It has taken a lot of time and research and it has meant looking at the very laws of the International Consumer Associations. As she mentioned quite rightly, the Sale of Goods Act and Acts of this sort are going to affect every single consumer.

11.50 a.m.

I would like, through you, Mr. Deputy President, as a member of that particular committee, to assure persons that quite a number of young persons who are in the legal field have worked on it, and we have had some very experienced people as well, who have been working on this and I think very shortly Senator Mottley and other people will definitely see some improvement to those laws, because they do affect us all. The fine writing affects us especially, because consumers tend not to read the fine writing, especially when it comes to things like the Hire Purchase Act and the Sale of Goods Act. I think those are the two we have to be very concerned about as consumers as to what is for us and what is for the person from whom we buy the goods, but in the final analysis everyone has to realise that everybody is a consumer and people must not feel that the legislation is being done against business people, because the business people have to buy other goods and services than what they have selling, so when the law is finalised it is going to affect the life of every citizen and it will accrue to the benefit of all citizens in Barbados.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, it concerns me somewhat that the effect of this will be holding up people who are desirous of registering companies and doing business in this country.

In respect of the remarks made by Senator Alleyne and Senator Mottley, there is no possible way that any staff or computer can effectively screen out every person to the point that they know exactly where the money came from, how it came and why it is here. If we get into a situation where we start to do this in a tedious manner, we get back to what Senator Mottley was referring to, delay and frustration, and the competition in the Caribbean especially is real. She left out the name of two particular ones, the Caymans and Antigua.

Computers can do a lot and I agree with Senator Alleyne that every effort should be made, but I wonder in this legislation if we should not introduce or initiate a Bill which would seek to prevent people from trying to circumvent the honest operations of the Department by introducing an Act which clearly states that anybody who registers a company here that is fraudulent be automatically relieved of all of their property to which the company refers and it becomes property put on sale by the Government as money to be earned in the Treasury. I believe this would prevent those who come here in a dishonest manner and it would also demonstrate to the world that we have no intention in this country of compromising our honesty and uprightness. I believe it would keep out the undesirables and it would not be a hindrance to the speedy establishment.

My experience is that people heading up companies of this nature live in a hurry. They take two years to make a decision but want it implemented in two minutes and get very frustrated when it is not. If such legislation were introduced as a fine or a forfeiture of everything that you would relate it to in this country, i.e. if we could take that hotel which the man had registered and bought in Barbados and put it up for sale, think of what it would do with our coffers and think of what it would demonstrate to the rest of the world how we would deal with dishonest people.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the amendment that we are doing in fact puts us in line with some of the countries mentioned, like Caymans and other countries that are seeking to attract offshore business, but it now puts us out of line with Bermuda. It puts us at a variance with the laws of the United States of America and the laws of Canada where companies are not permitted to become corporate directors.

I am mentioning this in passing, because what we are in fact doing is bringing ourselves in line with the market place for attracting offshore business activity. However,

these amendments may well cause us to have to look at the impact which they will have on our tax treaties. There may well be income tax, corporate tax implications and the whole question of insider trading would have to be closely examined. I am only mentioning these as areas of caution. Let me also say that the officer who is in charge of this particular agency is probably one of the most efficient public officers and I have no doubt that the new legislation, when enacted, will be recognised as the policy of Government and that it may well speed up some of this business activity that we are talking about, because if I was the Registrar of Corporate Affairs I would certainly wish to look beyond the amendment every time a transaction comes before me because of the potential there is for activities which are the type that Senator Williams just mentioned he would wish to ensure that we are able to deal strongly with. I do not think we would be as draconian as he suggested, but we certainly would have to deal forcefully with any attempts to get around the laws of Barbados, using this particular amendment as a vehicle for such avoidance of the law.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. J. PAYNE in the Chair.

12.00 noon

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clause 1 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move that Clause 1 of the Bill stand part.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I wish to speak, Sir, on this part here once more in relation....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not quite sure which part you mean.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Clause 1.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir, the Companies Development Bill before we get into Clause 2.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I know that there are restrictions on the title as Senator Lewis pointed out to you but I have no problem with that whatsoever because I intend to speak on the other clauses as well.

In relation to the Companies (Amendment) Bill, Sir, the whole question of small businesses and small companies....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes. What I was going to say... I didn't want to interrupt you originally, but usually when the Senate is in Committee the contributions are limited to adding a word or deducting a word or sentence or something of that nature. To give an address on the substance of a particular clause is not permitted in the third reading. You can do that in the second reading but the third reading is limited to additions and subtractions.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: In Committee, Sir, I believe that I can make and speak once it relates to the particular clause.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes. But your contribution is limited to adding a word. Suppose for example....

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am speaking of the clause, Sir. Once I speak of the clause, Sir, I believe I am entitled to speak.

Asides.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: But I can speak of the clause, Sir, and that is what I choose to do, Sir.

I am waiting to hear the ruling of Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said I would hear you but I was just giving you guidance. I will certainly hear you. I don't want to prevent you from making your contribution. But I thought perhaps that I should just give you some guideline.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir, I will speak on Clause 2. Please go ahead.

The question that Clause 1 stand part was put and agreed to.

Clause 2 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move that clause 2 of the Bill stand part.

Certain remarks made by Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY were ordered by Mr. CHAIRMAN to be expunged from the record.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of elucidation. Can you point us to the relevant standing order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you really want to get some good guidance, there are many books on parliamentary procedure which would assist you considerably at this point and I am sure the Clerk would be willing to assist you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am sure, Mr. Deputy President, that you will use your good offices to further educate us.

Before we go on, not only would I wish to reiterate the call of my friend here for elucidation and education on the part of yourself, Sir, as to what is the correct way....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am in no doubt as to the procedure. What I would like to encourage Honourable Senators to do: the Clerk of Parliament is really advisor to this body and I did seek his opinion even before I made a final decision. What I would like to suggest perhaps is that those Honourable Senators who are in some doubt could speak with the Clerk at some time either today or sometime in the future and he would give some guidance on these particular points.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am obliged to Mr. Deputy President, except that I think that I may have already found it under Standing Order 49.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to read it for the benefit of those who didn't understand it?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I believe Sir, that I am allowed, and 49 as well. It proceeds there and deals both with Committees. I believe SENATOR Lewis has a copy. Unless, I would like to make this a document of the Senate and pass it to Your Honour for reference. Thank you, Sir.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put and agreed to.

Clause 3 was called.
12.10 p.m.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

On motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour the DEPUTY PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CLUFFS, ST. LUCY

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: This Resolution, Mr. Deputy President, relates to the acquisition of some 1.965 hectares of land at Cluffs, St. Lucy, for the purpose of housing development. There is an area of Greenidges in St. Lucy in which the tenants either live at

Crab Hill Plantation or Cluffs Tenantry on opposite sides of the road, I am told.

The tenancy apparently was formerly part of the Cluffs Plantation but was purchased by its present owners in the early 1970's. It is separated from Crab Hill Plantation by a small public road. Under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, Crab Hill Plantation is listed and this enables the tenants to purchase their lots at the statutory price of 10 cents per square foot.

Cluffs Tenantry, however, is not listed under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act so that the residents of Cluffs Tenantry are not able to benefit from those special prices. In fact, they have been offered and they had accepted an offer from Cluffs to buy their spots at \$2 per square foot. This provides problems in terms of Government policy in facilitating housing facilities for persons living in tenancies.

Government is therefore moved to acquire the Cluffs Tenantry in order to be able to pass on the housing lots to the tenants and to additional tenants at the special price of 10 cents per square foot. This matter has been in the works for some time. Government now proposes to resolve it for the benefit of the persons who are presently tenants at Cluffs Tenantry.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy President, I am indeed heartened to see that this Resolution has come before the House on behalf of the people of Greenidges, in particular. I had occasion very recently within the last few months to have extensive discussions with quite a few of them from down there who complained bitterly about the fact that they had expected and were indeed promised that this procedure would have been taken since 1986. It is somewhat heartening to see that after January 1991 and after such a close shave in January 1991 that the people in Greenidges will now be entitled eventually once Government has acquired the land to buy it at 10 cents per square foot as the other residents, as pointed out by Senator Lewis, at Crab Hill Plantation are entitled to do.

The truth is, Sir, it is only really an absence of a listing in the Schedule to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which would have caused the disparity of pricing between the 10 cents per square foot and the \$2 per square foot of the two particular areas although they are in the same geographical location and although families have been on those lots for many years.

I want Sir, however, to look at the benefit that the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act has brought to the people like this and to be heartened about the fact that this Government now in its wisdom recognising the foresight of

the Labour Party in introducing a Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, is now trying to reach the same conditions and benefits that were accorded under that Act for those tenants in circumstances where they are not listed as a listed tenantry.

Sir, in terms of housing development, there are other matters, however, that concern me greatly and that is, if we look back around the time when the Freehold Purchase Act was introduced, it was not only sufficient to give people the right to buy land at 10 cents per square foot. One also had to consider the provision of services and to that end we refer specifically to water, road and electricity because you cannot develop houses unless you are able to provide those services to people, especially in 1991. To that end I believe the sites and services was established and that went a long way in assisting people in the provision of services.

We also had the tenancies road programme. I believe the Labour Party started and completed 164 of those tenantry roads. I see that this Government is continuing it. I welcome the fact that there are continuing it but urge them that they are still indeed a number of roads in St. Michael which need to be done.

12.20 p.m.

No doubt my friends in the Other Place are and have been dealing with that matter as to which particular roads we are dealing with. However, Sir, one thing concerns me and that is the monopoly that the Barbados Water Authority has in terms of laying the mains for land development. I am a little concerned at the cost that people face in laying these mains. They are not allowed to do it themselves and having not been allowed to do it themselves, they must then face the charges of the Barbados Water Authority. This is in the context of the Barbados Water Authority being able to import materials, duty free, in most circumstances. This is also in the context of a rising electricity bill. We all know that 60% of the cost of pumping water is represented in electricity.

Therefore these costs are particularly prohibitive for the small person in this country who finds – and I look at my friend, Senator Alleyne knowing well that he likes to advocate on behalf of the small person but I am going to do it today for him – these costs are difficult to meet, particularly where you have a piece of land in the country, somebody has left it to you. There are five or six children in the family. You are now receiving permission to subdivide. There are no water mains down. There is no electricity there. You, as a beneficiary of this land seeking only to develop and build your own house are now faced with these costs which are prohibitive.

But it is not only the water where the cost of the water is prohibitive in the cost of developing houses. We also face situations where people live off a road a bit and there may

be two or three houses down there. But if they want a pole from the Light and Power, they are required to pay \$1 000 for the pole. Many people cannot afford to do it. It is unfair.

I have had occasion in the last year or so, particularly in the area of Skeete's Road and Jackmans where the roads tend to be long and tend to be more approaching rural than urban and houses tend to be more spread out, Sir. As a result, you may find that somebody may have their house 200 or 300 yards off the road. They have had severe problems in trying to get the Light and Power to install a pole there, unless they are able to pay or raise the \$1 000. These are people who perhaps are carrying home \$200 a week so that in one month they cannot even make \$1 000. I think we need to look at how we are going to ease the burden of these people in terms of the provision of proper sites and services.

I am a little concerned that sites and services in the last 4 years seem to have gone into, I would say, such great decline that one wonders whether it is still active, other than for the fact that I see the new Honourable Minister of Housing making reference to it. Bearing in mind, that I notice that this is in his constituency, I hope that not only reference would be made to it but that an active effort to restart the sites and services programme will be undertaken.

I go further and I want to look at the whole question of the road development as well and the tenancies roads. I have understood, by listening in other places that it is hoped that 400 to 500 tenancy roads will be completed within the next 4 to 5 years, Sir. I only wish at this stage to urge the caution that when doing this, in terms of providing access to people's houses in housing developments, that there is a proper and comprehensive plan, in terms of how the roads are constructed. Because we have a situation where you may have built a road in a housing development and when building this road in the housing development, it may not have been built properly, the water mains may therefore burst and may cause the road to suffer and to break up. When this happens, the people who live in those housing developments are then forced to suffer and bear the consequences of bad and inadequate construction of roads, within the housing developments and particularly in the tenancies. I would wish us to look at the position of these people and not....

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, I think you are a bit off the mark. We are really dealing with compulsory acquisition of land.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I notice that we are dealing with compulsory acquisition of land. But if I am allowed to read the resolution, we are also dealing with it, "for the purposes of housing development" which is specifically stated. I think that I have not, at any stage, come on any matter which does not pertain to housing development.

I have spoken about water which pertains to housing development. I have spoken about roads which pertain to housing development. And I have spoken about the provision of electricity which pertains to housing development. I have spoken about the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which is the Act which allows the provision to the tenants at 10 cents a square foot. Unless I am coming off, at that level, I would wish to continue. But if I am, I would be grateful for Your Honour to point that out to me.

I wish also to deal with another aspect of housing development, compulsory acquisition and buying of land. We all know that when one buys land in this country, one has a duty to pay Land Tax. The Barbados Labour Party, in the last few months has been advocating the abolition of Land Tax for the residential properties up to \$150 000. I would wish to say, at this point, that if you make the step to give people, as is being done here, the right to buy land at 10 cents a square foot because of the fact that you understand and appreciate that those people, having been on the land for decades, deserve some form of security of tenure, that it is only therefore concomitant with that, natural and logical that you would want, having encouraged them to make that kind of investment with their money to purchase the land, that you do not tax them for having done so. They can make the same kind of investment in other areas in town without being taxed. They can buy sugar bonds. But if you are buying land, I am submitting to you that it is about time in this country that we understand that the majority of land owners in this country under \$150 000 are the same "small man" that we hear so much about. It is those people who would seek to benefit with such abolition of Land Tax.

I am heartened by the fact that Government understands that there is some desirability in that principle, through some kind of convoluted arrangement that was made or has been referred to, in recent times, since January 22 relating to Land Tax. But I would hope that, having acquired this land, and now in the process of being able to sell it back to these people at 10 cents a square foot that they be not penalized for having to make the investment of purchasing land. They are not penalized when they buy sugar bonds. It is unfair and unconscionable, in my view, to penalize people for making such an investment in land.

I want to go on and make another point, in terms of the same housing development. When people start to build houses, invariably, they do not have all the capital at hand and they are therefore forced to approach some sort of institution, whether it is a co-op, credit union, bank, whatever for provision of funds.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Or the Lumber Company, as Senator Phillips said here. Although I do not know how much financing he provides. But I am indeed heartened to hear that they do provide some. Nevertheless,

Sir, they require some form of financial assistance. Because none of us keep that kind of capital sum sitting down or have it indeed to be able to spend on housing development.

One of the things that concerns me is that there seems to be a reluctance in Bridgetown, since the lending rate between the Central Bank and the commercial banks changed.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this is going too far. It has gone all down St. Lucy and come back.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What are you speaking on, Senator Lewis?

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Way too far.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What are you speaking on, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I am rising on a point of order that the Member is not sticking to the resolution. What are lending conditions to do with the resolution?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Lewis. Proceed, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, Sir, the access to capital from financial institutions for housing development, from credit unions for housing development, from banks for housing development, and these banks and financial institutions receive capital as well sometimes from borrowing from the Central Bank. 12.30 p.m.

And what has impacted on people in this country who are trying to borrow money from Banks is that while not being given any official explanation as to why the mortgage is not being given, outside and off the record you are going to hear that we are not lending and giving out mortgages for residential purposes at 9% when the interest rate between the commercial bank and Central Bank is 12½ and 13% because they do not want to make a loss. So the people who are suffering, are the people at the bottom of the ladder who have no access to capital, who have no access to any sort of arrangement to be able to get some kind of money to build those houses.

And it perturbs me greatly Sir that that combined with other factors, other factors in the process of housing development, you can't buy land, you can't get a mortgage unless you deal with a lawyer. And a practice has grown up in this country Sir, I am a member of the Profession and therefore I suppose I am better able to speak because of the fact that it is unfortunate and unconscionable that clients who go to borrow money for housing development in this

country are forced to pay mortgagor's attorney-at-law fees, forced to pay the mortgagee's attorney-at-law fees, and where the financing for the housing development is coming from the same commercial institution, same financial institution, both the mortgage....

SENATOR A. MORRISON: On a point of Order. We are not debating a measure here to provide financing for housing, and in that regard Sir I don't understand how the Honourable Member is allowed to speak about financing for housing all the time Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Senator Morrison.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Mr. Deputy President, as I was saying, those people who want to build houses are forced to pay attorney-at-law fees on behalf of the Mortgagor, on behalf of the Mortgagee. Senator Inniss who was a former President of the Bar is here.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley you are permitted a passing reference but you most certainly are not permitted to stray that far from the subject matter, and I would urge you now to continue your speech, perhaps if you wish, in another vein. You have had quite a long time to develop that point and it is not directly related to the subject matter.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am obliged to you, Sir, except to say Sir, that I cannot in any way see how the question of a mortgage can be excluded from housing development in this country and if it is, we are saying Sir, that mortgages have nothing to do with housing development. I would like us to be able to go outside and tell the whole country that....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am not finished.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may go ahead.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you Sir. In respect of the particular area of housing development in St. Lucy, one of the things that concerns me as well is the location of housing development in areas without having a broader and more comprehensive view as to how we look at the services that surround the housing development. And I would hope, Sir, that at some point in the future consideration be given....

Not only do we place housing developments, for example, in areas in the North to depressurise, a word that certain people seem to be fond of, the housing pressure in St. Michael, Christ Church, St. James and St. Philip, but we

look also at the provision of services to ease the transport and to ease all other kinds of services necessary for people in these housing developments and I would hope Sir, that this is an indication that some serious development will be given to the economic potential of the North. I see Senator Walkes is here and I hope she subscribes to that as well, Sir, for the people of the North who are looking for some kind of salvation having lost it since 1986.

I wish, Sir, at this point to move on to the whole question of Housing Development for rental purposes, and although Senator Lewis did not say, I would want him to be able to answer at some point in the future, Sir, whether this particular housing development is for people who are owning their own houses or whether it is for people who will be renting houses from Government and therefore will become tenants of the National Housing Corporation, because I have seen the same person, Sir, who is now the Honourable Minister of Housing and who has responsibility for that area make his first call to the public urging people, that the arrears must be paid, as is creditable and I hope he collects the arrears of those people who owe money to the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, this is not in any way connected with the compulsory acquisition of land at Cluffs. I wish you would not stray so far from the subject matter of the debate.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: If I may say, Sir, I continue to read what is before me, and I am sorry if I am reading it wrong Sir, but I read, "Resolved that the House of Assembly approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of a parcel of land situate at Cluffs in the parish of Saint Lucy as described in the Schedule hereto for housing development" and I cannot understand how it is possible for me not to ask whether that housing development is for rental purposes or for people who are going to own their own houses; and if it is for rental purposes, I would want to know whether those people would receive the same treatment that is now being meted out to the present tenants who were told that all arrears should be collected and paid forthwith. I have no problem with that and I am heartened to see that the Minister of Housing is doing such. I just hope that included in that is the former candidate for St. George South who lived at Wildey Plantation House. But I will move on.

Having said that Sir, I would also like to deal with one other point relating to the provision of Housing Development, and that is a lot of people build houses in this country, timber houses, chattel houses, but they don't necessarily have the capital to be able to extend it to wall to provide water-borne systems. And I would hope that this Government, Sir, finds it deep in its heart, or finds the heart first, Sir, to be able to provide those old people in this country who must go out in the middle of the night to a pit toilet in 1991. (I don't think it is fair; I really don't think it

is fair or conscionable) and that a special fund be provided for the provision of water-borne toilets in this country as has been advocated by the Barbados Labour Party for the last two years.

Housing development, Sir. When people were taken in the same housing development from down in Emmerton and moved to Clapham, we saw to it that when we moved them and we put them in a new housing development that, unlike the wishes of, I believe, the then Minister of Housing, I believe it was Mr. Philip Greaves, (I am subject to correction, Sir) that we provided them with water-borne systems, Sir, because it is unconscionable to think that in 1991 you are going to give somebody a house and you are going to require them to use a pit toilet in this country, Sir.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, I would like to rise on a point of order again Sir, for the last time. Sir as I said before I am hearing all kinds of things about water borne toilets. We are not debating anything about water, Water Works Department. If I may refer, Sir, to the Resolution it is to acquire land at Cluffs; that is the pertinent part of the whole Resolution – to acquire land. You have to go step by step, Sir. Government acquires land first; they have to make plans to put houses on it; then you have to make plans to cut roads. Those are step 1, step 2, step 3. You don't actually prejudge Government; you cannot anticipate Government; we acquire the land and then we have to make plans; you have to come back here and get money to build houses and to cut roads.

SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I would like to....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are you on a point of order.

SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: I would like to support the point of order made by the Honourable Senator Morrison. The matter before the Senate....

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, I am on my feet please.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No. He is speaking on a point of order, so you cannot interrupt him. Yes, go on, Senator Payne.

SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: The matter before the Senate is a matter relating to the compulsory acquisition of land. The Resolution seeks purpose but the matter really is compulsory acquisition. I think what Senator Morrison has raised as a point of order I want to support because every point raised in the debate each member is entitled to make remarks relating to those points. For example the question of loans. It does not concern this debate, but any member is entitled to debate that matter because it has been raised in the debate and we will find that if this is permitted each

member here can raise each point which does not really relate to the substance of the Resolution which is land acquisition. And the question of loans and water and electricity and all those other points can become the substance of separate debates.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.
12.40 p.m.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir, as I said once again, I cannot help but read what is before me, Sir. If it is my eyes are seeing words that are there that the other Members of this Honourable Chamber are not seeing, let me know that, Sir. But I see Housing Development and unless we want to tell the people in this country....

SENATOR A. MORRISON: If I may interrupt the Member, Sir....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No, you may not.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: I am asking for a ruling, Sir, on my point of order. I will abide by your ruling, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you please sit, Senator Morrison? I shall first have to hear what the Honourable Senator is saying. My ruling is and I have said before that you will not continue with that matter in the debate because it is not relevant to the debate. Senator Mottley, you may continue.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, if I may ask for clarification purposes, Sir, which matter it is that I am not permitted to continue?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The one which you started on a little while ago. So you may continue.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, with all due respect, I really cannot remember which one it is. Is it the loan, mortgages, water....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may continue and, if I find that you are out of order, I shall say so.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, Sir, I really find it difficult to believe that the provision of water, Sir....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are out of order, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I will abide by Your Honour's ruling except to say that it is really very, very difficult, Sir, to believe that housing development....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You do not question the Chair, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am not questioning the Chair with all due respect.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are out of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that, Sir, but I am not questioning the Chair, Sir, and therefore I would like to say, Sir, that in terms of housing development in Barbados that it is difficult to believe that one can develop houses....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We are dealing with the compulsory acquisition of land, Senator.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir, it is difficult. I am indeed grateful to Your Honour, Sir, for that point with respect to the compulsory acquisition of land situated at Cluffs in the parish of St. Lucy as described in the Schedule here for housing development, Sir. It is difficult to believe that when one acquires land, Sir, to build and develop housing that in doing that development of the housing, Sir, that you are not permitted to deal with having access to water, roads, and electricity, Sir. Other than to continue to say, Sir, that the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act foresaw the need for these provisions of sites and services as part and parcel of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, it is impossible to see how it is that you can develop land without having access or resort to these services, Sir. If it is that we continue to believe, Sir, or we continue to have a Government, Sir, who believes in this country that you can buy land and you can allow the people, Sir, just to continue living on that land, if it is there are houses on it already without bettering the services that they presently have on that land, Sir, I would find nothing other to say that is consonant with the attitude of the Democratic Labour Party ever since its inception, Sir, and it has never ever given proper consideration to people's needs, Sir, when it came to housing development as is shown by their reluctance to provide proper water-borne systems for old and young people living when they move them from one housing development, Sir, to another housing development. I would hope, Sir, that the Honourable Minister of Housing in the Other Place when the time comes (because we still do not know whether this is for ownership purposes....)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, you have got one more minute.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, what is the time limit leading for the Opposition, Sir? I am asking....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Consult your Standing Orders.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am just asking, Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have got one more minute, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am indeed obliged to Your Honour, Sir. But I would ask Your Honour to point out the Standing Order to me. I am a new Member. I am a neophyte and, therefore, I cannot find these things very easily, Sir. I would be grateful if Your Honour would point it out to me.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: My apologies, Senator Mottley. Yes, I was incorrectly advised. You may continue.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, Sir, in relation to the whole question, we still do not know whether this land is being acquired for housing development for rental purposes or for ownership purposes, Sir. But I would hope that if it relates to ownership purposes to people who are already upon the land, Sir, that some consideration be given to the fact that those people's services should be improved. If it is, Sir, that there is an absence of the water borne facilities in those houses that provision be made to provide that for them. If it is, Sir, that there is an absence of running electricity in those houses that facilities be allowed to help them and other people of their sort who may not have the kind of money, Sir, where their houses are off the beaten track to pay the Light and Power as I adverted to earlier, Sir.

Sir, the last point which I wish to make at this point is that this Government's record, Sir, on acquisition of land for housing purposes, Sir, has been abysmal. We have seen in the last 4½ years an absence of land being acquired for housing purposes for rental units and there will always be a class of people in this country, Sir, who however much they try will not be able to afford to buy houses, Sir. That is one of the reasons why Government will continue or should continue to acquire land to build structures to be able to rent to people, Sir, who are unable to afford the cost of purchasing their own property, Sir. Having said that, Sir, in the circumstances where it can be proven where those people who have been provided with the housing for rental, Government having acquired the land and built the house for them, that where they reach an income which is now above that which would be relative, Sir, and they are making some money that structures be put in place and incentives be put in place to acquire other land on the part of Government. By acquiring this other land on the part of Government, Sir, incentives be given to build their own houses once Government acquire this land and sells it to them to free up the space in the existing rental units, Sir, for people who genuinely need to be able to rent houses. Believe you me, Sir, the question of housing in this country is one of the most serious problems facing us, Sir, and we have a number of people who need the provision of adequate housing.

We have people, Sir, especially in St. Michael who are in need of it and I have no doubt that the need across the country is as great. Sir, I am heartened to see, as I said at the very beginning, that the Honourable Minister of Housing is fulfilling a promise which was made to these people in 1986 for the acquisition of this land and to be able to sell it back to them at the 10 cents per square foot. But I would hope that Government not continue in the manner in which it continued in the last 4½ years and to begin to fill the need for housing in this country which has got to be one of the most pressing needs if not the most pressing need after jobs in this country, Sir. I have 10 to 12 people who come to me on a weekly basis, Sir, looking for housing and invariably these people cannot afford to buy houses apart from the fact that they cannot get money to borrow. But the fact is, Sir, that they look upon Government to provide this housing for them.

12.50 p.m.

Despite all the noises being made on the other side of the Table, it is a fact of life in this country. Until we begin to meet these needs for those people who need the housing for rental purposes, none of which has been done in the last four and a half years, we are not going to be meeting the requirements of the people of this country who are in dire need of the houses.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I cannot really deal with many of the things that Senator Mottley said in her rather wide ranging contribution, but I just want to say that I support this Resolution to acquire this land at Cluffs. There are one or two points I wish to make. I wish to wholeheartedly support the observation by Senator Mottley that this particular Resolution was late in coming. I endorse everything she says on that point because it is the best indictment ever made of the sitting representative between 1981 and 1986. I do not think the Honourable Evelyn Greaves could make a better indictment of the sitting representative. It was not in that appendix precisely because the sitting representative at that time either was unaware that it was not there, or he did not know how to get it there, so I am very glad she made the point.

I never really want to do it, but I have to set the record straight, because the Senator made the point that this abolition of property tax is in the interest of the small property owning class. As I have said before, Mr. Deputy President, and I have to say it today because the Senator made the point, that in our arrangements in Barbados there are tax breaks which are directly related to paying property tax. If you pay property taxes in Barbados, according to the income tax laws you can claim up to 7½% of the improved value of your property as expenses against taxes payable in that income year. If you abolish property tax for those persons who have a property with an improved value of

\$150,000 or less, what in fact you are relieving them of is something in the region of \$513 a year and at the same time you are denying them access to about \$11,500. That is what you are doing, you do not have to go to two schools to understand that. So if you say do not pay property tax on a value of \$150,000 or less, tell the people at the same time you are denying them a tax break which will allow them to keep their properties in a good state of repair. I have nothing more to say on that.

The other point which I want to make, which the Senator spoke of is that of commercial banks borrowing from the Central Bank. All of us in here know that the Central Bank does not wish to encourage commercial banks in this or any other country to come to borrow from it. No Central Bank encourages commercial banks to borrow from it, so when they come to borrow, because you wish to discourage them, you put it at a penal rate. I am sorry the Senator is not here, because I would teach her one or two things today.

I am saying, Mr. Deputy President, that when the goodly Senator makes the observation about the banks borrowing at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, it is a non-point, because when they come to borrow they borrow for two days, and if you look at the base of the commercial banks' liabilities in this country it is deposit liabilities times savings, term deposits and savings. The Senator must not seek to mislead this Chamber either deliberately or out of ignorance.

I think we have to recognise that, if you look at the social statistics which are put out by the United Nations, they give the lie to everything the Senator said about water-borne toilet systems in Barbados today. She can go to the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University. The documents are there in the Library. They are put there every year as soon as they come out and she can go to the main library and see them. I am sure the Librarian will not deny access to her. It shows that over the years in Barbados the number of water-borne systems has steadily increased. I do not know if she wants to turn back the hand of the clock, you cannot turn it back, it is a fact.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President. Is the Honourable Member saying that there are no persons in Barbados still using pit toilets?

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I do not believe Senator Barker hears very well. I would like to believe that is the problem and not that he does not understand. I am saying that to make the non-point about water-borne systems in Barbados, that is, that we seem to be going back, is to deny the facts of the case. These are simple facts. We must not come here to distort facts.

On this business of land acquisitions, Mr. Deputy President, all I would wish to say is this, that I certainly

would like to see Government do a careful inventory of what land it has. I am not convinced that over the years, and I am not talking about this Government alone, successive Governments have been really clear of what property they own. Rather than going around and trying to take up land this place, that place and the next place, first let us discover where Government property is and then we can decide where we are going. We cannot just look to buy up land as if you are a real estate agent. It does not make sense.

The other point which I need to address before I sit, Mr. Deputy President, is the point about housing and this claim that in the last four and a half years there was hardly any housing. I think the Senator fails to understand what is the role of the public sector in promoting housing in the country. The job of the Government is to lay down the policy framework where residential construction can take place, as well as industrial construction. The Government does not have to rush in. You cannot be on one hand asking the Government to get out of this thing and then on the other hand you ask the Government to rush in.

The evidence is there. In 1989 more houses were constructed in Barbados – I am talking about residential construction – than any other year since there was a Barbados. That is a fact. We are talking about total construction in the country, we are not talking about how many units the Government constructed, we are talking about the sum total of residential construction in the country. What the Government has to continue to do is to set down the policy framework where the activity can continue. A Government should not be assessed on whether you put a couple of houses somewhere in some little locale or something like that. This business of the acquisition in St. Lucy, I welcome it because it gives to the residents in St. Lucy an opportunity which was hitherto denied them.
1.00 p.m.

I also wish to note that tenancies development under this Administration is somewhat different in quality from tenancies development prior to 1986. The Senator had quite a lot to say about roads and I am not going to say anything about roads, I always defer to Senator Williams on that matter. I wouldn't be so presumptuous as to be inside here in the company of Senator Williams and I get up here and talk about roads. I am very serious about that.

I take the points about the Light & Power Company and the Barbados Water Authority. I am not going to hold any brief for the Water Authority. I believe that to the extent that we can have a high level of efficiency in those organisations all Barbados stands to benefit. I will not deny that some of the points are reasonable but I would say that in this Administration the qualitative difference in tenancies development has to do with the fact that this Government has set up a very clear policy not only in acquiring the land and allowing the residents to have access at 10 cents a square foot, but by the putting in of proper

roads, water and light. That was not the case before – roads, water and light where you create a proper community. I do not talk about giving people a spot of land and they are still living in the bush. So that is the difference between this Administration and the previous one. There is another fundamental difference too, Mr. Deputy President, which I need to clarify that in the previous Administration they struck terror in the hearts of the property owning classes by reducing from five – I speak subject to correction; I think it is from five to two – the definition of a tenantry. So that what they did was to make it very difficult for small landowners who are keeping land in trust for their children to rent those spots to anybody because once burnt the small landowner did not take chances again. I know, that is a fact. I am not speculating. I have advised some of my relatives to be careful because here is it that you went out of good nature, rented some person a spot, then the Government came along and said, "Look, you have three people on that spot. It is a tenantry." That was encouraging people to break the law because if you want to remove it from being a tenantry then you might go outside the law to do it. And I would never like to see this Democratic Labour Party set up conditions which create criminality. So, in spite of what the goodly Senator has said I have to submit that the road to hell can be paved with good intentions and the good intentions which the Barbados Labour Party had in setting up that Tenancies Freehold Act in terms of the operational aspects of the thing they did a lot to undermine the good intentions of that Act.

Mr. Deputy President, I support wholeheartedly this Resolution to acquire this land.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of land at Cluffs and I rise to do this because I am heartened that this Government thought it necessary and important to acquire this land and I want to say... I think that the Honourable Senator Mottley who addressed the question earlier seemed to have her information very mixed up. I want to say that the Barbados Labour Party represented St. Lucy in the 1981–1986 period and that the representative failed although he knew that the people of Cluffs were having a problem with that land because it was owned by this person mentioned here, Rommel, his father before him and the representative failed to at least make representation for the people although they had wholeheartedly supported him during the elections.

I want to say that when the Democratic Labour Party had the administration of this Government in the 1986 period that this question came up and it was being looked at and it came up in this Honourable Senate last year and it was not only this year....

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Barker, on a point of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Am I correct in hearing the Honourable Senator mention something about somebody supported somebody in the elections? This has nothing to do with the compulsory acquisition.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Senator Barker. I shall rule on that.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: I am saying that I am hoping and I am looking forward very much to have other areas in this country acquired compulsorily and I look specifically at Six Mens in St. Peter and I am saying that the Barbados Labour Party had the opportunity to acquire land at Six Mens and they did not do this but they went around giving the people of this country and in that area bogus promises in this last election that they would provide land for them free of cost and I want to say that furthermore the whole question of housing development was raised in this Honourable Chamber this morning and the Barbados Labour Party has failed and has a very poor record of looking at housing development even in the same Six Mens. You would not believe it and I have to refer to that because it stands out in my mind clearly that in the 1976 period the Barbados Labour Party had the opportunity to acquire land inland to remove the people on the coastline of Six Mens because of the erosion and if we are in keeping with what is happening in this country and not only attempt to rush to St. Lucy and those areas when there is an election and you are running down to give a little talk for one of the representatives down there, we would realise that land was being eroded for a long time and the people were promised that they were going to be removed and it was only in the 1986 period that those people were removed from the coastal land and there are a few houses still there because of certain difficulties and placed inland and the same water, light and roads that we are discussing in this Honourable Chamber today were provided by the Democratic Labour Party for those people that the Barbados Labour Party failed even to notice.

I don't know if we understand what we are talking about in this Honourable Chamber.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Are we discussing Six Mens or Cluffs?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker I shall rule on these matters and I do not need your guidance. Thank you. Will you continue please.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Thank you. I am saying that the Barbados Labour Party must recognise its incompetence and I am saying that under the compulsory acquisition that there is room for more lands to be acquired by this Government and I am looking at the Six Mens area specifically and in terms of the Ministry of Housing and Lands I want to make it specifically clear that the Honourable Senator mentioned that she had had some reference to housing development and she hopes that action will be taken. I don't know if the Honourable Senator lives in Barbados. I am wondering how she has suddenly begun to deal with the poor and how many people have houses....

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I don't know if the Honourable Senator is being facetious or not but whether I live in Barbados or not has nothing to do with this Debate and if she wants....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, I shall rule on these matters. I must also tell you, Senator Mottley, I do not need your assistance. You may proceed.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: I want to go on to say that only this week (on Monday and I was there) the Minister of Housing visited areas to look. Action is being taken by this Democratic Labour Party to ensure that the people of this country are provided with housing and the poor people are provided with housing and only Monday areas were looked at and I can say specifically that Six Mens was further looked at to provide 85 housing lots for the people of this country and furthermore, we are talking about building units. We have been looking at Maynards also for housing units.

I want the Barbados Labour Party representatives in this House to understand what is happening in this country when they start to jump up and try to talk these long drawn out statements and repeat forever about what they would like to see done and do not recognise that action is being taken right up front a few weeks after the election that action is being taken in this area to provide housing for the people.
1.10 p.m.

Furthermore, not only to acquire land to ensure that they are placed properly but to provide the housing that is so needed in this country and in the northern areas also. There is sufficient room for housing that must be started. The roads that are being talked about in this country for St. Michael, we understand that roads throughout the country are in dire need of repairs. We know that the northern area... If we look at St. Peter in the Boscobel area we would realise that the Barbados Labour Party failed over the years to even recognise that places like Boscobel and those areas needed roads. I want the Members out there to understand that this is not a joke show.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: We are in here to look seriously at what is happening in this country and to ensure that legislation comes to this House to provide for the people of this country. This is what we have set out to do. I want to thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I support the Resolution.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, it is now 1.15 p.m. I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. The reason for that lengthy suspension is that we would wish to have a meeting of the Committee of Selection at 2.15 p.m. I would wish that Senators Inniss, Barker, Morrison and ourselves meet in the Committee Room at 2.15.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. Deputy President, I support the Resolution. I should like to make a comment which will be general but I do not consider it out of the context of the Resolution. I submit that in Barbados with a population of about 250 000 and an estimated acreage of about 106 240, and considering that some of our land must be designated to agriculture, mining, manufacturing, commercial purposes, for tourism and administration and that land in Barbados is at a premium, and with such limited land space, if we have not already been considering the design of our housing and other building projects, I think that is worthy of consideration. I also would submit that if there is a physical development plan for Barbados then it is of the utmost importance.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, I also support the Resolution. I think it is a great one. It reminds me of an outstanding speech once by the late Mr. Errol Walton Barrow who said at Church Village in St. Philip one night when he put bus fares to 25 cents for everybody in Barbados that he made everybody equal.

It obviously endeavours to do that bearing in mind what Senator Lewis said that the people across the road did have the privilege of owning land at 10 cents and these people did not. It is commendable. However, as a taxpayer and a representative of the people so appointed I find it disappointing that this Resolution does not indicate to us what the land was purchased for in dollars and cents. It is true we have certain social obligations to meet as I said before in reference to what Mr. Barrow had said, but I

would like to know if there is a reason for it or if it is just something that has been left out.

I would certainly, as a Member in here, like to know what was paid for the land to be comfortable that it is a fair price both to the taxpayer and to the owner. Again, I do support it.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the Resolution. I really had no intention of speaking on this Resolution but as a parishioner of St. Lucy, and as a member of the Government party on this side, I feel it is my duty to say a few words particularly in reference to a number of criticisms made this morning by Senator Mottley.

It is important that we put these things in their true perspective because one has to remember that the Press is resent when these comments are made and most likely some of these thing will appear in our news media tomorrow which may very well give the wrong impression as to what the Government is doing.

Sir, in St. Lucy the land at Cluffs which is now being purchased was first owned by a gentleman called Selwyn Sobers who was a real estate agent. After his death the land is now owned by Rommel Sobers, his son. That land has been there for a long time. During the period 1981- 1986 the residents of Greenidges made several complaints to the then representative requesting that Government buy this land in order to safeguard their position re ownership. Some of them had already added stone backs and that sort of thing and they wanted to be more contented.

Indeed, Sir, the Labour Party at that time turned their backs to the people at Greenidges. I was a little surprised and obviously the Honourable Senator opposite felt guilty when she was in St. Lucy in the campaign so she was talking to the residents to see if she could sway the vote to them once again. What happened was this land at Cluffs, the majority of it is already occupied by residents. The majority of the houses are right on the main highway which leads to Roaches and to Cluffs. We do not have the problem of water, light and the other problems that would go with a development where you would need to put in the infrastructure. That takes care of that.

Now, Sir, there were some comments made about housing development in Barbados or the lack thereof, Government's participation in housing and the overall development of housing as it relates to our country. Indeed the whole matter of housing was misrepresented this morning.
2.40 p.m.

Senator Alleyne in his presentation somewhat corrected that by explaining that in 1989 more houses were constructed in this country than at any time throughout the

history of Barbados. In addition to the construction of houses both by private persons and by the Government, what one has been seeing is a continual home improvement project which has been carried on by private individuals. Persons who own wooden houses have been taking off the wooden section at the back and have been constructing stone and have been coming forward. When you realize that there is a stone house there is when they come to the front and they take off the front and you realize what presents you here is a finished stone house.

Besides that, Sir, has been the amount of refurbishing that has been going on of another nature. People have been putting in their fencing. People have been painting on a regular basis. People who did not have water-borne toilets have been improving this.

Furthermore, as far as water-borne toilets are concerned, the National Assistance Board, in deserving cases, has been installing water-borne toilets for persons who deserve same. There is a problem with some of the National Assistance Board work, in that they have a project going there where, for persons who have been left by relatives or who are too poor to have their own houses, they have small units constructed for them and indeed they are given an outdoor facility which is not the most desirable. But the reason for that is that those houses move from place to place depending on how long the person lives or until the person is removed to an institution and the house is moved to serve somebody else. That is the problem that the National Assistance Board has, as far as that is concerned.

Housing in Barbados, besides all this, is now developing a sophistication. Everybody is now looking at the installation of solar heating. Indeed people are looking at situations whereby they are looking at the safeguarding of themselves but at the same time making sure that there are fire exits available that, just in case there is a fire, although you are protecting somebody from coming in, you want to know that there is a way out when there is a fire. Hence it is my opinion that a building code may become even more necessary because of that particular hazard of a fire and your being caught in a house when a fire takes place.

So, Sir, there is a certain amount of sophistication. As I said, people are improving their lots. The Government itself has continued to provide sites and services. This is nothing new. In St. Lucy, and this was before the election of 1991 which the Democratic Labour Party won convincingly, there is a development at the Hope pasture in St. Lucy. There is a planned development for Nesfield sites and services and there is a plan also for Rockfield.

All I am saying is that the Minister of Housing does not have to wait until he is appointed Minister of Housing to realize that the constituency which he represents has these necessities. He has already been making the plans and

having these put in place. The point I am making is that Barbados is well served in housing. Barbados will continue to improve its housing, as we go on. Barbadians are progressive people who want to improve.

This brings me to another point. Although it is commendable that both political parties have said that they want to develop a situation whereby tenants in the National Housing Corporation houses own these houses, let me say this: the majority of people who live in the National Housing Corporation houses do not want to stay there. Those people are in an upward mobility. They consider that a stand-by situation. So that, although it is commendable, I know and I believe you would know that people in Barbados look to have the upward mobility. They are not content to stay in a house because it is a National Housing Corporation house and they want to own it. If they own it, they would want to own probably three or four where they can join them together and design them to suit themselves and so on. But the facilities are so close it does not allow that, unless one person sold the others theirs and so on. Although that is commendable, I do not think that that is the way that Barbadians are going to be seeing housing development down the road.

Let me have a word on roads because I was a little bit surprised to hear the Honourable Senator speaking about roads and the poor construction of roads. I looked across and I saw Senator Williams and I was wondering how he felt about this comment. I felt a bit awkward from my position because I know of the quality of roads that we have in Barbados. We are not only talking about highways. We are talking about the tenantry roads. We are talking about the improvement of our roads generally. We do not behave like the Barbados Labour Party that just before the 1986 elections, they ran and did Highway I. They did not open it. You drive on that road. What I am saying is that they did this in haste to catch the eye of the electorate but did not improve the roads. In other words, the roads are the same right through.

But we in the Democratic Labour Party have a different outlook. We also have plans for our tenantry road development. I know, Sir, that there is a plan that some of the tenantry roads would be of concrete. This will not put out the Senator opposite because there are lots of roads to be done. Hundreds of them. I must make this point because I want to emphasize that the quality of the roads that this Government is providing is the quality of the roads that can be seen in North America or anywhere else.

Furthermore, let us look at this point. The Democratic Labour Party has a road development programme. It is not an ad hoc thing where you run and put a road down in St. Lucy because the people in an area want a road there or then you run up in St. Joseph and put another little one. We have a whole scheme of road development including the tenantry roads. We in this Party have to be proud of the

scheme that we have, our road development programme and the quality of the roads. I am sure the Senator who is involved in that kind of thing – I am not giving him a plug – is now sorry that he did not say something about it when he rose. But probably he knew, Sir, that I would have done it for him.

Do not let us get too carried away by what the Honourable Senator had to say this morning because we know that we in this Party are on the right track.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Morrison.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, when the Leader of the Senate introduced this resolution for compulsory acquisition of land, I did not believe that we would have been carried on an Odyssey of the various Government Ministries attacking our policies. The Ministry of Housing was involved, the Ministry of Finance was involved, as well as, the Ministry of Public Works.

Sir, not to be rude to the Chair, despite your very generous latitude being given to the Honourable Member we were treated to this big dissertation on all of these things, all of these evils about our policy when, in actual fact, all we were trying to do is to get a resolution passed to acquire a piece of land for housing development.

I believe that the Government should have been commended, in the first place, for getting around to the point of acquiring that particular land in order to facilitate our programme which is an ongoing programme and which is an enlightened policy to bring more house spots and better road system to the people of this country and, in most cases, the poor people of this country. We have heard a dissertation on our water policy.

I should like to state, in passing, because we are not really debating Waterworks but I am just trying to respond, insofar as it has been mentioned in this House, we have up to today provided water-borne pipes to 94% of the population. That is of a population 80 900 homes, we have provided 94% of that number with piped water to their homes. The 6% which has not been attended to, as yet, we can say that they live within easy access to a stand pipe. The Government, hopefully, in another two years would be able to provide piped water for every household in this country. And once they have the piped water then you know all the other amenities become attendant - they get their little water toilet and all the rest of it and things like that.

2.50 p.m.

You might have heard some talk recently about the quality of our water. Let me state here today, Sir, that the quality of water in this country is the best in the whole

world. We stand at the top of quality water which is provided in this country and we are about to commission a review of the study which was done here years ago – 1979 – by Stanley to look for further quantities of water in this country and to make and to upgrade and to guard the quality of our water. We are going back to stick to the strict zoning system and we have also identified three new wells and we are constructing reservoirs for three new wells which when they are completed in the near future will provide another source of 4.5 million gallons of water and when that is added on to what we now provide we will have a complete capacity of 34.5 million gallons of water.

I have been told that the well at which we are conducting some drilling now at Applewhaites in St. Thomas, looks very promising and I believe that when this well is completed we will be able to provide water for the central highlands of this country and we will not have to depend on Golden Ridge anymore for water for that part of the country. So we are continuing Sir, in a very enlightened policy of keeping our water resources up to the requirements of the people of this country and at the same time we are trying to preserve the quality of water which we are accustomed to in this country and we are doing all in our efforts to make sure that every household in this country receives the amount of water it deserves.

When the Honourable Senator spoke about the cost of carrying water, to my knowledge Sir, the water-boring costs in subdivisions are borne by the developer and that price is passed on to the persons who purchase the lot of land. When we carry water to the tenancies we provide a service and there are many tenancies which have got water; the pipes have been carried to the tenancies along long distances because the houses are more or less in the back of the tenancies and there are long highways and road ways with piped water running along those highways and I believe that we will have now in the future to more or less synchronise our water policy with our housing policy, that we should bring people out of the gullies near to the road way where the pipes are already in place so that there will be easy attachment for the water which is already available.

We, far from making it exorbitant, have reduced the rates in water consumption in this country to the extent now that the Manager of the Water Authority is even saying if we had not reduced the rates he would be able to balance his budget. He is now asking for more funds. But we, when we got back into power in 1986 we as an enlightened policy again, decided to reduce those rates even though the condition of the World Bank loan was that our water rates were too low and they should have been increased. Far from increasing those rates we have reduced them in our administration and we are also making grants and loans available to people in the Bridgetown area because it is a condition that all the buildings in Bridgetown should be hooked up to the Sewerage System and we have voted in the last Parliament a sum of money which is being used to

provide loans and grants in some cases for those who cannot pay, to get a grant; some get grants and loans in order to be able to hook up to the Sewerage System because we need to have that behind us that when we move on to the second sewerage project which will take place in Christ Church, the South Coast, which will be placed at Graeme Hall, that everybody in this first project should have been hooked up to the system thereby eliminating the kind of things in the back yard which Senators have been talking about.

We, as far as the roads in Barbados are concerned, have no apology. We have inherited a series of roads which were never maintained throughout the whole period of the ten year administration of the Barbados Labour Party and they felt that by building a new highway, ABC Highway, that would have pulled the wool over the people's eyes and all those arterial roads were directed under your administration to the point now that we have about over 500 roads to be done now. We have started on 84 roads and we with our own money have done 36 roads out of those roads and we are seeking now funding in the new estimates to engage private contractors to speed up the work on tenantry roads which is a legacy from the last Government.

It is a shame that, not only roads, but buildings were never looked at in the Labour Party's time in the last ten years, their ten years of administration. And that is why you are hearing all these complaints from the police wanting new offices, the Government Departments want new buildings, the roads want construction. We have paved a lot of roads that were very bad and it is a continuing exercise. It is not of our own creation; it was created for us by the Barbados Labour Party. So there is no question of coming here talking about roads. But you will hear all about that when we come to the Estimates, because we are not really debating roads.

Sir, we are acquiring this land in order to make people more comfortable. We have updated the sites and services project in that we have identified areas which we could enter as soon as possible. One such area is in Scarborough in Christ Church, where we are going to be able to provide house spots for about 66 persons as well as to accommodate 34 houses at present on the spot who will be given proper line marks and proper roads in order to carry on and to upgrade their houses as well as 66 new spots will be available to people in the Christ Church area, also in St. Philip. The sites and services up there There are a lot of spots available, and we have been very calmly, Sir, carrying out this kind of construction with one thing in mind; to provide more housing for the people of this country.

In an aside, Sir, earlier, I remember Senator Barker was saying that six people got house rentals. But further to cement the point made by Senator Phillips that people who live in housing areas are trying to get out of the housing areas by buying a new home and when those vacancies are

created in the housing areas people have been moving into the same rental spots which do not show up in the statistics. There are a lot of people who have gone out of the Housing Area to buy and live in their own homes and they have created vacancies which are now being taken up by people who are very badly in need of housing. So although you don't see the figures that we built new housing rental lots, yet there is a lot of movement going on. It is still the same housing rental because people have been taking up the slack where other people have gone....

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President, could the Honourable Member if possible inform us what the waiting list at NHC is?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What are you speaking on?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order. He has said....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Who is he?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The Honourable Member has said that I, in an aside, said that they only built six units. He mentioned my name and so I was saying that to point out the lack of care that the Government has towards....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. Thank you. Please continue and please address the Chair, Senator Morrison. Ignore the asides.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir I was saying that the figures which he might read might be faulty in that I was just making the small point that people who vacate houses because they have been able to build their own homes and have been able to acquire a spot of land, have created vacancies in the same housing rental units that people could move in and that figure is not shown in any kind of figures. Also the Government has embarked on a complete island wide electrification campaign and we have been having lights installed in these tenancies where there were never lights before.
3.00 p.m.

On the whole question of this acquisition, Sir, it is a further move by Government to provide the kind of house spots and to realign the existing house spots for the benefit of the poor people of this country. I think that the Government should be commended for continuing in this vain and for that, Sir, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I first of all should like to say that I have always taken this Chamber as a very serious Chamber. The Senate to me is the Chamber where we come to decide on matters and to discuss matters affecting the people of this country. This Resolution is one which affects the lives of

people of Barbados. They are in Barbados. A friend of mine used to say, "It is much healthier to blow your own trumpet. When you blow your own trumpet, you are sure that it is clean." I would say like my friend that sometimes we have to blow our own trumpet. As far as I have always been aware, the Democratic Labour Party Government has always been working in the interest of people, not only poor people but people at all levels of their development. It seems to me strange that sometimes people keep harping on the words "poor people". I would like to tell you that some of us who are Senators who have been out there doing social work know that people hate to hear this. They hate to hear you keep referring to them as poor people. Many of them are people with a large heart and a lot of dignity and because you have done something or you are about to do something or, because you did not do anything, you feel that you should be brawling all over the place about these poor people who are getting benefits from Government. The people do not like that.

I think that it is time that we assess the situation and we move ahead and do what we have to do. In this particular Resolution, the people were not able before because of certain inherent difficulties to obtain the land at this kind of price. Now they are able and we are doing it. I think that anybody with common sense will realize that a responsible Government understands about sites and services and have already set those programmes in train. It is an urban programme. It never matters to me who in Barbados started anything. It is who carries it on, who takes the action, and who brings it to the conclusion. I am a Barbadian and anything else after that. That is important to me. People of St. Lucy are Barbadians and whatever benefits them benefits me because I belong to them and they belong to me. I can afford to talk about old people because I am a poor person. I understand but I do not have to go on trotting around talking about poor people to prove anything. What I have to do is to try to help wherever I can to develop those persons and not ring it in their ears all the time that they are poor people. Because you are poor people you are to stay there. I have not mentioned anybody's name.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I need to allude... What is the word, Sir? - "Boggled, Sir"...to understand what the whole contraption about poor people and social work has to do with housing development, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think Senator Mottley that is your problem. Thank you.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Pardon me, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not your problem, Senator Mottley. That is not a point of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: You have ruled that that is not a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, that is not a point of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Well, I am going to tell you this...Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. So we move on. In this Honourable Chamber, Sir, I am very grateful that the Government of the day is going to do something for those people who have been asking for it and who need it at this time. I know and I am confident that the Government is looking into all aspects of the endeavour for these people in the given area of St. Lucy.

I further want to say, Mr. Deputy President, that when it comes to the question of tenancies there was some time in Barbados that we did not hear anything decisive or anything definite about action on tenancies. The Democratic Labour Party Government felt that it was not time for talk any longer. It was time for action and action it was and action they did. Taking the helm of Government again, they are continuing. This is why it makes me extremely happy to support this Resolution. I know the parish of St. Lucy very well. I am one of the poor people who used to leave down there in Rockfield all hours of the night (I can talk about it) from training poor people from the fields because the only time they could come was at 8 o'clock after they had gone home and cooked their meals. I am happy about this.

You see people do not understand the deep feeling you can have when you understand a situation. When you do not understand it, it makes it very difficult for you. But when you understand what it means, then there is no difficulty. The Democratic Labour Party understands that there were conditions existing in Barbados in the tenancies which were completely inhumane many years ago. Therefore, the party has lived up to its reputation to continue the development of the tenancies for the people of this country (I did not even mention poor here) which is part of Barbados. It is not part of Mars. It is not part of Venus. I think the time must come in Barbados when we realize that the "Heights" and "Terraces" are not the only places that must exist and look beautiful and this Government recognizes this. As you travel through some of the tenantry roads...I remember as a child that people had to walk out with a pair of shoes when they were going to church. The time has come for many of those people who can afford to drive and the ambulance can get through. The time will come when 90% or 100% will be done. We are not following anybody. We have to take our time. We have

to use the funds that we have available and do things gradually because we get criticisms that there is no money. But yet people are calling for the most grandiose programmes. Where is the money coming from? If you say that we have no money, then how are we to carry out these grandiose programmes overnight? Things are not gained by sudden flight. You cannot build a road in a second nor in a day.

3.10 p.m.

The development of Barbados took time and it will continue to take time. Everything has a beginning. The only thing that starts at the top is grave digging, so if people want to start everything at the top, go ahead.

I am happy that in this Honourable Chamber we have one of the Senators who understands about sites and services and road building. We are glad that we have such persons who will be able to inform us on the sort of things that have to go in and are put into these things before you can even get them started. What I am saying is a fact, that you are taking action by bringing a Resolution to the House and to the Senate and you are going to do something. That in itself is laudable.

I will reiterate, before I sit down, that I am very happy about this because we seem to look at parishes in isolation. We do not feel that they belong to Barbados. Especially when we hear about the parish of St. Lucy, we think that is somewhere out of Barbados. It is a place where people live and have their being, where important people came from, people like one of our late Prime Ministers, Errol Barrow, his sister and a whole lot of people who are very outstanding today in this country. My neighbour and my other neighbour arrived from St. Lucy and they belong to St. Lucy. I have enjoyed myself in St. Lucy very much, not at Senator Walkes, at the other Senator, but what I am going to say is....

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: That is quite true. There is no need for any lies in this Chamber. He has been my friend for many, many years and I am not here to tell you anything about that. I am here to compliment the Government sincerely for this and I am assured that all the necessary sites and services will be in place at the right time. Nobody is going to take us and hustle us up to get things done other than the people who are in charge of them. Senator Williams knows that if you have a contractor working for you, you have to listen to him. You cannot be a Government sitting down there, knowing nothing about architecture or engineering, and expecting to do it as a person, you have to wait on the various people, who are all Barbadians, who have common sense and who understand what they are about.

I am very lost when I hear all this big talk and all these criticisms. It takes nothing to criticise. I can go down the road now and criticise everybody in Barbados. What would I be doing? At the end of the day I would have done nothing constructive. What I need to do is to see where I can help. I think it is time in this country that we stop this foolishness of continuous criticism for no reason. If you have to criticise constructively, do it. You are a Barbadian and you have freedom of speech. There is nothing wrong with that, but I would like to urge people that we will waste a lot of time, other than getting on with the job, if we keep on criticising before we even start. As my grandmother used to say, in Barbados people know how to tell you that something is not going to work, but they do not say "May I help you?" so that it will work. If all of us as Barbadians, regardless of our standing or status, will collaborate and co-operate, we will go forward.

I am really tired, as a loyal Barbadian who has been out there in the community working my life out, for no money.... I never ask anybody out there in the community to give me one cent, I have one job and all the others are free. You may hear big names connected with me, but they are free jobs. I am not paid one cent for them, but I get a satisfaction within me that is so beautiful that I want to continue. I would ask some people to remove themselves from their ivory towers, do like Senator Ada Straughn and go out there in the community and see what is needed, because there is not everything a Government can do. There is a number of things we, the citizens of this country, can do and we must do, because this is our country. I do not intend to live anywhere else, nobody is chasing me out of this country. I am one Barbadian woman who never decided to go and live in England or anywhere else, and if I want it to be the country that I want to see for future generations, I have to continue to put in my five cents' worth.

I close by inviting every single citizen to look afresh at what you can do for Barbados. Stop pulling it down. There are international radio stations that carry the news abroad and when you continue to pull down your own country you are saying to people that it is nowhere to come.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I have listened with the greatest patience to this dissertation about people putting....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What is your point of order, Senator Mottley?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I wonder the relevance, Sir, of....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not for you to wonder.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of elucidation then, Sir, because when I was on my feet

speaking certain points of order were made by the Senator, the Honourable Senator Clarke, Senator Morrison and the Honourable Senator Lewis as to....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let me hear your point of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: My point of order is that I wonder what is the relevance of her contribution.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is for me to decide. Thank you, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. In this Chamber I am the same Honourable Senator Fraser as anybody else. I want to make that very clear. I am a person whose contribution is well known to this country. I do not talk foolishness and I will never talk foolishness. I am very patient, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let me hear your point of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir. I do not recall making any accusation of anybody talking foolishness.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, I do not recall Senator Fraser stating that you had stated that somebody had talked foolishness and therefore that is not a point of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, the point of order is as to misleading the House.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. Thank you. Senator Fraser.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President. I have always been taught, having attended so many international conferences, that there is a time to speak and there is a time to shut up. I have always been taught good manners by my grandmother, my mother and by Senator Ada Straughn, who was one of my teachers. I am very grateful to these people for teaching me how to behave in such an Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Deputy President, I will close by saying I look forward to the time when we as Barbadians will continue to work together in harmony, putting this country first, whether it is in Cluffs, St. Lucy or in St. Philip, regardless of what parish it is, it is Barbados. Regardless of what programme it is, as long as it is for the benefit of this

country, we should all be looking to see where we can help, where we can use our expertise, where we can advise.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, we sat, we listened and we were not informed. We still do not know. I would like to find out the exact cost of the land at Cluffs.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: So can I not talk about the cost, then?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you address the Chair, Senator Barker?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I beg your pardon, Sir. There are a few things I want to comment on. I am glad that Senator Walkes has found a deep, abiding love for the people of St. Lucy and I hope it continues.
3.20 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may not make those sorts of references to other Honourable Members, Senator Barker. Would you please address the matter in hand, Senator Barker?

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. I was born in St. Lucy and I have lived in St. Lucy all my life and I would like the Honourable House to make that a record. Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I thought I was complimenting the lady.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you please address the subject matter in hand and let's proceed with the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: All right. Okay, okay. I will continue, Sir. Now, a few things were said that I have to respond to.

First of all, it is correct and I am quoting from the quarterly from the Ministry of Housing, produced by the Ministry of Housing, not my publication, March 1990, which showed – if Your Honour wishes the page, it is on page 20 of this document – that in 1989 six units were completed for rental to the people of Barbados. That, Sir, is a document by the Ministry of Housing. So, I stand on that. In spite of all the record numbers of house buildings in Barbados for 1989 which the Honourable Member on the other side alluded to, the poor people (I use the word poor) who cannot afford to buy houses in the "Heights" and "Terraces", only six housing units were completed and that is a matter of record. Six housing units were completed for

the people of Barbados in 1989 which the Honourable Members are claiming was a record year for housing construction in Barbados.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. In this Chamber there is The Economic Report for 1989 which is a document of this Chamber. I think if you refer to the section dealing with housing you will find that therein, and I am sure that Senator Barker is aware of the document.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, this is an official publication by the Government of Barbados and it shows here on page 20 that for the year 1989 six rental units were completed by the National Housing Corporation. That is what it shows.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, for the time I have been in this Chamber, I never saw that kind of behaviour displayed. The Honourable Senator is misrepresenting the points I made. I referred to housing performance in 1989. I am talking about the total housing performance.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right. You are speaking on a point of order, I take it.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Yes. And to say that the six rental units... And the Senator does not say how many rooms were in the units anyhow because you could have a unit which contains 32 houses or 40 houses. I am saying that the point I was making was about total housing performance, not about a piece-meal, small report to represent a micro condition of the housing situation. It is reprehensible that a Senator should do that.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. You may proceed, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, this document referred to single units ready for rental, so the six would be six houses.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may proceed from your... You have made your point. Will you please go on and progress from that now, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Now, it is claimed that 4180 houses were built in 1989. That is what was claimed, based on the number of electrical inspections, but we know that that would not represent the actual numbers of housing completed during 1989. Anyhow, I don't want to get too much on that point, except to stress again that for a caring government to only build six housing units for the people of Barbados in one year shows a contempt for the people who are unable to afford houses in the "Heights" and "Terraces", and they are condemned to live in dilapidated housing all

because the Government did not see fit to build rental units for the people of Barbados which they claim to represent.

Another point, Senator Alleyne, my very good friend, pointed to the fact that the Freehold Tenantry Act in large measure worked against the interest of those people who may have left land for their children and so on. I want him to know that for every one such person he finds I can point to a thousand who for years were unable to improve their houses but because of the Tenantry Act in 1980 they were able to uplift themselves. So, if he brings one, I could bring a thousand. So, if he is concerned about the few, I am concerned about the masses. So, I don't take that point at all. I know that he might be concerned for the masses also but he has not demonstrated that by his statement. His statement showed a concern for the landowners. I am concerned for the people like my foreparents who were unable to purchase land but for years lived on tenantry units. And all of us know that sometimes you would pass by the road and you would see a person's house by the side of the road. The landlord put them off the land and the houses disintegrate. We stopped all that. So to be criticised for doing it, shows a lack of understanding for the interests and the welfare of the masses that they claim to represent.

We, on this side, are going to stand extremely proud about the Freehold Tenantry Act of 1980. We are proud of the fact that we saw a need.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: That's the point I am making. You had to amend it to....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you please address the Chair, Senator Barker, and ignore any asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I thank you very much for your interest in my welfare.

Now, the Resolution before us seeks to acquire land at Cluffs for housing development and I want to make a couple of points because it has been said for the past year that the construction industry, housing construction included, has been responsible for the decline in the foreign reserves of this country. Even the Central Bank was making that statement that the construction industry was among others responsible for the decline in the foreign reserves of this country. It has been said on many occasions.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: On a point of order. I would wish to make the record very clear. No official of the Central Bank of Barbados, from the Governor down, who speaks for the Central Bank of Barbados, has ever said what Senator Barker has said, that is, that the construction industry was responsible for the pressure on the foreign reserves. The Governor has never said that and I challenge him to present to this House evidence of that.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, we all know that on many occasions the construction industry was named above other things for the parlous state of the foreign reserves of this country. The credit squeeze was brought in and one of the things that the credit squeeze did was to significantly....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Now, we cannot deal with the credit squeeze. This is far removed from the subject matter of this debate. Don't let us get into the matter of the credit squeeze now. Will you please stick to the subject of the debate.

You may proceed, Senator Barker, and I do not wish the asides.
3.30 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I was just using the credit squeeze to show that....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do not proceed with the credit squeeze.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I want to make the point, Mr. Deputy President, that the total imports of this country... I am making the point about housing development and its impact on the reserves. I want to make that clear. I am making the point to see how housing and construction impacted on the foreign reserves in 1989. The records of the Central Bank are clear in that between 1988 and 1989....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This has nothing at all to do with the debate, nothing whatsoever, Senator Barker, nothing at all. Not by the greatest stretch of imagination does it have anything to do with the debate. You may proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I respect your ruling and I respect you as an individual. Nevertheless, I wish to make....

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right. Proceed Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The point I was making before I was so rudely interrupted not by yourself, Sir, was that housing development has been blamed for the parlous state of the foreign reserves. I want to use some figures to illustrate that housing development has nothing to do in a substantial way with the decline of the foreign reserves.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. It is abundantly clear to me

that the Senator does not understand your ruling. He is going to keep persisting in a matter and cause the debate to go on and on when, in fact, if he has nothing to say he could sit down.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I can show the Honourable Senator that I have a lot to say. With your permission, Sir, I will say it. The point I want to make is that housing development which we are discussing was not responsible as was stated by persons for the decline in foreign reserves in 1989.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: But Senator Barker, you are proceeding down the same road again. You do have time and you may speak but do not continue with that. Proceed Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: As Your Honour pleases I will proceed. The point was made about the quality of water. Can I speak on the quality of water, Your Honour? I do not know what to speak on. I am at a loss. The point was made by Senator Morrison about the quality of the water. I am glad that the Government is interested in the quality of water in light of the report that was made last week about the threat to the water supply. While we are here, we would like to know on this side what provisions are made for resiting the people at the Belle.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The resiting of the people at the Belle has nothing to do with this Resolution, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Your Honour, the Honourable Member spoke about the quality of the water.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I repeat. The resiting of the people at the Belle has nothing to do with this Resolution. Will you confine yourself to the debate?

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker has a right to speak. You cannot interrupt. You may proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Your Honour, this is the first time I am in here. I thought that if an Honourable Member made a point that I could comment on that point. If I am wrong I am sorry.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Proceed with your debate Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: All of that is part of my debate, Your Honour. I was talking about housing development. I call upon Government to remove the

provision whereby bridging loans for mortgages are counted as part of the personal sector and hence....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Bridging loans have nothing to do with this. This is exactly the same thing you were talking about before. You are talking about bridging loans and the credit squeeze. Nobody else has been doing this.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, we are talking about housing development. I am submitting with respect that people do not live on land. People live in houses. If it is a tent it is a house so when we acquire the land, we do it so that people can have a chance to buy the land and as a result improve their housing lot.

I am concerned when I walk around the country to see too many of our houses lacking basic amenities like internal plumbing. I am concerned that too many of our old ladies still have to go outside when the night comes to use a pit toilet. Therefore, I am concerned that it makes no sense to have all of these land resolutions acquiring the land and the people are not able to get the necessary finance to improve their lot. That is the reason why I am on to the housing development aspect of it.

It is one thing to acquire the land but the Government has to ensure that the people who have possession of the land are then in a position to improve their lot. I am concerned that enough attention has not been given to this and that people out there who wish to improve their houses, who wish to develop their houses, are prevented from doing so because of lack of funds in the banking system.

The sites and services programme... We on this side are extremely proud that we have initiated this programme because we recognised that there are lots of people in Barbados who, given the price of land, will hardly ever be able to afford to buy their own land. We must recognise that fact that there are some people in our country who will hardly ever be in a position to afford \$20 000 or \$30 000 for a house spot. Therefore, I would like to see attention paid by the Government to accelerate the number of lots available through the sites and services programme.

It is dear to me because I know as I move around that there are lots of people who would like to buy a house for a couple thousand of dollars and start there, then within a few years have a decent house. But because of the lack of suitable land they are prevented from doing so because of the market price of land. Therefore, I am calling upon Government to accelerate the rate at which the lots under the sites and services programme come on the market. I am sure that as you go around the country, you will see a lot of land that is lying unused for years.

3.40 p.m.

Government should, in my view, seek to acquire this land – an acre or two, here and there, would serve just as well – put in the necessary services and further utilize the land bank that they found when they came in.

Mr. Deputy President, there is one thing which I notice in this country of Barbados that we in the Barbados Labour Party never get credit for anything we do. I feel that this is one area which the Government should pay attention to. It ignored it in the last 4½ years. In the next 5 years or whatever time they have, I should like to see them pay attention to this and alleviate the suffering. Because as I look around, as other Honourable Senators, I see massive houses on the hills and in the terraces. Some of you might not see them but I see them because I am still basically a village man. I still see lots of areas where Government has to take the initial steps in order to improve the housing lot of our people, especially in areas like the City. In the suburban areas, some of the conditions are less than optimal.

I hear a lot of statements about the tenantry roads. The impression given was that tenantry road building started in May 1986. Under the Barbados Labour Party, we did 164 tenantry roads between 1981 and 1986. But they on the other side are making it look as though we did not do any tenantry roads.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Okay. But we did the roads.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, please address the Chair and ignore any asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: We believe, on our side, that we must initiate projects in order to improve the housing lot.

They are making a lot of fuss about the land at Cluffs.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Who are they?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The Senators, on the other side, are making a lot of fuss about Cluffs and all that. But we take pride in the fact, that even although the Senator, on that side, criticized the past representative for not putting the one at Cluffs, that although it took them five years, that they still have the good sense to put it, having waited so long.

We, on this side, have no difficulty supporting the Resolution. But what we would want to ensure is that enough attention goes to the second set making funds available for people to develop their houses and also providing more land for people who are unable to purchase

land and also, make sure that the Government gets back to a programme of building housing units for those who are unable to house themselves.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, I did not think I would be drawn into this debate. But there are just a few things I should like to say just to set the record straight.

I believe Senator Barker is an economist, by training, and I think it is a hallmark of the discipline that if two words would do, you never use three. I am sure he had enough time to make his point. In addition there was a question of Senator Barker quoting from a document stating that there were only six, at one stage he said, "housing starts" and then, at another stage, he said "rental units".

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President. I never said "housing starts". I never said "six housing starts". I said six rental units.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Six rental units. I should just like to set the record straight. I intervened earlier and I am quoting from the Economic Report of 1989 at page 20 under section 8 Construction. With your permission, Mr. Deputy President, I should like to read this into the record. This is the last paragraph beginning at the bottom of the page:

"Housing starts increased by 39.7 per cent to reach 1453 compared with the 1040 units started during 1988. The Town and Country Planning Department approved 3195 building applications in 1989, significantly higher than the 1603 approvals during the same period in 1988. The leading indicator of house completions, electrical inspections, shows that approximately 4180 houses, the highest number in any one year were completed, compared to 2667 in 1988."

SENATOR T. E. BARKER *rose*.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. A. BARKER: On a point of order, Sir.

SEANTOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: This is a debate, Mr. Deputy President and I cannot understand Senator Barker jumping up.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am on a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let me have your point of order Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I thank the Honourable Senator for giving me this information. But I was not talking about housing stock. I was talking about rental units.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. Thank you. Please proceed, Senator Clarke. Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, when the Senate held its first meeting, I was certain that we had behind us the election campaigning of 1991. I will not speak when people are making those asides. I will hold up the Senate and we will stop it. I am not like the others.

Mr. Deputy President, most of what I have heard today relates to elections that are past. The people have spoken. I hope the Senators on the other side realize that there are two of them and if they go down the wrong route, as they went today, that they will get responses from probably 11 or 14 people. When they wince, it will serve them right. I am just saying this, in passing. I am not getting into that.

I am here to do business. The Government will lead this country. The people elected it. That is my role here. Not to get into those asides.

The answer to the Senator Williams's question I had said – maybe I did not make it as clear as it should be – the owner of the property had arranged to sell the land at \$2.00 per square foot. He agreed that he would sell it to Government at the same price. That is what will be paid for the land. That is the only question that the Honourable Senator down at the far end, Senator Barker asked that I can answer.

The other point I should like to make and this was one in response to Senator Mottley's comment was that the Minister of Housing had realized, after the election, that it was time to do something about Cluffs. The fact of the matter is that the Land Acquisition Notices were signed by the appropriate authorities in July and August of 1990. The matter was in train and would have been completed before the end of the last sitting, if there had not been a decision to call the election. The resolution will see the acquisition of this land at Cluffs completed and much of the debate which took place today could well have taken place at another time when another resolution comes to this Chamber to vest the land in the National Housing Corporation. I am going to try my best to remember to ensure that we have copies of today's debate to ensure that there is no repetition of many

of the matters which would properly fall, during debate on the vesting, rather than on the debate on the land acquisition.

3.50 p.m.

That was the point I was making when I got up and made an intervention earlier. I was seeking to guide but my effort was not accepted and I will know in future not to seek to guide; allow them to go down the path they want to go.

Mr. President, I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

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

Order No.4 was called – to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government of a loan in the sum of US dollars equivalent to CAN\$3 000 900 not to exceed US\$3.9 million to be made by the Export Development Corporation to the Barbados National Oil Company Limited to finance the purchase of materials and equipment.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President this Resolution is seeking Parliamentary approval to allow the Government to guarantee a loan in the sum equivalent to CAN\$3.9 million and not exceeding US\$3.9 million to be made by the Export Development Corporation to the Barbados National Oil Corporation Limited in order to finance the purchase of the materials and equipment.

Just to give some background to the need for this Resolution. Back in 1986 drilling for oil was stopped after a period going back to the acquisition of BNOC (Barbados National Oil Company Limited) in 1982. At the conclusion of that programme which ended in 1986, 84 wells had been drilled and during the drilling of those wells reserves of crude oil were raised from 1.8 million barrels to 3.8 million barrels and reserves of natural gas over the same period rose from 1.8 to 7 billion cubic feet. However, in 1986 given the price of crude oil on the world market which fell from a high of US\$31.00 a barrel to a low of US\$10.00 a barrel a decision was made to suspend drilling. During this period the time was taken to review the total operations of the drilling programme in Barbados.

During the period 1986 to July 1989 the Barbados National Oil Company Limited produced 1 372 382 barrels of crude oil and 3 463 059 million cubic feet of gas from the existing reserves. During the same period 1986 to July 1989 the liquified petroleum gas plant came on stream and three new compressors and a new 8 mile 6 inch gas transmission line from Woodbourne to the National Petroleum Gas facility at the Belle were put in place. These were funded as follows: with a grant from CIDA, of

CAN\$6 000 000, a loan from the Export Development Corporation of US\$1.5 million and Barbados' own locally generated fund of BDS\$2.6 million.

By having this equipment put in place we were able to salvage quite a bit of the gas which used to be vented and we were able to reduce the venting of natural gas from its former high level of 45% of production down to 2%. Because of this saving, sales to the National Petroleum Corporation increased from former levels of 1 200 million cubic feet a day to 2 000 million cubic feet a day of natural gas. With this increase in gas we were able to sell some to the Barbados Light and Power Company thereby reducing our need for crude oil, (I think it is bunker C fuel) to be used by the generators of the Barbados Light and Power Company.

In 1988, CIDA was again approached for assistance in the form of a line of credit to purchase drilling equipment and material with a view towards recommencing drilling operations. The project was agreed to in principle by the Canadian authorities and in the negotiations it was indicated that the request of CAN\$6 million would be made available on the basis of a loan from EDC, the Export Development Corporation of Canada, and a grant from CIDA the relationships would be 65% and 35% respectively. However, before the Programme could get on the way CIDA's Programme was cut as the Canadian Government started to retrench and the Programme had to be delayed until 1991.

In the intervening period we have had the Gulf Crisis taking centre stage and this has made it more urgent for us to reconsider our drilling operations to become more self reliant and self sufficient in the production of crude oil. To this end the Barbados National Oil Company Limited is now about ready to put into effect the second phase of operations. Hopefully these will begin about March 1991 and will comprise of drilling another 26 wells. Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation and the Export Development Corporation of Canada have been approached to assist with the purchase of materials and equipment which would be required for use in this programme. The value of this said equipment is six million Canadian dollars and it is expected that it will be funded as follows: from Petro-Canada we are expecting a grant of US\$1.8 million, from the Export Development Corporation a loan of CAN.\$3.9 million which converts at about US\$3.3 million and the remainder would be financed from FIV, that is, the Venezuelan Investment Fund of US\$1.5 million and Barbados National Oil Company Limited of \$4.8 million. The total estimated cost of the second phase of drilling will be US\$11.4 million.

At the end of this second phase of drilling it is anticipated that production be increased by 1 900 barrels of oil per day and that reserves will be increased by 30% to 4 million barrels. It is a requirement that all loans coming

from the Export Development Corporation must be guaranteed by the Government of Barbados and it is for this reason that this Resolution is now before us.

Mr. Deputy President I move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President we on this side support this Resolution.
4.00 p.m.

The economics of the exploration of oil is favourable to us when prices are high. We are also aware that when prices are low exploratory drilling requires in most cases outside external financing. So we have no difficulty with this Resolution. Indeed, the last Barbados Labour Party Administration had a lot of dealing with CIDA with regards to the same oil industry. Mr. Deputy President, do not let us confuse exploratory drilling with ordinary developmental drilling. Exploratory drilling is a high risk operation because sometimes you drill a well 6,000 feet and find nothing. That drilling is expensive and it entails a high risk.

But what I want to say now is that the decision to suspend developmental drilling which was taken during 1986 was in my view a wrong decision and I will seek to explain why I think so. Now I am not an expert in the oil industry. But from my asking around and research, I was told that if you have an oil field in order to maintain a high rate of extraction from that field the sinking of additional wells is sometimes necessary. So if you have six wells in an oil field and you do not sink anymore wells there will come a time when you cannot extract anymore oil from these wells even although the oil is under the ground. In developmental drilling where you know there is a substantial amount of oil, you have to continue to drill wells. The result of that bad decision in my view was that within four years oil output dropped from 679,000 barrels in 1985 to 427,000 barrels in 1988 and further to 389,000. So it moved from 679,000 in 1985 to 389,000 in 1989 all because developmental drilling ceased. The result was that whereas in 1986 we only imported \$25 million in fuel, by 1989 the figure rose to \$70 million. My view is that if we had continued the developmental drilling programme we could have saved some valuable foreign exchange because we had an almost 40% decline in oil production in 1989.

Mr. Deputy President, energy is critical to our economy. Therefore, Government has to take appropriate steps to ensure that energy products are available to the people – (1) with regularity of supply, (2) good enough quality, and (3) reasonable price. Mr. Deputy President, the ordinary citizen in Barbados does not use crude oil. They use natural gas but they do not use crude oil. The only body that uses crude oil in Barbados is Mobil. We use the products of crude oil but we do not use crude oil as such. As far as I know the only body who uses crude oil in Barbados is Mobil in refining it. We use natural gas. I do

not want to talk too much on natural gas. I want to talk now about the output of the crude that this money that we are so graciously going to give Government approval to borrow is to be put.

Now it was mentioned that in 1982 the Barbados National Oil Company was formed. But Mr. Deputy President, it might be instructive for us to remember the reason why we had to form our own oil company was because Mobil, I am told, refused to carry out the exploratory drilling that was necessary for us to develop our own oil industry. As I said before, exploratory drilling is sort of a high risk operation and they refused in spite of their contacts and available finance to be good corporate citizens to the people of Barbados and assist us in developing our energy sector especially at a time, Mr. Deputy President, when oil prices were rising in the world. We have here a company with the expertise and financial means who refused to assist the people of Barbados to develop their oil industry. The result is that we had to form the Barbados National Oil Company in 1982 in order to develop our energy resources. The result is, as I mentioned before, we were able to realize tremendous savings in terms of foreign exchange as the result of the efforts of the Barbados National Oil Company.

When a corporate body refuses to participate in the development of the country, one has got to question their commitment and loyalty to the country where they are making enormous profits. That is the point I want to stress. They are making enormous profits from the sale of oil products to the people of Barbados and they refused to assist us in our drilling programme. They have the resources to do so. We are thankful that the Canadians came to our aid and helped us in this programme now.

The agreement that Mobil has with the people of Barbados is....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR The HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I sat through the morning session and saw the debate go down some strange windings and twistings that I did not introduce in the presentation here in the name of Mobil. We are dealing with a guarantee and we are seeking Parliamentary approval of a Resolution to borrow "X" amount of dollars. I would hope that we would not get into anything that is not relevant to the matter before us. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I thought that I laid the foundation for bringing in Mobil because we are talking about oil exploration. As I said before, nobody in Barbados uses crude oil. I do not use crude oil. We use diesel, fuel, or gasoline and whatever but

we do not use crude oil. If we are pumping crude oil, it is to be sold under the agreement to one company and that is Mobil. All crude oil that is drilled in Barbados is sold to Mobil.

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you may proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. Given that last May the agreement under which Mobil refines crude oil expired, we on this side would want to know what arrangements are being made for the refining of the crude and the loan that we are guaranteeing. We want to know when the crude has been pumped is it going to be put in storage tanks, is it going to be thrown into the sea, or whatever? As far as I know, there is no agreement for the refining of the crude oil.

4.10 p.m.

Since May last year when the agreement ran out, we have not yet been told – and I have an interest in this because I use a car which uses gasoline and whenever the gas prices go up it means that I have less money to feed my daughter, so I would want to know what arrangements are made to refine this crude oil because I want to suggest, Mr. Deputy President, that the agreement with MOBIL has not worked in the best interests of the people of Barbados.

On many occasions, the late Prime Minister, Errol Barrow, criticised and castigated the architects of that agreement of 1962 which came into place in 1965. He wanted to know on many occasions how such an agreement could be forced on the people of Barbados. It is a lopsided agreement, which is of no benefit to us, but of tremendous benefit to MOBIL, and as I said before, they wouldn't even help us in the oil exploration but still they are reaping the benefits from the people of Barbados.

I am calling on the Government not to renegotiate any agreement with MOBIL. We can find alternative ways of refining our crude. Our crude, I am told, is of such high quality that the Trinidadians who have excess refining capacity are willing to take every drop of our crude that we can pump, carry it to Trinidad, refine and send back here – the diesel, the gasoline and the fuel oil and whatever the by-products are. They are willing, because as we know, Sir, there is excess refining capacity in the Caribbean and to have a company which would not even update its machinery, because we are told that they are operating a refinery from the 1920's... The result is, Mr. Deputy President, that two years ago, if you can remember, they sold us gasoline which had in rust, otherwise called anhydrous ferrous oxide; but it was pure simple rust. That is the sort of product that we are getting from MOBIL. Many cars in Barbados were damaged because of the bad product put out by MOBIL refinery and they only fixed those cars

when it was proven that it was their fault, but you had to get proof before they fixed the people's cars.

Not only that, I am told from reliable sources that they brought in unleaded gasoline here in Barbados and did not tell the people of Barbados that it was unleaded gasoline. The result was that a lot of cars developed a few problems, because, as I am told, the use of unleaded gasoline calls for refinement in the cars. So, I am saying, Mr. Deputy President, that the agreement with MOBIL has not benefited the people of Barbados. We are paying a higher cost for products than we could have been paying if we had another agreement in place. Only last October the refinery surcharge on fuel oil was increased from three-quarters of one cent per litre, not 75 cents per litre, but to \$5.75 per litre. It means that every extra litre of fuel oil, that the Light & Power Company got, cost 5 cents more and the result is that all of us here are paying higher energy bills, aren't we? All of us here are paying higher energy bills because of that refinery surcharge and in most cases MOBIL brings in the finished product and just pumps it to the Light & Power and collects their five cents which we are going to pay and then they estimate that they will make \$10 million off the sale of fuel oil to the Barbados Light & Power. Who is paying it? I am paying it because my light bills are higher and so are yours, Mr. Deputy President.

Not only that, the cost of energy is about 20% of the hotel costs in Barbados, because hotels use a lot of energy in terms of airconditioning and other things. So, when the price of fuel increases it is seriously going to affect our tourist industry. Not only that, the cost of water – I am told that 60% of the cost of the operation of the Water Works is for electricity, so when the electricity prices go up as a result of the inefficiency of MOBIL, we see what is going to happen. No wonder that the water rates went up in the last couple of months.

Energy, is too serious a matter for a situation to arise where for seven months the agreement ran out and Government has not seen it fit to put proper arrangements in place for the refining of our crude.

Mr. Deputy President, now that we are on to energy pricing and the operation of the Barbados National Oil Company, if you can remember, Sir, when the Barbados Labour Party was the Government, and ruled well, we had a surcharge on gasoline and this surcharge went into a special fund which paid for the operation of the same BNOC. In other words we are saying: "Look, if gas prices come down we are not going to pass all to the consumer, we are going to take some and put it into the drilling programme." Now, the Democratic Labour Party in the Budget Debate of 1986, through their spokesman rejected that policy and they said that the fuel prices and gasoline prices should not reflect subsidies to the Barbados National Oil Company. They stopped that, and they lowered the price, and the result is that they had to stop drilling because there was no money

there. We felt that we had to maintain a drilling programme so that even if the consumer paid a little more for the gasoline it was to the benefit of the country because we were realising an enormous savings in foreign exchange; but they said that the price of gasoline should only reflect taxation, basic price and the price which came about by nature of the MOBIL agreement and these are the words of the spokesman: "until other arrangements can be made".

At that time, the policy of the Democratic Labour Party was to abolish because it was going to run out and whenever it ran out they were going to finish the agreement with MOBIL. That was a policy. Now, the architect of that policy is dead and so is that policy. I would want to know what considerations now will be informing the policy of the present Administration that after May 1990 is still keeping the people of Barbados without a proper energy policy. As I said before, energy is too critical for us to have this sloppiness in its development and administration. So, the policy of the then Democratic Labour Party Government was to have scrapped the MOBIL agreement. The MOBIL agreement ran out last year and we don't know what the policy is. We are told that they are on a month by month agreement but you cannot run a country like that, Mr. Deputy President. We need to know what the Government's policy is towards the refining of the product, the loan for which we are guaranteeing today and Government has got a duty to tell the people of Barbados whether they are going to renegotiate with MOBIL or whether they are going to scrap it. I wish to suggest, Sir, that there are alternatives. I hear people saying that if you scrap the MOBIL agreement what will you do? But I don't care because as I said before there is excess capacity in the island.

So, Mr. Deputy President, we have no difficulty with this Resolution, but I am begging the Minister to take the Senate into his confidence and let us know what arrangements are being made to refine the product, because I am sure that all of us who have anything to do with energy realises that we are not benefiting from all the exploration that was done, because we still have to buy gasoline and diesel at inferior quality and at high prices. We can be doing a lot better if we scrap the MOBIL agreement, and not only that, that refinery is not in a proper place and I am told that MOBIL do a lot of pumping in the Carlisle Bay. What will happen Sir, if there is an oil spill? Do you recognise the danger to the tourist industry with the Hilton close by, Grand Barbados close by. If there is an oil spill in Carlisle Bay we would be in serious trouble. That refinery is not in a proper place and, in my view, should not be in Barbados at all, because we are not begging for anything. We have oil to burn and they wouldn't even help us.

4.20 p.m.

We support the Resolution but we have these serious reservations about the operation of Mobil. We are calling upon the Government to scrap the agreement with Mobil and make proper arrangements for the refining of our crude.

Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, there are two central points to this debate, no more than two. I listened to Senator Barker. He obviously sees more than two but there are just two.

Much has been said about Mobil. I know little about Mobil. I think it would be very unwise for any Government to attempt to run a country on the basis of rumour. We have to ask ourselves, Mr. Deputy President, what is the overriding objective of private enterprise wherever it exist? As I understand it and, certainly, from my training, I understand the *raison d'être* of private enterprise to be the search for a profit and the search at times for the maximum profit. I find nothing wrong with that.

The important thing which the Government has to understand is the parameters within which a business is going to operate. I have no information on Mobil. I am not prepared to accept any rumour as a basis on which I would make a judgement about Mobil. I trust this present Government to arrive at the right decision which is in the interest of Barbados and all Barbadians. That is the first point I want to make.

The second point in this debate is this. Much has been said about developmental drilling. A lot has been said about exploratory drilling. In my humble opinion, the two have to be inter-related because there can be no developmental drilling without exploratory drilling and there can be no exploratory drilling unless at some point in time you plan to do developmental drilling. From my understanding of economics, there has to be a flow price at which exploratory drilling becomes uneconomic. That flow price has to do with the prevailing price of oil on the world market. If the price of oil on the world market falls below a certain level, any leader of a country who is wise has to ask himself should I take my scarce foreign exchange resources and continue to tie it up in exploratory drilling and developmental drilling or is it not better allocated in other areas of the economy be it tourism, agriculture, manufacturing or what have you? That is a fundamental decision which a leader and a Government of a country would have to make.

As I understand it and from the evidence which I have looked at in 1986, given the depressed state of oil prices on the world market, that is a decision which the Government made at that time. The same Government is in office today. A different set of factors present themselves. The price of oil on the world market is higher. It is at a level where it makes exploratory drilling economical again. That is a very consistent decision in light of the earlier decision which was made. Therefore, I find it very difficult to accept the kind of convoluted argument which was put forward by Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. I never criticised the Government for stopping exploratory drilling. I was talking about developmental drilling.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, in light of what I have said, I have absolutely no difficulty in supporting the Resolution which is before this Chamber.

Thank you.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, I join with Senators Barker and Alleyne in saying that I have absolutely no difficulty and I willingly and graciously support the Resolution. I highly commend it. There are a couple of points I would like to make in respect of it. With your permission, I would ask Senator Lewis if I do stray to help me out. I am a newcomer. I will listen and hopefully learn.

In Senator Dr. Clarke's presentation which was very thorough, he demonstrated on three or four occasions that the Canadian Government had been gracious enough to offer us grants. All be it, I would imagine that strings would be attached that you buy the product from them. I would like to be on the Barbadian side like Senator Fraser said earlier and support all Barbadians and ask the Government, or the Minister – I am not aware who is in charge of energy now, or if Senator Clarke as Minister of Trade would do it for us – to bear in mind that with the Canadian Government helping us, we should help ourselves.

In this respect I refer, if I may, to the Throne Speech in which our Governor-General said that every effort would be made to encourage local development and exports. I would like to highlight a couple of points, that, of course, could earn maximum foreign exchange.

It is a fact that the West Indian Biscuit Factory has the potential to be one of our big exporters. As a frequent traveller, I even see the products now being served on aircraft in the Caribbean in competition with others. It has tremendous potential. They are at a tremendous disadvantage in respect of one of the products of BNOC. It may not be tremendous but an added disadvantage and this is their high cost. Of course, our flour and gas in the ovens. They pay 39 cents per cubic foot or metre for it locally, whatever unit. The Trinidad company pays 34 cents. Everyone knows it. I do not know if you are permitted to call names in here, but Bermudians do. Therefore, they are in a position to export into Barbados because of the CARICOM Treaty and be more competitive with us.
4.30 p.m.

I would ask if the powers that be that run BNOG bearing in mind all the economic factors would consider the benefits of giving the West India Biscuit Company an equal chance to compete with Bermudez who has, because of economies of scale, a much bigger operation and bigger population, by selling their gas at the very same price so as to make them competitive in the world market.

In addition to that, I am not aware of what hotels pay for their gas. But I should like to think that it was at the most competitive price so that they too could compete with the other tourist destinations in the Caribbean. I see the West India Biscuit Company, with which I have absolutely no connection, as a tremendous potential, as I said. Because I see their products now turning up in the Caribbean. I know the Government has given them special dispensations in respect of flour from their unit. I should like to make them even a better unit by asking if the Government would be considerate in giving them special consideration for the price of gas.

I end by saying I am glad to see it. It does employ lots of people. It is a foreign exchange earner or saver. I feel very strongly that to have some sort of control over your refining capacity even though it is not complete control and have it in your country is an asset.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy President, as Senator Barker earlier indicated, the Barbados Labour Party has no difficulty in supporting the Resolution, as it stands. But there are a few points that we would wish to make and I would wish to make in relation to the whole question of drilling in Barbados.

If we go back to the 1950s, the first step that was taken to begin to lay the foundation for this type of activity was taken when Sir Grantley Adams vested the rights under the land, in which mining resources may have been found, in the Government of Barbados. This would have ensured that the Government would have been in possession of any such natural resources like natural gas or oil which would have been found in this country and without which there would be no question of the Barbados National Oil Company having any right to take part in any such activity.

This was continued as we went through the sixties. We found then that, in addition to that, before any form of drilling was started, that we continued to get our supply from overseas. We determined that there would be some wisdom in ensuring that we in Barbados could produce some of our own natural gas and oil since it was found to be there. We have received much assistance from the Canadian Government for which we are grateful.

But one wondered in 1986 when drilling was stopped the rationale behind stopping the developmental drilling. Senator Barker earlier made the distinction between developmental drilling and exploratory drilling. Senator Alleyne rose to speak on it and rose to make the point which we have no problem with at all, Sir, that there is a bottom limit as to why exploratory drilling becomes feasible or not. Indeed if the price of oil on the world market is low, the risks as well as the cost of exploratory drilling are not worth it. But having done your exploratory drilling and having determined, over a period of time as we were doing, which areas possessed the oil or the natural gas one then had to do developmental drilling to ensure that these resources could then be brought to the use and to the benefit of the people of this country, Sir.

This was done, eventually, by the Barbados Government through the establishment of the Barbados National Oil Corporation. The opportunity having been given to MOBIL who operated the sole refinery on the island, as Senator Barker pointed out earlier in his contribution. MOBIL declined to avail itself of the opportunity to refine, although one wonders their commitment, in the circumstances. But nevertheless, they did so.

We then saw the establishment of the Barbados National Oil Company which proceeded then to ensure that those reserves that were under the land, such as natural gas and oil were brought to the fore for the benefit of Barbadians.

As I said, Sir, the difference between developmental drilling and exploratory drilling is this: Exploratory drilling is high risk. Exploratory drilling calls for a lot more money than developmental drilling. Developmental drilling takes place when you already know of the existence of the oil and the natural gas there and you are merely drilling to bring it to the fore.

We contend that there was no need to stop the developmental drilling in Barbados in 1986 because the costs of developmental drilling do not carry the same high factor or the same high risk factor that exploratory drilling does. We would have wanted to see us continue to build our reserves in the event of the prices on the world market ever rising to a stage where it became uneconomical and gave us an uncompetitive stance in terms of having to purchase that oil on the world market.

The same thing with the natural gas. We in the Barbados Labour Party realize the potential of natural gas not only to supply power to the Barbados Light and Power Company to make the cost of electricity cheaper for the people in this country, as was done by us, by selling the natural gas to the Light and Power so that they could use it to lower the cost of electricity, but we also realize that we

needed to bottle the natural gas to be able to sell it so that we would not waste foreign exchange on buying bottle gas.

Negotiations took place also, Sir, with Petro Chem in Canada until we saw the establishment of the liquified petroleum gas plant which was planned by us and which was opened by this Government in 1988, I believe, thereby allowing for a substantial saving on the foreign exchange and for the cost, on the part of the consumer, for natural gas. We now see the provision of natural gas which started somewhere in 1984-85 being given to as many consumers as possible across this country.

But the point I want to continue to make, Sir, is that the reason for continuing the developmental drilling as well has to do with also ensuring that your reserves are there so that you do not find yourself falling into a position where the price of oil becomes so uneconomical and puts you in an uncompetitive position. Almost everything in this country requires electricity and water. As I said earlier to this Chamber the cost of pumping water is represented by 60% towards the cost of electricity. You do not want to put them in an uncompetitive situation.

But it is not only in drilling for oil, Sir. The natural gas is an alternative source of energy as is solar energy which we saw the development of in the early eighties. Many of us in here know of the solar water heaters which abound in this country and indeed, the fiscal incentives which were put in place in 1983 to encourage people to use the solar water heaters as a way of conserving on energy as a way of lowering the demands for fuel oil for electricity.

We also saw the wind project at Lamberts as another form of conservation to ease the demand for the use of the oil in the provision of electricity as with the bagasse which is used in the sugar industry in the factories to provide such energy.

I would hope that in future, we would not only continue with drilling but we will also continue to explore these alternative sources of energy, as a way of lowering the actual amount of oil that we need in the provision of electricity or towards industry or whatever. Indeed, even towards cars. Because many of us in here may or may not know that since 1963 cars in Vancouver, for example, have been working off natural gas. It is only recently we have heard about Ford, the motor car company in the United States of America releasing that they plan to bring out a truck which is run off natural gas. I think this is a point that should particularly concern us here in Barbados because we have an abundant supply of natural gas. Not only do we have the supply but it is environmentally friendly. Therefore one would want to continue the drilling to bring as much natural gas out of the ground as possible in the hope that one day we can reach the stage where we can start using cars driven off natural gas. It really only requires an adjustment to the carburetor and putting the bottle gas at the

back of the car where the attachment is made. It is unfortunate that my friend, the Senator is not cognizant of the rate at which technology is moving in the world today.

But nevertheless, these are things that we would want to look into because we know that drilling has its own environmental problems as well.

4.40 p.m.

We would want to ensure that the environment of Barbados is preserved for those who are to come after us, and therefore it is hoped that Government in looking at its whole energy policy and its whole drilling programme will be cognizant of things that they can do to assist in this matter and as I said I refer to the use of natural gas as energy for cars and things of that type. The same thing with the solar water heaters, Sir. My friend the Honourable Minister of Agriculture would probably know of the machines that presently exist for drying onions and fruit and meat which are powered off solar energy, thereby reducing the need for fuel oil once again to drive those kinds of machines, Sir. And I would hope that in all of this we are cognizant of other areas.

I am a little disheartened to note that the wind project at Lamberts which was started with the assistance of the World Bank is no longer fully operable and one would hope that when the Prime Minister said some time last year that he would like to see wind farms that something would be done to ensure this project at Lamberts restarting as soon as possible and selling the electricity to the Light and Power as it was doing for many years, and successfully doing, and that we would see other wind farms across Barbados, thereby reducing the demand once again for fuel oil.

The other point is this, in terms of our crude oil, we produce a very high grade crude in Barbados I am told, Sir. I am no engineer, so therefore I bow to the expert advice I am given as to the kind of quality of crude that we produce. One of the things that seems to disturb the engineers in the country is that when this high grade crude is produced what is actually done with it when it reaches the refinery and that perhaps the refinery process that presently exists does not deal with it as adequately as it should be dealt with and this perhaps has also been one of the reasons why suggestions have been made to look also at the arrangements, for example, with Trinidad which has a refinery with great surplus capacity and which could ably come to our assistance towards the refining of our products. Indeed as I am sure the Honourable Minister would know there is already in existence a regional plan of action for energy in the CARICOM countries and this would only be one step in integrating the whole energy production of the region and I would hope that Government in its role would be more cognizant of this overall framework, just as opposed to taking ad hoc measures as to whether to start and stop drilling, Sir.

Sir, it is interesting that I received support in that quarter from no less a person than the late Errol Barrow who called in 1984 for the closure of the Refinery and perhaps we might have seen things differently, was he still alive today, in terms of the existence of that Refinery.

Sir, one other point just to finish up and to tidy up this, that at the end of the day I would hope that Government not only would it look and be concerned about the environmental questions when looking at the resumption of drilling whether it is developmental or exploratory, but it bear in mind all of these and bear in mind ultimately Sir, the position of the consumer in Barbados who for some reason will suffer tremendously in the event of the price of crude rising, in the event of the price of fuel oil rising, in the event of the price of electricity or water rising. Because as we are all well aware all of these things impinge upon almost every form of activity that takes place in this country and therefore if the price of crude is going to rise, the price of fuel oil will rise, the price of fuel oil will in turn lead to the price of electricity rising, if there is an over dependence on the fuel oil as opposed to alternative sources of energy and which will also lead to the price of water rising, Sir. We know already that they cannot really take any more, especially the pensioners in this country cannot bear the pressure of another water increase after the one that came. They are still paying water rates up in Bush Hall and the Turning and Jackson. So if these things can be addressed we would be grateful on this side because at the end of the day unless the small person, and the consumer in this country is able to survive Sir, we know that employment is created through small businesses and unless this can survive and the cost of their production can be brought within lines, the cost of the production hinging a lot upon the cost of electricity and the provision of energy can be brought in line, these costs will eventually be passed on to the last person at the end of the block, that being the consumer. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I listened with a great deal of interest on information which is a little skewed as far as I am concerned. I hear a lot of play about exploratory drilling not being developmental drilling. That is in the minds of who ever want to advance that thesis. I was personally involved in the establishment of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited. When arrangements were made to purchase the assets of Mobil Barbados Limited it was not the wish of Mobil to sell their oil fields; it was the desire of the Government of the day to obtain the assets of Mobil Barbados Limited.

Mobil Barbados Limited having been financed by Mobil International had carried out a large amount of exploratory drilling in Barbados and lost substantial sums of money. They had bought the rights to drill from Gulf Oil Barbados Limited. The Government of Barbados had, at that time, recently decided that it would establish a National Petroleum Corporation in order to carry on the functions of

the former Natural Gas Corporation. The Government of Barbados was looking for an opportunity to utilise its own natural resources and it is the Government that took the initiative. It had nothing to do with Mobil being a bad corporate citizen. Mobil was reluctant to let go of possibilities, but at that time it was in Mobil's interest to cease the drilling in Barbados because even the recovery of the crude in Barbados could not pay for the cost of exploration, and Mobil took a business decision. The Government of Barbados recognising that where a corporate private sector citizen fails to do something it has to take the initiative, seized the opportunity, pressured Mobil and we got the oil fields at a better than normal price because the Government of Barbados was able to get assistance from the Venezuela Government and from the Government of Canada to support it in its negotiations and to obtain sources of equipment and materials at prices that Mobil itself could not provide them at. In addition the Government of Canada provided assistance by way of a grant. So the history that some people have is different from the one that I know and that I have lived with.

Let me also say that as far as I am concerned exploratory drilling is developmental. Exploratory drilling has to be developmental by nature. Operational drilling is something else. Now it is clear to me that what I call operational drilling, some people call developmental drilling but I am not going to haggle about that. What I can state categorically is, that at no stage could the Government of Barbados nor indeed the Barbados National Oil Company stop its operational drilling; it has to continue as long as you have oil fields. You don't shut it down, because if you shut it down, you have to shut down all the operations, because you have to continually work over wells. You don't just hit the oil and pump it and it goes on like that. You have to be cleaning wells; you have to be shutting them down and reopening them, and by that very nature it is an operational activity. So I do not know where the information came that they had stopped developmental drilling per se. Wells which prove to be unproductive are usually sealed off and you go and look for a new location and you drill there. If you find that you get a vein you go around it and drill in certain areas and if you find spots you cap them off until you are ready to use them.

4.50 p.m.

You do the same thing with natural gas. Incidentally, to refer to natural gas, both Governments are committed to this. I do not think there is any great divide on this really. Both Governments recognize that in terms of providing a service to the people it has to develop its natural gas resources. The Democratic Labour Party stopped flaring gas when it was able to get that bottling plant completed. Until then we were really wasting it. We tried to put it into the system and provided it for the hotels on the West Coast. Those of us who drive down there know the inconvenience we had. We tried to provide natural gas on the South Coast

for hotels and obviously the Government is committed to providing natural gas for the citizens of this country.

To take the point about the biscuit company, it is many, many years that I know as a fact that the company has been seeking and I believe that the Minister of Trade will faithfully represent the concern expressed by Senator Williams in terms of a rebate of some sort on the part of supplying that natural gas. The real question though about the supply of natural gas has to do with the cost which the National Petroleum Corporation has to face in supplying it to the consumers. Incidentally, the Light and Power Company is probably one of the larger users of natural gas and my understanding is that they plan to utilize even more of it.

I am not getting into any debate about whether or not Government should or should not extend the agreement that was negotiated with Mobil. Let me say however that I believe that the crude which comes out of the fields in Barbados can be converted into products for use in Barbados is not to understand the facts of the matter. The quality of crude produced in Barbados cannot by itself produce gasoline and these various elements. The result is that in the early stages (I do not know what happens now) that was exported. It is not used in Barbados in any large quantity. To suggest that we put it in the refinery and use it is not true.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order. I am a little hesitant because Senator Lewis seems to be misleading the House in terms of saying that someone in here said that the crude could be converted to gasoline, Sir, and it was just put in the refinery and converted to gasoline.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: You were not in here.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The speaker system is throughout Parliament, Sir, and I manage to listen at the time. What was suggested, Sir, was that Barbados produces a high grade crude and that not much work is required on that as with lower grades of crude, and that was the attitude of certain people in Barbados. Therefore, as a result....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you for your elucidation. Thank you for your point of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, can I just finish? Therefore, there was actually some refinery of local product in Barbados. But nobody is suggesting that the high grade crude was used as gasoline.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: On a point of order, Sir. From personal knowledge, Sir, I would just like to inform the Honourable Senate and yourself that this crude is really known as poor quality crude and, in fact, what is known as a "cocktail crude" (which is brought in from Venezuela and sometimes Trinidad) is used to supplement because the Barbados crude does not have in the octanes that are desirable in the more refined products.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Well, Senator Williams only confirms what I am aware of and, in fact, what I was saying. The Barbados crude is used to supplement the cocktail mix but cannot itself be used because of its lacking in certain definitives.

The question of utilizing natural gas in vehicles: this matter was fully examined between 1982 and 1984 and it would be uneconomic to attempt it in Barbados. In addition, it would be a very risky business with the drivers in Barbados who like to ride on people's tailgates and literally ride on the back of the other vehicle. You would have so many explosions and fires around here that it would not be funny. What may be a possibility, certainly not in motor cars, is that certain types of equipment that is used on work sites that it is possible they could be fitted up with equipment which you could use the natural gas in place of diesel. But the cost of conversion in Barbados when we examined it suggested to us that it was something that we could leave alone and let them experiment with some more in North America and Brazil where they are even going into gasoline by using sugar cane. These suggestions are not new. We have heard them before and I am sure we will hear them again.

With regard to the wind project, there was to be a wind project and a wave project. The wind project turned up at Lamberts. The wave project which was to happen off the east coast did not surface. But the experience of the people of the Lambert project and the Barbados Labour Party Government were interested in pursuing wind farms. Our experience is that we lose money. We have lost money every single year on the Lambert project. First, there were grants that were consumed and then it was money out of the Consolidated Fund. Although we were getting some energy that we could put into the electricity system into the grade and we were paid for it by the Light and Power Company, this was much less than what it cost us to produce it. Now which sensible entrepreneur, even foolish Governments, would not avoid putting money in the wind and having it blow away? Those are my comments. I support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: In winding up the debate on this Resolution, there are just a

few observations that I would like to make. I think Senator Lewis pretty well did much of the winding up for me. But on the question that Senator Williams raised, I would like him to know that the Ministry of Trade has been in touch with WIBISCO during the last week or so to discuss some of the problems confronting them. We recognize that they do have a product for the international market and we, too, became aware of it just like you while travelling on the local inter-island carrier. Thank you and we recognize the merits of a product that can make it into the market and we are prepared as a Government to give them whatever assistance we can to ensure they really make greater stride within those extra-regional markets.

I cautioned Senator Mottley earlier about trying to speak in foreign languages and she got into very serious trouble and thanks go to Senator Lewis and Senator Williams for coming to her rescue.
5.00 p.m.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, if I remember what I said – the Honourable Senator seems to be misleading the Chamber insofar as I said specifically that I received an understanding that certain people in Barbados felt that a practice was occurring where the high grade....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, how do you know what he is going to refer to? He hasn't got that far.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No, Sir. He referred....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You do not know what he is going to refer to until he says what it is. So, you cannot correct him before he speaks.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: With all due respect, Sir, what I am....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have to wait until he speaks then to correct him. So, that's not a point of order.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: With all due respect, Sir, what I was correcting was his reference to Senator Williams correcting Senator Mottley, if those were the words that he used, Sir, and therefore, I am speaking on that as a point of order and if I can make the point of order now, and that is, Sir, that what Senator Williams said raises a point of elucidation. What Senator Williams said may be entirely correct but what I said had to do with the fact that there was....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley you have first of all to wait and hear what the Senator is going to say before you make an effort to correct it.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, this is always the problem with foreign languages. Something is always lost in translation. Anyway, I shall not persist along those lines.

With those few comments, Sir, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I wish to report that the Committee of Selection met and the following Report of their deliberations is presented.

The Committee of Selection reports to the House the formation of Sub-Committees as follows:

Sessional Select Committees as follows:

Standing Orders Committee under Standing Order 62 to be His Honour the President, ex officio, Senator the Honourable Dr. Carl Clarke, Senator Amory J. N. Phillips, Senator Miss Mia Mottley, Senator C. O. Williams.

The House Committee under Standing Order 63: His Honour the President, ex officio, Senator Dr. Erskine Simmons, Senator Mrs. Carmeta Fraser, Senator Tyrone Barker, Senator Mrs. Margaret Walcott.

Committee of Privileges under Standing Order 64: His Honour the President, ex officio, Senator Joseph Payne, Senator Mrs. Maisie Barker-Welch, Senator Miss Mia Mottley, Senator Leroy Inniss.

Regulations Committee under Standing Order 65: His Honour the President, ex officio, Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne, Senator Miss Yvonne Walkes, Senator Tyrone Barker, Senator Canon J. L. Springer.

The Joint Library Committee which meets with the Members appointed by the House of Assembly to be: His Honour Senator Marcus Jordan, Senator the Hon. Harcourt Lewis, Senator Anderson Morrison, Senator the Hon. Dr. Carl Clarke, Senator Mrs. Ada Straughn, Senator John Cole, Senator John Bellamy, Senator Miss Mia Mottley, Senator Tyrone Barker.

Those are the recommendations, Mr. Deputy President, of the Committee of Selection and I beg to move that note be taken of those appointments.

Mr. Deputy President, we have completed public business today. We have had a long day and I beg to move that this Senate be adjourned until Wednesday, 6th March, 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. Deputy President adjourned the Senate accordingly.
5.10 p.m.

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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

SENATE

Wednesday March 6, 1991.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, March 6, 1991, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator The Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) (Leader of the Senate);

Senator A. MORRISON;

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

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS;

Senator The Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce);

Senator Dr. Frank W. ALLEYNE;

Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES;

Senator J. J. PAYNE;

Senator Mrs. Ada STRAUGHN, G.C.M.;

Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT;

Senator W. Leroy INNIS;

Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. SPRINGER;

Senator J. G. BELLAMY;

Senator J. A. F. COLE;

Senator T. E. BARKER; and

Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.

Prayers were led by Rev. E. Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The Land Development Duties, (Special Development Area) (Airport to West Coast Area) Order, 1991.

The Land Development Duty (Rate of Duty) Order, 1991.

The Annual Report of the Barbados Community College for the Academic Year 1988-89.

The Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year 1988-89.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BRIDGE ROAD, ST. MICHAEL, FOR BRIDGE AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Order No. 1 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Bridge Road, St. Michael for Bridge and Road improvement.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Resolution before us relates to the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of six parcels of land at Bridge Road in the parish of St. Michael. There is a very interesting background to this Resolution which comes before us because as all of us are aware the reconstruction of Bridge Road took place in 1983 and before, but in 1983 a decision was taken by the Government of the day to compulsorily acquire certain lands to facilitate the

reconstruction of the Bridge Road and associated road works which were to be carried out.

The provisions of the Land Acquisition Act were invoked and the required notices under Sections 3 and 4 were duly published and executed. Then a decision was taken that instead of pursuing the acquisition, instead of invoking the procedures for compulsory acquisition of these many small areas, an attempt would be made to have the owners donate the land or transfer them to the Crown by private treaty for small sums of money. This did not materialise and as a result proceedings were initiated under the Land Acquisition Act for the compulsory acquisition of the land. The proceedings which had been initiated had been suspended, the construction of the road proceeded and it was not until 1987, after the change of Government, that the appropriate provisions of the Land Acquisition Act were re-instituted and several parcels of land, (some 14 parcels of land) became the property of the Crown. 13 were obtained by way of the Land Acquisition Act and one parcel by private treaty, but the boundaries of these 6 parcels, which we are dealing with today were quite unclear in 1987. Surveys had to be undertaken and we are now at the stage where we are cleaning up the arrangements relating to the acquisition of the several parcels of land in the Bridge Road area. That is the story in capsule.

I beg to move that this Resolution be passed.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLICATION IN
THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF NOTIFICATION
OF THE ABANDONMENT OF THE COMPUL-
SORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
FROM GLORIA JORDAN
AT SPEIGHTSTOWN,
ST. PETER

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the publication in the Official Gazette of notification of the abandonment of the compulsory acquisition of land from Gloria Jordan at Speightstown, St. Peter.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Addendum of this Resolution recites the fact of the compulsory acquisition of this parcel of land from Gloria Jordan, the land situated at Speightstown, St. Peter in June of 1985. The acquisition process was completed. At that time it was intended to use the lands to provide a playing field and an agricultural science plot for the Speightstown Boys' School. Since that time much water has flowed under the bridge; first there was the construction of the road which bypasses the old Speightstown and

proceeds in the direction of Heywoods which in fact tended to divide some of the lands in this area.
11.25 a.m.

Secondly, there was a decision to merge the Speightstown schools at a new location, hence the abandonment of the old Speightstown Boys School near the Methodist Church in Speightstown. The position now is, therefore, that there is no longer the need for the Crown to retain these lands for the purposes intended. Indeed, there were two parcels of land, one of which had been obtained by private treaty. There is no need to come to Parliament for that. That will be dealt with by way of a Notice of Abandonment. But in this instance since the process of compulsory acquisition had been completed, it is necessary to come and seek the permission of Parliament to deviate from that position. In addition, the owner of this land is happy to have it back since a reasonable offer has been received from a private citizen so that the land will still be sold by private treaty to another individual. It is always good when we recognize that if the Crown acquires land and is unable to use it for purposes intended that it be passed back to the original owners and the action which we contemplate today is in pursuance of that premise.

I beg to move that this Resolution relating to the abandonment of the acquisition of land at Speightstown in St. Peter be now passed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, this Resolution poses no difficulty for us. I just want to raise one or two points. I am told that this parcel of land is in a vulnerable area of Speightstown and can be subject to flooding. As we are well aware, Speightstown has in the past experienced flooding. I wonder, Sir, if the new owners of the land would take this into account and the Chief Town Planner so that when permission is granted for anything that the seriousness of Speightstown to flood will be taken into consideration.

Secondly, I wonder if Government could not have, I am not saying "should", used this land for probably a green area in Speightstown because as you are aware, Sir, in our urban centres there is little provision made for recreational and playing areas for the children. I wonder if the Government could not have taken this opportunity, since the owner is going to sell the land, to retain and use it for social and cultural purposes for the residents of Speightstown. Apart from those two considerations, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, just a brief note on the Resolution before us. I am wondering if the Honourable Senator that just spoke recognizes that the Town and Country Planning makes the decision as to what will be done in that area when the land is sold by its rightful owner now that it will be returned to the owner to sell it as the owner sees fit. The Town and Country Planning makes

decisions that fit in with the regulations of Town and Country Planning. I do not think that they would make one that is unprofitable to the area. But I am sure the Honourable Senator does not know what happens in St. Peter or Speightstown. If he was aware of what is going on, he would recognize that rather than calling for a social and cultural area in that particular area since it would also take away from the owner of that land being given the possibility of even maybe getting a higher price than Government was able to offer, that there is an area earmarked and it is being worked on for a recreational area just a stone's throw from that same area in Speightstown which is north of the Speightstown Bus Terminal. So that it really would not make much sense to have a few hundred yards one recreational centre with a whole multi-purpose facility and then come in that area and have another facility. We have to understand what we are talking about. The point is that at the time that this was purchased I understand at the time what might have been looked at, because they did not look at a multi-purpose facility further across the road. Now that the Roland Edwards School on the other side of the road (which is in the Battaleys area) has its own facility that this was bought for, there is no need to do that. I am saying that the Resolution is quite in order and there is no need for us to wonder why we do not have recreational facilities or the Government would not look at that area.

Furthermore, the Senator brought up an area that is an area prone to flooding. His party knows full well about the flooding in Speightstown because they were party to the way that they treated people in Speightstown and the way that road was not properly constructed at the time since they were trying so hard to see if they could get something done in a hurry to please the residents, or at least to fool the residents not really please them. They rushed off without having proper plans done for the area.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You rise on a point of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, on a point of order. She said that the Government "fooled" the people. Sorry, I do not think that is the word to use. The Government of the party I represent would never fool anybody. We have never yet fooled anybody.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do not take those words seriously.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: But they are in the record.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Everything that is in the record is not going to be taken seriously by posterity.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am very glad to hear that, but I take Miss Walkes very seriously.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, just let me wrap up by saying that since the Honourable Senator brought up flooding that I would like it to be known in this Honourable Senate that his Government seem not to understand how to treat the people in that area. Therefore, I understand his concern when there is flooding because they took the houses of the people that were flooded out and threw them down at Springhall. This is in St. Lucy which is far away from those people in Speightstown. They had the temerity to leave them there for years and did not even think it possible to provide proper housing for the people and restore their houses to a proper manner. I want to say that it was only after the Democratic Labour Party took over the administration of this country that those people were replaced in their houses. I am saying this to let the Honourable Senator know that when he brings up an area in this Honourable Senate that it will be challenged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do not stray too far in that area.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. President, Sir, I really did not intend to speak on this matter but I find myself forced to make a few remarks. Before I respond to some points which were made by the Honourable Senator Walkes, I would wish to make one or two points and to inquire as to this land as to the question of whether during the period of time if the Government would have been in possession of the land and whether any arrangements are being made for the compensation of the owner for that period of time. I believe it was about five or six years that Government has been in possession of the land. We must remember, Sir, that during that period of time the owners would not have been able to enjoy the use of the property nor would they have been able to derive any economic benefits from the property. I would think it only fair, Sir, to ensure apart from the abandonment of the compulsory acquisition of this land that provision, Sir, is being made to compensate the owners of this land for the period of time during which Government had it in its plan to do something with it.

In respect, Sir, to the reasons that Senator Lewis gave us for the abandonment, that being the by-pass road and the amalgamation of the Speightstown Boys School, I would wish to say at this point that just after the land was acquired the second World Bank project which was signed on May 21, 1986 by I believe Billie Miller provided for the amalgamation of the Speightstown Boys and Girls School and, therefore, the situation which has arisen here.
11.35 a.m.

I would just wish to add that additional information. Let us know, Sir, whether:

- (1) that compensation is being given; and

- (2) although Senator Barker referred to it and gave a possible use as social recreation facilities, Senator Walkes said that there was no need for that, since nearby provision was being made for that.

However, that is not the only possibility that could be used, because if we bear in mind the position of the land, Sir, it is basically in the middle of a residential district butting and bounding the bypass road. So, it can't be used for agricultural purposes and because of the flooding it restricts the usage of the land. One wonders whether, in circumstances like that, especially if because of those circumstances the owner cannot get what one would consider to be a fair market value, whether alternative use could not be found for the residents of St. Peter in that area for that land.

I would also wish, Sir, to respond to Senator Walkes. Senator Walkes said that the Barbados Labour Party really should not talk about flooding in Speightstown and really should not talk about flooding in St. Peter. I find myself, Sir, wondering whether I should agree with her or not. I find myself wondering whether I should agree with her statement that the Barbados Labour Party does not understand how to treat the people in that particular area in Speightstown and St. Peter when it comes to flooding, bearing in mind, Sir, that provision was made in 1986 for 115 house spots at Golden Mile to resite residents who had suffered as a result of the flooding that took place in 1984 and 1985 and that not only were 115 sites provided at Golden Mile, Sir, but that \$804,000 was left in the National Housing Corporation in 1986 to complete those houses, and that up until May 1986 all the provision had already been made for the development and the construction of these houses, including the financing. I really can't let that go down in the record without correcting her on that point.

I would also like to know, Sir, if it is so, that the Barbados Labour Party does not care about the people in St. Peter when it comes to flooding, that it has therefore done a very good job in not caring about them, when it ensures that community centres at Boscobelle, playing fields at Boscobelle, Indian Ground, Black Bess, Diamond Corner....

Aside.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Obviously better than the Honourable Senator, because the Honourable Senator seems not to know what goes on in St. Peter, and perhaps, Sir, we are suffering from the result of that in here today. I would also, Sir, wish to say that they obviously did not care about the people and the flooding in St. Peter when they ensured that roads at Mangrove, at Maynards, Six Mens, the 34 rental units at Maynards that were provided, the housing at Battaleys, Sir, all of these were projects designed to alleviate the pressure on the people in St. Peter, especially those who would have succumbed and would have been prone to the flooding that took place in those

areas. So, I hope that when we look at these matters, we look at it with both eyes open and with the scales removed from our eyes, and I am sure, Sir, that justice is done especially, Sir, to those small people in the Speightstown area who deserve and are getting the kind of representation that they now have, and that they deserve, and the high standard accorded to it.

Sir, I hope that questions will be asked as to the compensation for the owner of this land, bearing in mind, that Government is going ahead with the abandonment of it, because it is important that small people in this country have their rights preserved at all times. It is their basic rights for them to have that compensation, bearing in mind, that they would have been deprived of the enjoyment as well as the use for economic benefit of that land over the last few years.

Having said that, Sir, bearing in mind those considerations, as Senator Barker said, we have no problem in supporting the Resolution once some assurance can be given that resort will be had to compensate the owner of that land. Thank you Sir.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, just to add a little contribution to this Debate. I am surprised that members of the Labour Party could come in here and talk about flooding in St. Peter, and to carry on from where Senator Walkes left off.... I remember very well, Sir, that the last Labour Party Government devoted a whole ministry with a Minister of Flooding in St. Peter and a new

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Yes. You were very careful to do that and it was a good act of goodness and a new provision involving several million dollars was moved into the estimates at that time to accommodate that new Minister of Flooding and I am surprised, Sir, that today, 1991, we can hear the same Labour Party complaining that there is too much flooding in St. Peter, when expressly it was done at the time to make people feel good that we are going to solve flooding... What are you rising on?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President. I am not aware that there was something called a Minister of Flooding.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: There was a Minister of Flooding. You don't know they had a Minister of Flooding in your own Government? Where were you? Were you out of the country?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: There was nothing called the Minister of Flooding.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: A Minister of Floods, then, and to hear them complain about flooding was when they actually moved in millions of dollars which eventually were used, probably, for other means other than flooding, and today, we have the same flooding problem in this country because those funds which were ostensibly moved into the Estimates at that late hour were never in fact used to alleviate the problem which was being experienced by the residents of St. Peter.

As far, Sir, as the abandonment of the land is concerned, I think that the owner of this land would be only too glad to get it back from out of the hands of the Labour Party who actually commissioned the land at the time when they had no use for it and it falls on this Government now...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Chamber when he says that the Labour Party had no uses for the land, Sir. Senator Lewis, in introducing the Resolution told us what the purpose of it was for and therefore he is misleading the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, I don't regard those as points of order. You all want to have a little evening fun, but they are not points of order. When you disagree with something it is not a point of order. It's not a point of order if somebody says something that you dislike.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No, Sir. Maybe I should rephrase it. I said that he was misleading the Chamber when he told the Senate, Sir, that the Barbados Labour Party had no uses for the land when it acquired it, Sir. He is misleading the Chamber.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: I have not misled the Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That might have been his opinion.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: All I am saying is that the fact that today we find that we don't need that land, and we are trying to return the land to its rightful owner so that the owner can do what he likes with that land. I think the owner will be only too glad to have back the land in his possession. All we are trying to do is to accommodate the former owner with the possession of his land to do whatever he chooses with his own land. So, as far as compensation is concerned, although that is a worthwhile suggestion by the Honourable Senator, it does not arise in this case because the whole question is that the owner would only be too happy to know that the land is being returned to him, Sir. Thank you.
11.45 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I only wish to emphasise, Mr. President, that the question of compensation should have been considered by the persons

who acquired the land in 1983. It does not arise in 1991. I would also like to respond to the only other question which was asked and merits response...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. The question of compensation which I referred to had nothing to do with the sale of the land. It had to do with the time period during which Government had it in its possession and occupation which are two totally different points as I am sure Senator Lewis would appreciate, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: The question of compensation does not arise? It should have been examined in 1983, 1984, 1985 and, indeed, early in 1986 before the other school was built. The owner is anxious to get the land back.

In addition, land acquired by Government for a specific purpose cannot be used for varying purposes as has been suggested. That is the only point made on the other side in my opinion that is worthy of any response. Land acquired for a specific purpose cannot be used for a varied purpose unless the Government is minded to come back to Parliament to seek such permission. In this instance the Government is aware of the desire of the owners to have the land back because they have what is regarded as a fair and reasonable offer and they expect to be able to get the land back to use for their own purposes.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

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

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING COR- PORATION OF LAND AT LAMMINGS, ST. JOSEPH FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks to vest in the National Housing Corporation lands described in the Schedule to the Resolution which were acquired by the Crown in its right of Government for the purpose of developing a sites and services programme. It is necessary after acquisition of lands which Government intends that the National Housing Corporation should develop for either the provision of low income housing or for the provision of sites and services programmes, to have the land vested in the Corporation to enable it to fully carry out and execute the works which are intended.

In this instance the lands will be developed by way of a sites and services programme for the relocation of persons in the Parish of St. Joseph for the most part who encounter problems because of the terrain in the Scotland District and

the peculiar circumstances of land slippages which occur from time to time.

This is a simple act to vesting. I beg that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, this Resolution is one vesting land in the National Housing Corporation. Just a few months ago, I was not in here then, a similar vesting Resolution came at that time to vest land in CARSICOT. There was a very embarrassing revolt on the Government side. I only hope, Sir, that the Government is sure of its majority this time that we do not get a recurrence...

Mr. PRESIDENT: That has no relevance. This is a Senate you are discussing this matter in. You must discuss things with relevance. What went on when you were not in here has no relevance to what we are discussing now. Bring the debate up to the standard of the Senate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Mr. President. We are talking about vesting land in the National Housing Corporation. I am glad that the National Housing Corporation is fulfilling its role in providing proper housing for the people of Barbados especially those who are not in a position to fully participate in the open housing market.

Lammings is especially dear to us on this side because St. Joseph has always been a parish that we dearly love. It is not by accident that we initiated plans in our last tenure of office to start housing development at Lammings in the Parish of St. Joseph. We are particularly glad that this Resolution has come before us today.

Mr. President, the record of the Democratic Labour Party since 1986 on housing development is far from a happy one especially as it relates to public sector housing, especially as it relates to the sites and services programme, especially as it relates to low income housing.

The other side was very vociferous in patting themselves on the back for the 1989 improvements as they termed it in the house building programme, especially by the National Housing Corporation. I will point Members of this Senate to the fact that in 1989, the said year in which there were record levels of housing construction, that only six houses were built for rental by the National Housing Corporation. This is a matter of record and it does not speak well for a Government which boasts itself of being a caring Government.

The sites and services programme is very dear to us primarily because we recognise that with the escalating cost of land a lot of our people, especially in the lower income group, would be unable because of income to fully participate in the open housing market. Therefore, it is incumbent upon Government to provide this because we are

told that Government is one of the biggest land owners and we know that Government can acquire any piece of land so long as it is for public purposes.

The sites and services programme which was initiated under the Barbados Labour Party seeks to give those people the opportunity to improve their standard of housing because as you very well know, lots of people in Barbados over the years have been able to purchase a small house then over time they add to it until they have decent housing accommodation.

The cost of land has always been a factor. In years gone by there was more rental land available. In this day and age people with land, because of lots of factors, are unwilling to rent land to individuals. Therefore, Government has to come in and fill the slack. I am a bit distressed that the delivery of lots under the sites and services programme has been so tardy over the past couple of years.

I know from my experiences from people who are always talking to me that many of them have been on the NHC waiting list for years. Despite promises, despite assurances, the sites and services programme is not operating at a fast enough rate in order to fulfill the demand for such units.

11.55 a.m.

Therefore I am urging, I am begging Government and beseeching them to use whatever legitimate means at their disposal to accelerate, to double the rate at which housing lots are available to the poor people of this island. Because all of us are aware that the cost of land over the past couple years, as a result of the imposition of indirect taxation has skyrocketed, primarily due in large measure to the cost of development, the cost of road building. The cost of these services are way out. They have escalated very much over the past years. Land that was costing \$2 and \$3 a square foot now was up in the \$5 and \$6 and a lot of people are unable to participate in the housing market.

It is incumbent upon Government to speed up the delivery of lots under these programmes.

Also, Mr. President, there is a view that the demand for rental units is not substantial or great. I beg to differ. There are lots of people in this island who are living now in what I would call substandard housing with no indoor plumbing facilities. They would be only too glad if Government owned houses were made available to them because, as we are all aware, the cost of rent on these units is subsidized by Government and hence is much smaller than if they went in the private market.

Therefore I perceive a need for Government to spend money in this area because this is one of the ways in which we can improve the housing conditions in our island. As I

go around the country I see that we are progressing but I see at the same time tens of thousands of houses without indoor plumbing facilities. In this day and age Government and all concerned should do all in their power to stop our grandparents when they get 80 and 90 having to go outside in a backhouse in order to do their business. One way that Government can do this is by accelerating the rate at which it delivers these houses to the public for rental purposes. Because the rent is low enough so that the low income people can rent them.

Sir, while I am on this, I am a bit distressed about the lack of a housing policy by the present administration. They seem not to be able to articulate a clear policy on housing, especially as it relates to public sector housing. The last meeting that we were here I heard comments to the effect that a survey was carried out and people who live in the housing units would not want to buy them, if they became available. I did some thinking about this and I came to the conclusion that the reason for this is because the rents are so low that there is no incentive for a person who is renting now at such low rents to buy the unit, especially since after he buys the unit then he has to pay maintenance cost. We all know that maintenance cost and these costs can add significantly to the actual cost of shelter.

One may argue that this is okay to some extent. It is having another effect and it is this. When a person who lives in a rental unit improves his status, for one reason or another, and his income increases, the work that he did becomes so small in comparison to his income that he is able – and this has happened on many occasions, I see nothing wrong with this, I may add – to take the residue and invest in his own house. So that in a short space of time he can get his own house. That is desirable. But this is what has happened, Mr. President, having got his own house as a result of the subsidized Government housing, he does not do the state a favour by moving into his house. But some of them rent out their own house at the market rate and maintain the rental unit at the subsidized rate.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: You may call it smartness but at the same time what it has done is that it has deprived a lot of people out there who are genuinely poor of a position of improving their housing because some persons who can do better and who, incidentally, the rental units were not designed for in the first place, because it was designed for the rental people. So when their status improves they should do the state a favour by saying, "You have helped me by reason of subsidized rents to achieve my own house and therefore I am going to give back the house to you so that somebody can do the same thing that I did that is, rent a house at a low cost and over a period of time, according to the savings go and purchase their own house."

Government then must devise a scheme; a scheme must be devised to encourage these people who have improved their lot to either buy the unit, if they so desire, or vacate the unit. Because if they buy the unit the money that the Government receives can then be used in order to build more houses for deserving people.

Government's housing policy must be such that low income housing especially the rental units are kept for those who because of conditions or whatever are genuinely unable to afford their own housing. This is where I would like the National Housing Corporation to be innovative to have a clear policy on rental units, because, as I said, there is a great need out there for housing improvement. One way in which it has been done in the past is through Government providing these rental units for the lower income earners.

While I am on the question of housing development the sites and services programme is, as I said before, a desirable programme. But I never saw a person yet live on a piece of land. You have to put up, if not a tent, something in which you are going to live. All the sites and services programmes you have would be of no avail if the second step is not made easier for the low income people. In this respect, I especially speak about things like the operation of what I term the iniquitous credit squeeze and how it is affecting people from owning their house and developing any lot that they may be able to achieve. I think in the interest of all Barbadians that housing be taken off.

12.05 p.m.

I see the Minister looking at me, I am begging him to use his influence in the Cabinet to make sure that in the next Budget or sooner, maybe tomorrow, that an announcement is made that housing is seen to be such a crucial activity that it will no longer be subject to the credit squeeze and hence...

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order. Housing is not subjected to the credit squeeze as such. The credit squeeze is a limitation of percentage reduction in the rate and within that they can allocate it however they want to. I thought the Senator would have known this.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am well aware of that and I am also well aware that bridging loans are counted as personal loans and hence subjected to the same restriction that he is talking about. But in any case...

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is no point rambling on these matters. Be specific in the point that you are making, if not we will be hearing an address from little bits and pieces that you are not clear about.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I can assure you that I am very clear on this credit squeeze business.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, what is needed is for funds to be found from some source. Now when we were in office, we initiated a housing programme and we gave housing bonds. We invited the people of Barbados to put their money where their mouth is, so to speak, and to buy housing bonds which were then used for the housing programme. And in addition we negotiated with USAID and we got some money for low income housing, and I believe that Government need to keep on doing things like this, because there is still a great need for Government to be active in the housing market, as a facilitator, if nothing else. So, Sir, with those few words I support the Resolution.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, this is a Resolution to vest land in the NHC and normally it is a matter which I believe is dealt with in a couple of minutes. But there are some things which were said by Senator Barker and for the purpose of the record, these matters need to be set straight.

I believe that the Senator does not fully appreciate the role of Government in housing development in Barbados. The role of Government, as I understand it, is not to use the number of houses constructed by Government agencies as the ultimate measure of success in housing policy. As I understand it, and as this Democratic Labour Party Government understands it, the role of Government is to create the policy environment within which houses at all types of levels – the upper income, the middle income, the middle middle income and the low income – those types of houses can be constructed at the optimum rate. That is what this administration set out to do since 1986.

I notice Senator Barker has been using, I believe, very limited information to comment on the performance of Government in housing in 1989 and I also believe that he has some respect for records, and I am referring, Mr. President, to the Economic Report 1989 which was laid in this Chamber and I would not detain the Chamber, I will just move directly to the relevant excerpt and on page 21, left hand column, beginning at line 4, it reads:

"The leading indicator of house completions, electrical inspections shows that approximately 4,180 houses, the highest number in any one year were completed, compared to 2,667 in 1988".

This is the record; this is already a document of this House. It goes on to say in the area of low income housing:

"The National Housing Corporation (NHC) completed 232 units in 1989 while 306 units were in progress. This compares with 242 units completed and 1,076 in progress during 1988. In 1989 the NHC developed some 942 sites while work was in progress on 587 others".

I draw these things to the attention of this Chamber and for the benefit of Senator Barker because I would not wish to participate in another session of the Senate where information which certainly is not corroborated by the record is disseminated in this Honourable House.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order Mr. President, I did not give the house any false information. I said in my presentation that I was talking about public sector housing; I said six units for rent were completed in 1989 and I am quoting from a document by the Minister of Housing. I will not have the Honourable Senator saying that I am misleading the House.

Mr. PRESIDENT: When did he say that you were misleading the House?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, he just accused me of giving false information to the House.

Mr. PRESIDENT: When did he say so?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Just now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This "just now business". I do not understand why you say "just now". What do you mean by that? He said so in here?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: A minute or so ago, he said so.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That you were giving false information to this Chamber and you did not ask him to withdraw the remark?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am asking now Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, no, no. You are not asking him now. You are replying now to me and saying so. But you never asked for anything to be withdrawn.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President the Honourable Senator was quoting figures and he...

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, you never stood up to ask that the words that were used by the Honourable Member be withdrawn when he was speaking. I am saying that is when it should have been asked to be withdrawn.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I gave him a chance to finish before I...

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, no, you do not give chances in here. You must know what you are doing. This is Parliament; this is not outside.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am not sure what Senator Barker is worrying about, because I never made an allegation against him and you can rest assured I have not made an allegation against Senator Barker. I sat down in here the last time we met and I heard all kinds of things being said about the housing programme and I am taking particular pains today to make sure that it does not happen again and I continue for the next minute.

The National Housing Corporation was involved in the implementation of a number of projects during the year. I am referring to 1989. The national low income development project at Rices, St. Philip and Valerie, Collymore Rock, St. Michael began during the latter part of 1989. I am going to stop there because I don't think it is necessary to detain this Chamber any more. Suffice it to say that the record with respect to 1989 is very clear, that 1989 represented one of the most successful years with respect to the housing policy of this Government and perhaps to the housing policy of any Government in Barbados in the last 30 or 40 years.

Senator Barker made the point that the Government does not have a housing policy. I am not sure what he uses as a measure, or an indicator of housing policy. I am unable to make this a document of the House because it does not belong to me but I would be happy on a subsequent occasion to provide the House with a similar document. At the bottom of page 27 under the Heading of Infrastructural Programme, the Government's Housing Policy is clearly set out through page 28 and into page 29. I am not going to read it today because I assume that all Honourable Senators have functional literacy. So I am setting to rest this matter of the Government's housing policy. It is clearly documented and it is a matter of record and it is there for everybody to see and if you are in any doubt that document I am assured has either been deposited already in the Libraries and the Archives of the Caribbean, and if it has not been it will be very shortly.

12.15 p.m.

Now I need, Mr. President, to say something about housing in 1989 since quite a lot has been said about it. The record will show that in 1989 there was substantial overheating in the housing sector in Barbados. It was almost impossible for a private individual to retain the services of a craftsman in 1989. It was almost impossible and, without the presence of large numbers of Vicentian craftsmen in Barbados, there is no way in Barbados that we could have attained the level of activity in construction as we achieved in 1989. I am not sure whether Senator Barker understood these things because he would have been pleading for Government to be more active. If Government had intervened to a greater extent in 1989, the end result would have been more houses being built but higher prices earned by artisans and eventually higher housing costs.

The third point which I think that I need to make and quite quickly is that this Government (as well as previous administrations) has always had a problem with recovery of money put into projects in the public housing. It is a matter of public record that there has always been difficulty in collecting the rents. The fact of the matter is this, whichever Government you have (and this is my simple understanding of Government), the resources Government garnishes are those resources which come from the ordinary people of the country and you cannot put more into "X" in any given time period without putting less into "Y". That is the situation which faces a Government in the final analysis.

When Senator Barker is arguing for more houses, I think he has to understand that in the context of 1989 it would have been dangerous for everybody in Barbados. Because once housing costs go up they do not come down. I also think too, Mr. President, that it is incorrect to say that land development cost in Barbados has spiralled because of the imposition of indirect taxation. What comes out quite clearly is that Senator Barker certainly is not at ease when he comes to addressing the issue of the economics of the land market. In Barbados, a small country, there is a certain amount of land available for residential purposes in the land market and whatever you do that supply is fixed. So that if the pressure of demand on that market increases, there is no way how you can hold down your price. You cannot hold down the price. With respect to the development cost, if the basic cost of the land is going up you do not expect the developer to hold his cost constant. The developer has to have his fair share of that. I do not think that it is wise for Government to go and intervene in that land market and talk in terms of controlling the prices of that land.

I have taken a position before, Mr. President, to the effect that non-Caribbean people should not be permitted to come into Barbados and speculate in the lands of Barbados. If you wish to have access to land for productive purposes and you are going to employ Barbadian people and people who live in Barbados, you can have a 99-year lease. But no non-resident of the CARICOM countries... Or let me put it another way: a person who is not a citizen of either one of these CARICOM countries should not be permitted to come into Barbados and buy up large tracks of land, set it up as a land bank and leave it there, and later make millions from that. I disagree with that position.

Now I am at a loss to understand how is it that Senator Barker could come from a party which has suddenly rediscovered privatisation as the panacea for the problems of Barbados and he is removing that privatisation when it comes to housing. He is saying privateise... Sorry, not he but his party. Privateise the Police Force, privateise the Ministry of Trade, Privateise the Inland Revenue...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator is really misleading this Senate, Sir, when he tells us that the Barbados Labour Party

is advocating the privatisation of the Police Force and I would like him to withdraw those remarks, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Well, as far as I know, that is not a point of order. However, suffice it to say that it is a party which...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I would wish to determine, Sir, and ask you what is your ruling on that matter. I wish to have those remarks withdrawn.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Which remarks do you want withdrawn?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: That the Barbados Labour Party intends to privatise the Police Force, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Those remarks do not have to be withdrawn really. Those are statements he used.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am saying, Sir, that he is misleading the House when he says so, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, you are rising on a point of order and saying that the remarks should be withdrawn. He made a statement that that was one of the statements someone made. What is the point of order you are raising about it?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am saying that he is misleading the House and unless he can bring the assurance...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you saying he is misleading the House on the grounds that the statement he made to the effect that someone in the Labour Party said so is not true? He did not say so.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I did not recall him saying that one of the Members said so. But if he can bring evidence to show, I will withdraw that, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, no. He does not have to bring evidence. He is making the statement in here now that someone said those things. You are saying that that was not made by nobody.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am saying, yes, Sir, he is misleading the House when he says so.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not quarrelling with you. It is nothing to quarrel about.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: As Your Honour so pleases, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, the point that I was making is that because a party which is so fundamentally committed to privatisation I find it difficult to reconcile their position that you privatise everything else, but when it comes to housing "no". The Government must be in there as the main provider. The two things are in conflict.

I think we also have to understand that a lot of the pressure on the demand for house spots in Barbados was created by policy interventions of the Barbados Labour Party Government. We have to understand these things. When the Barbados Labour Party Government amended the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act, it created a lot of pressure on the Government. When they went to Parliament and changed the Act which defined a tenantry as a lot where five persons were living and said it was now two, that drove fear in the hearts of a lot of small owners. I do not have to talk of personal experiences. I know a number of people who have come to me and asked how they could get possession of the land which they were holding for their children who are overseas studying, but by this one stroke of legislation the land was no longer assessable to their children. What has happened is that once a Government has done that it is in my view an act of bad faith. Once you have shown bad faith in a matter like that people will not take chances again. If you drive across Barbados, you will find there are lots of open land which are lying idle and nobody will rent you a spot on them. The reason is that people are saying, "Look, even if I put one person on that, you might find a Government which will come along and say one person constitutes a tenantry and my land is finished".

All I am saying is that Government in the future should learn from these mistakes. Do not try and rush in and pander to the wishes of a couple of hundred people when in fact what you do is to undermine confidence in the country for generations to come. So do not get up in here and start to cry and say that this Government is not doing this and this Government is not doing that. Recognize that the unwisdom of that Act put a lot of pressure on this Government and the previous Administration for house spots.

I take no pleasure today, Mr. President, in taking up the time of the Senate to make these point but I thought that they had to be made. I support this Resolution to vest this land.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that this...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Once again, Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But you spoke already.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No, no, Sir. That was on a point of order. Whether valid or invalid, it was a point of order, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not want to be hard on you. There is only one speech you make up here on these things you know. Whenever you speak, you speak. You can't come and say you were not speaking then.
12.25 p.m.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I find myself constrained, Sir, to make some points relating to this matter. This, Sir, is a Resolution to vest land in the National Housing Corporation so that 27 sites can be provided for the residents in St. Joseph. Sir, if we look at the whole question of the provision of housing and the provision of sites and services over the years, and particularly, in St. Joseph, we would see the sterling contribution made by Grantley Adams in his years of representation in St. Joseph when he ensured that poor people, who would not otherwise be able to afford housing in this country, received the benefit of public sector housing, received the benefit of housing for rental where they could not afford to buy and received the benefits, in his later days, under his son, Tom Adams, of the provision of sites and services to give them land in circumstances where they would not have been able to do it on their own.

So, we have, Sir, a strong and solid history for housing matters, particularly, in the parish of St. Joseph where they have benefited from the acts of Grantley Adams in making them able to provide their own housing through the land and in the acts, Sir, of Tom Adams, through the construction of, I believe, a number of terracing units at the same Lammings in St. Joseph. In fact, right opposite one of the first schools where free secondary education was given back in the late fifties – and Senator Straughn would be able to testify to that. So that that is the foundation upon which this Resolution comes before us today.

But, Sir, I am really at a loss and disheartened to understand how it is that this Government can continue to ignore the needs of those poor and indigent people in the community who cannot afford to build a house, who cannot afford to get out there and have any other kind of housing, other than subsidised rental housing provided by Government. That was the purpose for which housing estates like the Pine, the Farm, Belleplaine, all of those, Kensington Lodge, the same Pondsides which this Government cites as theirs, which was negotiated and planned and started, Sir, by the Barbados Labour Party before 1986 and which was reduced by this Government from 775 units to 34 units. When we hear what was being said in the other place yesterday and we hear stories about 22 units at Parkinson Road and 17 at Golden Mile and 17 at Wotton and 29 at Six Roads and 34 at Pondsides – all of those Sir, were planned and started construction by the Barbados Labour Party prior to May 1986. I referred to

Golden Mile in here earlier. Unfortunately, the Honourable Senator Walkes does not know about that because she seems to have a very shallow knowledge of the parish of St. Peter. I wish she had your knowledge, Sir, after your many years of experience in St. Peter.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, let me just clear the record on that for Senator Mottley and let her know that the same Golden Mile she is talking about is the same place where the flood victims that I am talking about that the Democratic Labour Party had to rescue... That is where they were sent.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: With all due respect to Senator Walkes, Sir, I will continue to inform her and to educate her about Golden Mile in St. Peter and let her know about the 115 house spots that were provided there and let her know also not only were those 115 house spots made provision for, Sir, but \$804 000, as I intimated to this Honourable Chamber earlier, Sir, was left in the National Housing Corporation for the provision of those same flood victims in St. Peter.

But, the point I am making is this: that in all those that have been sited, nowhere has any provision been made for rental units. Those people who work for \$800 a month, those people who work for \$1 000 a month with four or five children who find it difficult to be able to buy food when the week comes and, unlike other people in here, I have known about that all my life, Sir, and the point is that those people... As I said, you in the Chair, would be well aware of those circumstances too, because you have fought valiantly on behalf of those same workers and to ensure not only that they have the right to proper conditions in their service of work but that they have the right to decent and basic human rights when they leave that job at work and that they come home to a house in which they feel at least they are able to bring up their children without worrying about whether it is leaking, without worrying about whether the dampness in the walls will give the grandmother arthritis.

These are matters, Sir, that this Government is showing total and absolute neglect in dealing with. And, I would hope Sir, that this Resolution is for the provision of sites and services and I welcome that provision in St. Joseph. We heard yesterday, in the other place, the representative for that area alluding to the fact that they needed at least 200 of those spots to be able to begin to dent the need in that particular parish. However, I would hope, Sir, that in granting access to those house spots, hopefully there is some provision to build these rental units, because I am not speaking in vain, Sir; I am not speaking to score political points like people on the other side, Sir. There is a genuine desire on the part of myself and the Barbados Labour Party that these people receive the kind of housing that they need. If they can do it now, I am begging them to do it now so that the point is this, Sir: I also want to be

assured that when they do it, Sir, when they start to provide housing units for those poor people who are earning the \$800 with four or five children who can't afford to build and who are struggling... I have people coming to me on a weekly basis in St. Michael and I will make the point for the needs of St. Michael, especially in the Bush Hall, Jackson and Hothersall Turning area. Nevertheless, Sir, despite that fact, I want to be assured that when those rental units are eventually built – and I hope that the message is carried to the present Minister of Housing to do something and to at least have a record in housing unlike his predecessor for rental units for poor people in this country – we have an assurance that the people who receive those units are not only those people who are poor but yet able-bodied or those young people who are now starting off in life but that the pensioners, too, be considered for allocation of these spots, Sir, because it is significant to note that in the last few years there seems to be a dire need for the housing needs of pensioners in this country as well.

Apart from that and the noises of all people all and sundry, there continues to be a need for housing for those pensioners, Sir. Not only a need for housing... It is all right to provide housing, but when you give them the housing, adequate provision needs be made once again to provide for the payment of their electricity and water bills. What I find perhaps the most startling figure in all of this, Sir, is a figure which shows that in 1987 – and I would like to quote and make this a document of the Chamber, please, Sir. 12.35 p.m.

I would like to quote and make this a document of the House please, Sir. It is already a document of the House but I refer to it – the Barbados Economic Report of 1987. When it came to the Table for water consumption and the number of consumers the record used by the Barbados Water Authority to determine the number of people benefiting from its service between 1986 and 1987 there was a drop of 2 000 people on non-metered water supply. Two thousand people came off the water supply, Sir, because of inactive service because they were unable to pay their bills. I am saying this is a direct result and I hope Senator Morrison will find it possible to answer it when I sit down...

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, that is a statement that is untrue. I would like to elucidate and clarify it. The fact of the matter is that the meters were found to be defective. A policy decision was taken that there would not be metered services any longer – hence the reduction.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am grateful for Senator Lewis' interjection but in relation to what I said just now was on non-metered services, not metered services. I said there was a drop of 2 000 households from that non-metered service in this country. I am saying that it is a direct result of this Government's policy not to pay the

water and electricity bills of the old people which were being paid up until 1986 and who were also receiving the benefit of the Home Help Programme. I want some kind of assurance that when these housing matters and these rental units for housing come up that this Government would eventually build this type of housing.

Senator Alleyne got in here and said that when you put money in X you have to withdraw it from Y. Those were his words. I would hate to think that this Democratic Labour Party Government which shows itself and makes speeches to this country that it is a caring Government, that they would think that the housing needs of those poor people out and around Barbados are not on its highest priority when you have, as an individual, 10 and 12 people coming to me every week because they do not know what is going to happen to them in terms of being able to find a house. I would hate to think that they do not consider that a priority in terms of the allocation of their resources as a Government.

In respect of the points that he made with the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, Sir, they continue to appeal to the smaller amount of people who were the landowners at the risk of those thousands of Barbadians who benefited from the security of tenure and whose families have toiled for this country for centuries and who have lived on those house spots for upwards of decades and in some cases centuries. It hurts my heart to think that people who pride themselves with a strong sense of social conscience in this country can get up and want to reverse a process that enfranchised thousands of black and small poor Barbadians in this country. Sir, I find it difficult to believe that is the line they would want to take.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, Senator Mottley just said that I made statements which suggest that this Government is empathising with a few landowners. I am saying the record will not show that I said that. I never said that and nothing I said could be so interpreted.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: One other point on this Resolution before I sit down, that is, I would hope that once these sites and services are provided, and the rental units eventually will be provided for those people who are least able to afford housing in this country, that not only will they stop on those matters but will ensure that some form of economic activity is brought to bear in those areas so that the children of those people living there will have a chance too of being able to provide their own housing because they are in good and secure jobs and therefore do not need the assistance of Government in providing subsidised housing or in finding sites and services today.

When one looks at the question of housing it is just not sufficient to provide housing in a particular area but it is

necessary to ensure that the commensurate services of the obvious ones of roads, water and light are provided – I have dealt with that already – also some form of economic activity is provided in the area so as to eventually release the pressure on Government's housing policy.

I know that many of you may not be in here, say, in 20 or 30 years time but I hope we will not be faced with the same housing problems that are now presently facing this country. I hope at that time we would be able to have more money to move from X to Y without having to consider the poor people who cannot afford to build their own houses because we have provided the wherewithal for them to do it themselves.

With that, Sir, I sit and I would support the Resolution and urge Government to continue to do more. I know they will come and make all sorts of statements but at the end of the day, one statement that they cannot change and on their own report which shows that only six rental units were built in the year of 1989, the year which they bragged about up and down this country, and that out of all those thousands of houses only six units were built for those poor people, the people who work in the supermarket across the bridge, the people who work in the fields reaping sugar canes now, the people who work in the cotton, the people who work as domestics in this country and the people who do all of those things.

It is unfortunate that some people in here seem to think that they have a prerogative when it comes to feeling about poor people. I would hope that those people who feel that they have that prerogative and knowing full well that they have a special influence on the Minister of Housing, that they ensure that the Minister of Housing addresses those needs. With that I sit, Sir.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, it would appear to me that all the poor people's problems became evident when a young Daniel came to Parliament, forgetting all the work that had been done by various people in this country, the Democratic Labour Party in particular, your union which has been orchestrating all the rights and wrongs for the poor people of this country throughout all the years and as far as poor people's problems are concerned, and since the Labour Party was so much taken up with the plight of poor people of this country and about housing and all the rest of it, they seem to forget that when we had the windfall money in this country and the union had a plan to make all the poor people in the agricultural area self-sufficient in most things, that same Labour Party went about the length and breadth of this country telling the same people to demand every cent of their windfall so that they would not be in a position to be able to stand up on their own feet in this country like other people. You are talking about you are so conscious of the poor people in this

country? You are making sport. You all have always opposed anything that would come to make the small man more self-sufficient in this country so do not bother to talk about your record. You do not have any record at all in that respect.

As far as doing something for the parish of St. Joseph by the Labour Party, I remember very well, Sir, in that same forgotten parish when the only light that came to that parish was when the Democratic Labour Party came into power in 1961 when we were trying to bring some kind of progress for the people in that parish.

12.45 p.m.

It was so significant at that time that the Junior Member for St. Joseph, Mr. L. E. Smith when his voice was paraded throughout the whole of Bridgetown from the House of Parliament down to the Greens you could hear him saying, "Lammings, Lammings, Lammings" because the DLP had done something for the first time for that parish which made the representative cry out in Parliament as if we had done the biggest thing in the world. He said, "Lammings, Lammings, Lammings". You could hear "Lammings" being shouted from the length of this House and his voice was paraded down to the Greens in Broad Street; he was so happy and enlightened by the nice policy we were pursuing for the first time in this country for the people of St. Joseph. You all do not have any record in St. Joseph. We have continued to provide the people in St. Joseph with some kind of progress and enlightenment so that they would feel as if they are people who are wanted in this community.

As far as the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act is concerned, it was a laudible thing at the time when your people gave people land at 10 cents a square foot.

But what has never been told to this country is that many estate tenancies were allowed to escape out the net. We have Bulkeley Tenantry in St. George where the most of that land was sold on open market to people who never worked on plantations. They kept a few spots for the labourers. Boarded Hall Tenantry again some went to the middle class people. When your party had been able to allow who they wanted to escape from the net escape then they came out and gave the other remaining lots to the poor people of this country, the agricultural labourers. Do not fool yourselves. That did not escape my attention. A lot of people seem not to remember that. Some of the tenancies owned by the estate have been allowed to go into middle-class development. Go into Bulkeley Tenantry and see for yourself now. The people who got their lands in that tenantry had to buy it at the price per square foot that was prevailing at the time. They did not get any 10 cents per square foot lots. Even the poor people who were in there for 45 years and so did not get lots at 10 cents per square foot. They had to buy it at \$1.50 and \$2.00 per square foot like anybody else. So even when you appeared to be virtuous

you were being vile. That is the kind of thing the Labour Party did to the people. Even when you appeared to be generous and virtuous, you still have something in the background to hold back a fellow from going forward so that you could say, "I did so and so." But in actual fact you have a paper thing. All you all do is paper development. So, Sir, when they talk about this love for poor people they are talking out of their hat.

Nobody has done more for the poor people and the labourers of this country than you have done in your lifetime and I do not hear you bragging about that. But people come yesterday morning and they say, "We have the poor people at heart." They are using terms today in this Senate which makes a shame and a mockery of poor people. Because from the time of the advent of these two new Senators, every time I hear something about housing, they are talking about going into the yard and doing something. We do not have anything named "pit" about here any more. You could use a decent road, the privy. We have passed that word every sense about "pit" and all kinds of nonsense. The word is "privy".

We have been able to provide pensioners enjoying the right to get water in this country through the DLP. We have reduced water rates to the point where people can pay for their water rates. We have reduced water rates on two occasions since we came into power since 1986. Where were you? We have reduced water rates twice in this country not once.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: All right Sir, I will address the Chair. We have been doing things in our own way to make life easy and more meaningful for the poor people of this country. We have paid light bills for the poor people out of the welfare fund. We pay for water. Other people have enjoyed other reductions in the water rates because we saw that it was unbearable and we reduced it from time to time.

Sir, I should like to support this Resolution and I should like to assure this Honourable House that the Democratic Labour Party has always been in the forefront in its policies pronouncement which would tend to produce some kind of benefit at all times to the most poor people in this community. We have always tried by our policies, even when you look at the Civil Service. When I was a young Civil Servant years ago, the gap between the higher paid people and the lower ones was very wide. Today the gap between the new entrant into the Civil Service and the upper is almost narrowed to the point by enlightened policies again and by union representations so that we are fast closing that gap between the top echelons in the service and the lower order. That has been a continual policy of the Democratic Labour Party Government.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the debate ranged far and wide. There was one statement made which I tried to challenge and there was an insistence that what was being said was correct.

What I wish to do is to draw the attention of the Honourable Senate and to have an extract read into the Minutes of this session so that we may know the truth. I quote from page 64 of the Economic Report 1987:

"Water consumption increased from 43.80 million cubic metres in 1986 to 44.71 million cubic metres in 1987. Of this consumption, 34.13 million cubic metres was used by non-metered services while 10.58 million cubic metres was used by metered services."

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It cannot be a point of order when a person is reading something. When they are finished.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS:

"In 1987 the Barbados Water Authority made a total of 2 288 new connections, of which 1 235 were non-metered services and 1 053 metered services. The total number of customer services was 79 746 as compared with 81 002 in 1986."

Not in the text, Mr. President was the statement that there was a reduction of some 2 000 services. I do not know if 79 746 subtracted from 81 002...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, my understanding of the Standing Orders is that the Honourable Senator

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point of order you want to make.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir. I am saying that the Honourable Senator is misleading the House on the basis of what I said.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: He is misleading the House on the basis of what I said, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What did you say.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I said that there was a reduction in non-metered services between 1986 and 1987 - I offered to make this a document of the Senate -

where it went from 62 994 in 1986 to 60 783 in 1987. I wish, Sir, as I said to make this a document of the House in respect of non-metered water services.

I was not talking about overall consumption which can increase because a few people may use more.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Or burst mains and leakages because of lack of preventative maintenance.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley what I want to point out to you is Members cannot get upon their feet and speak whatever they like from the time they start like a machine, then roll it off and then tell me, "This is what I am saying and what the other person has said is what I am objecting to and what I want withdrawn." It does not work like that in the Senate.

12.55 p.m.

I have to draw your attention to the rules. We have rules that guide debate in the Senate. We do not debate matters in here like how you feel. All the rules in the Senate must be adhered to. You rise on a point of order, therefore you are going to be listened to. The Leader makes a point of order, I will listen to him. But do not think that either Member of the Senate has an over-riding position to the other. Do you get it, not when I am sitting in the Chair. All Members are equal to the rules of this Chamber, and do not get this idea, I do not enter the debate. You are going to adhere to the rules of the debate. You rise to a point of order, therefore you rise to a point of order. If you make a statement, you make a statement. But I am the President presiding over the debate, therefore I do not enter into the debates. Get it clear what the position is in so far as the debate is concerned. The debate has got to be conducted in an orderly manner and the presiding officer has that responsibility.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am indeed grateful to Your Honour Sir. I was just trying to make the point of order, Sir. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President I am not sorry for that intervention because I will set the record straight anyhow. The total number of customer service was 79,746 as compared with 81,002 in 1986. Now the 79,746 was made up of metered 18,963, non-metered 60,783 and in the previous year the metered was 18,008 and the non-metered was 62,994. Fair enough Mr. President, but that is only part of the story. The same document explains and this is the point I am making, the

same document explains the decrease is due to the deletion of non-active services. We intend to say, and we forget and we don't say. When we come into this place and we are going to quote, we should quote all, not part. In another place you are permitted to quote all, in order to make your point, in the Senate we deal with facts.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate once again, Sir, in respect of what was said, Sir, on my behalf, Sir, and making the aspersion that I am misleading the House and not giving all the facts. I said, Sir, in my speech that the services were due to inactive, the cut down was due to inactive services, Sir. But I also went on to give the reasons for the inactive services, Sir. So I did not mislead the House Sir, because I told this Honourable House that the reduction was due to inactive services, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley you cannot fall into this habit of making statements that an Honourable Member is misleading the House. You are making these positive statements all the time that the Honourable Member is misleading the House. You cannot assume the role of the President, therefore you are assuming my role, that I can't function, because before I rule you rule that the person is misleading the House. You are assuming my role.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: All I was doing, Sir, was making a point of order, Sir. I abide by the Chair's ruling all the time, Sir, especially, Sir, your ruling Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I know you will. I am only saying that you make these positive frontal statements and then you don't leave the Chair anything to do because you say the person is already misleading the House.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President I beg to move that this sitting be now adjourned and that the Senate meet again on Wednesday 13th March at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the sitting be adjourned and the Senate meet again on the 13th March, 1991 at 11.00 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

1.04 p.m.

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THE

SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

SENATE

Wednesday, March 13, 1991.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, March 13, 1991, at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator A. MORRISON

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

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS

Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)

Senator Dr. Frank W. ALLEYNE

Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES

Senator Dr. E. A. SIMMONS

Senator J. J. PAYNE

Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, G.C.M.

Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT

Senator C. O. WILLIAMS

Senator W. L. INNISS

Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. SPRINGER

Senator J. A. F. COLE

Senator T. E. BARKER

Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The Estimates 1991–92;
2. The Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 1991;
3. The Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 1991;
4. Instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 77th Session held in Geneva – June, 1990.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I move the First Reading of a Bill to amend the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Act, Cap. 396. Notice of this Bill was given on 12th March, 1991. I beg to move that the Bill be read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, in order to permit us to conduct business in relation to the Bill which was just read a First Time, it is necessary for me to move that we suspend Standing Order 45(2). I beg, therefore, to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for today's sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SOIL CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND DISTRICT)
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Bill seeks to amend the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Act, Cap. 396 in order to facilitate the transfer to the Minister and to the Permanent Secretary certain powers which are vested presently under the Act in the Chief Agricultural Officer. That is basically the main amendment.

There are other amendments which relate to the Scotland District Soil Conservation Board, amendments relating to the functions of that Board, the need for the appointment of a Soil Conservation Review Committee.

Mr. President, it will probably be recognised that the Soil Conservation Act is one of the few laws which confer wide powers on a public officer. After almost 25 years of independence, it is somewhat inconsistent to have certain powers vested in public officials. Whereas the Minister has responsibility for the Department and the activities of the staff which are working in the Ministry, in this particular instance it is the Chief Agricultural Officer who has all the power under the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Act.

These wide powers assigned to a public officer can have far-reaching implications and effects upon the Minister's responsibility. The Act does not accord the Minister any authority or power to amend, vary or influence any decisions taken under that Act.

As we are aware, Mr. President, the Scotland District represents a unique part of this country, certainly in terms of the topography of the Scotland District area, and certainly in terms of the Government's commitment towards enhancing agriculture, in terms of the economic importance which must be applied to the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture.

11.30 a.m.

The Scotland District is considered to be a vital area for development of the Government's thrust in the area of non-sugar agriculture. If it is accepted that the existing law is inconsistent with the spirit and the reality of ministerial responsibility, then it is evident that these amendments are somewhat long overdue. So as I said earlier, the main objective of the amending legislation is to provide for this transfer of power vested in the Chief, to require him to act on directions, either of the Minister, or of the Permanent Secretary.

The Soil Conservation Board will become an advisory board to the Minister, instead of advisory to the Chief Agricultural Officer, and the composition of the Board will be shifted. The existing position is that the Chief

Agricultural Officer receives advice from the Board which is headed by one of the Deputy Chiefs in the Ministry, and when the decisions are taken and implemented, that is fiat under this Act.

Under the proposed arrangement, the Chief Agricultural Officer will become a member of the Board. He will continue to be the Chief Technical Advisor to the Minister. He, as a member of the Board, will make his input and the Board will advise the Minister accordingly. In addition, provision is made in these amendments for the establishment of a review committee to hear and determine appeals under section 6(4) of the Act. In addition, some of the amendments identify the Permanent Secretary as the person responsible for the accounting functions of the Scotland District in his role as accounting officer for the Ministry; so that, Mr. President, there is a new schedule to the Bill which relates to the membership of the Review Committee, constitution of the Soil Conservation Review Committee and that Committee will comprise of a Minister other than the Minister responsible for Agriculture – that Minister to be appointed by Cabinet. The Solicitor General ex officio is nominally to be a member and three other persons to be appointed by Cabinet.

In terms of the Scotland District residents, I believe that statements are being made in other places and at different times indicating that Government is not only committed to a refashioning of the land in the Scotland District in order to make the living conditions of the inhabitants of those parishes somewhat more comfortable; but it is believed that by reconstituting the Scotland District Board and requiring it to examine in somewhat more detail the global activities which take place in that important part of the island that we will be able with one voice to reflect upon the needs for enhancing the roads in the Scotland District, for responding to the matters which relate to the community development within the area, the tourism potential in the area and also to advise the appropriate ministry on the need, if it arises, for improved health and other facilities in the Scotland District.

We envisage that the reconstitution of the Scotland District Board will pave the way for a thorough examination of the total potential of the area.

Incidentally, Mr. President, there is presently a study which is continuing on the prospects of enhancing tropical forestry within the Scotland District and in other parts of the island. We believe that it will be possible not only to improve the forestry within the area but also to utilise more advantageously the vast amount of water which runs in underground streams in the Scotland District and which, we believe, can be tapped, not only for irrigation purposes, but also for the purposes of developing some sort of... Certainly, if not developing in the short term, carrying out experiments on the possibility of fish farming in the Scotland District area.

This amendment therefore, Mr. President, provides much opportunity for the long delayed development of the Scotland District area. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, we are indeed glad that the Minister now has the authority and power to act decisively on matters pertaining to the Scotland District. If you will recall, the present Act was brought into force in 1959 during the colonial period where it was customary that power resided with executive officials as opposed to elected ones. So, as such, the Chief Agricultural Officer had enormous power over almost all types of development that took place in the Scotland District. The power is now, if the Senate agrees, being transferred to the Minister.

I just want to state, Sir, that power also brings with it responsibility and it also brings with it accountability. The Minister has stated that this Bill will now pave the way for substantial developments in the Scotland District and I think it a little bit strange that developments could have been hindered by an Act which only took a little bit of resolve and a little bit of time to change. What I am saying is that if the provision of the 1959 Act were stopping development in the Scotland District area, then whoever was the Minister of Agriculture should have come to Parliament long before and sought amendments to the Act. Don't come and tell us now that developments were hindered. We have the power in the Senate and in the House of Assembly to change, to amend and to bring any law so long as it is done in the constitutional manner.

Mr. President, the Scotland District is an area of tremendous importance to all Barbadians. It represents about one-sixth of our land area and from there a lot of our building materials, clay, natural gas and so on, come. It is important then, that we do everything that is in our power to maintain the integrity of the Scotland District because it is so crucial to our development and therefore we, on this side, are very upset that the Scotland District has been allowed to come to the stage where it is at now, where there is evidence over the years that not enough attention has been paid to this part of Barbados. As you pass around Sir, you see signs of enormous decay, areas which 15, 20, 30 years ago were producing food for Barbados, sugar cane, potatoes and so on, now produce nothing but bush, cow itch and other such undesirable...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not going to permit these sort of loose things which have nothing to do with the measure before us. This is the second reading of the Bill that is before us. Deal with that.

11.40 a.m.

Deal with that. If you have not read it, I will give you time to read it. Do not take me for an exercise in the history of Barbados agriculture. You have a Bill before you. We

are dealing with that. I want Honourable Members to understand that I am not going to permit them to believe they can get up and speak on everything that comes to their mind. Though they are rambling, I have to bring the debate to order.

It is the Second Reading of a Bill before the Chamber. Understand what a Second Reading means. You are dealing with the principles. If you are not clear as to what the principle means then do not speak. If you are clear on what the principle means, then speak on those things. It is the Second Reading of the Bill.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. Soil erosion has been a serious problem in the Scotland District especially since the 1950's. The happenings of the 1950's prompted the authorities of that day to bring this Bill that we are now seeking to amend into being. What we are called upon this morning to do is to transfer, as I said before, some of these powers to the Minister.

Sir, I want to refer to one or two things that the Minister spoke about. I remember reading some time ago that the Scotland District has an enormous amount of water for irrigation and other purposes. The result of all that spring water in that area has led to the erosion problem. We are glad that the Government is seeking to harness some of the water in the Scotland District area for irrigation purposes.

Sir, I remember about two or three years ago I was down in the Scotland District on an ADC plantation. I saw the results of some of the irrigation schemes that have been going on down there. I was impressed with the amount of thought that went into the project at Bawdens. There was something that annoyed me. I saw the pipe tubing but still some fruit trees were not being irrigated. When the officer checked he found that the persons who were working there had somehow not laid the pipes even although the pipes were there. The result was that the trees, which I think were soursop trees, were suffering as a result of the neglect of the particular officer. All of the schemes that we put into place in the Scotland District, all the Bills that we bring before the House, would be to no avail if the will is not there to effect the development in the Scotland District.

What is also worrying is the migration of people from the Scotland District to other parts of Barbados with the resulting degradation of the area. Only a week or so ago I was in the Scotland District area and I saw roads that a few years ago were good roads. Now because of the erosion and the neglect of the Government, they are now no more than tracks. When the water falls they are impassable. The people who live in the area would, obviously, be cut off. The people in the Scotland District – I think that both of my grandparents came from the Scotland District – deserve better than...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is that important to the debate where your grandmother came from?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: It might be important to me, Sir, so I beg your indulgence.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, but it is not important to the debate. Your grandmother does not have to come from the Scotland District for you to debate an issue. It is what you are debating not where your grandmother came from because your grandfather might not come from the same area.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I know the reasons why they had to leave the Scotland area to come to St. Michael. I just mentioned that to show ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, fathers and grandmothers do not have to travel in tandem, I do not want us to get mixed up in those kinds of things in the Senate. Get down to the debate of the substance of the matter that we are dealing with. We will make more progress. Time is important for us.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the migration from the Scotland District is causing problems to the country and no better example of the neglect of the Scotland District was what happened a few weeks ago when children in the Turner's Hall area were forced to use insanitary toilets. We saw a big demonstration. This, to me, is symptomatic of the problems that the Minister of Agriculture is going to face as he uses the power conferred on him by the said Conservation Act because the people in the Scotland area are crying out for help. We are very glad on this side that the Minister now has the power to act decisively to improve the lives of the people in the Scotland District. We look forward in the next couple of years, now that the Minister has the power, to see better roads in the Scotland District and better provisions made for the people.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am glad to see that Horse Hill is now being properly done for the first time. We look forward to seeing Springvale Hill being the next one being done and then...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Other parts of St. Joseph.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Other parts of St. Joseph and other parts of St. Andrew like Turner's Hall because I am sure that the Turner's Hall Woods with its hot spring could be developed as a tourist attraction. The roads down there are virtually impassable. As we seek to develop our tourism, the Minister will have ample opportunity to use the powers that we are conferring on him today. We are glad that the Act is now being amended. We on this side support it.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I have some concerns with a couple of articles in the Bill. I wonder why the Bill does not also empower private people that will be working and cultivating what the Soil Conservation authority puts in place to do some of the same things that the Minister has power to do, that is, to arrest any animals coming on their property and treat them accordingly. It seems a bit unfair that only the Minister and the authority can do this when other people suffer from the same problems and on the same lands that the authority has so wisely, kindly and productively turned over to them. I think it should contain equal privilege to private owners working in the Scotland District. This may be some of the reasons for the migration.

I am also concerned, Sir, and maybe the Minister could tell us why some people should be given preferential treatment over others in paying funds for their land.
11.50 a.m.

This concerns me because whereas I agree with the Honourable Leader of the Senator, Senator the Honourable L. V. H. Lewis that it is long past time, it does seem to me that political favour could take a part in who pays what.

The Minister also explained that this would be a much more comfortable place and a much more developed place. I would like him to add "profitable", for the farmers that work in it. My experience is that there are really two things that can be done with the Scotland District and we all know that anything in the Scotland District in these days, these four wheel drives are all perfectly stationary. The first is the animal and the second is the tree or grass. We should not look at doing anything else in the Scotland District but the two of these other than developing some very attractive tourist development areas. Hopefully the Minister will see it fit to one day come before this Senate for funds to help to develop them in the form of developmental loans to people that have the initiative and the desire to do this.

There is one other area, Sir. I think the fines that are embodied in the Act for people flaunting the Minister's control are far too small. Predators in the Scotland District have a total disregard for hardworking farmers and their properties. When you think of how small a fine this is to what could only be considered parasites and predators, the Minister should be given far more power to put them before the courts and stop it up.

In ending, Sir, I should like to say, having said already, that I agree with most everything the Leader Senator the Honourable L. V. H. Lewis gave us. I wonder if it has been the responsibility and rightly so has been placed on the Minister and he has the power because he is responsible. But in the development of the committee of hearing which is an excellent idea in my opinion, Sir, I wonder if it could be considered that one of the three persons appointed by the Cabinet could not be appointed by

the Opposition so as to determine some kind of balance. It would not be a balance in respect of voting; it would be a balance in respect of ideas.

I think and agree with most of the speakers before that the Scotland District is truly important and in my opinion can be a very financially productive area if the correct agricultural ways and areas are developed. It is truly heartening to see that it is developed and hopefully the bridges and the roads will soon be repaired.

SENATOR MRS. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, I should like to compliment the Government on this Bill and I should like to say that I am particularly happy that – excuse my voice, Mr. President – we are taking this step at this time when Barbados and the world is looking at self sufficiency and looking at also maintaining levels of import substitution and also looking seriously at the export bill, especially in the area of food.

I should like to say that I hope that this Review Committee will possibly develop into an authority a little later on where we can see a complete Board having the responsibility under the Ministry for the entire Scotland area. Because I believe that on the Boards, although they get their criticisms, things can be done more expeditiously without going through a whole lot of red tape.

There are many areas that I know of food and also areas of development for handicraft that we can produce in that area. As a matter of fact, it has always been said that the Scotland District is one of the richest areas as far as facilities are concerned. We do not have minerals like gold but surely we have a number of items in the Scotland District that can bring Barbados money.

The Scotland District can be beautified with woods which can also be used in the area of handicraft. I think of a wood like Cordia which can be very attractively planted in the Scotland District and can also be used as a beautiful wood for producing not only furniture but small items of handicraft. I also think of the Mauby Bark of Colubrina Elliptica and also the Black Bee which is another big word. There is also a tree called the Black Bee. These are used for mauby. We consume a lot of mauby in Barbados. It is true it will take time for these trees to develop. Bay Leaf is another example because we are importing that. I should like to see that we deal with these kinds of things for handicrafts: Pandanus, Cane Lilly, in that area which are going to bring us a good amount of foreign exchange. Because those of you who look at the amount of money that is going out of the country for handicrafts will realize that it is a considerable amount and then the amounts going out for food. Also I should like to see many indigenous fruit trees like the soursop, the sugar apple and the custard apple planted in that area. The gullies also with the lemon grass and many of the herbs, christmas bushes and cerasee and so on that do have export potential, and the aloe vera which is

a very big exporting item these days from the Latin American region. We do export a small amount.

But just think if these things can be grown in the Scotland District in commercial quantities that it can redound to employment for people. You will need people to pick the bay leaves and to package them. So that is employment you are generating. You would need people to saw the wood and things like that. Therefore we will be creating industries and we will be creating employment.
12.00 noon.

I say on this particular Bill that I feel extremely happy. I don't have to say who was born in that area belonging to me, but I am extremely happy because it is Barbados and I can see that this is going to take us in a very wonderful direction where we can earn foreign exchange for this country and where we can project more employment and also create and generate more employment for our citizens. With that Mr. President I thank you.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, I rise to support this amendment to the Act in order to give the Minister more power to deal with a situation in which a very large land mass of this country is involved. The picturesque aspect of the Scotland District with its rolling hills and deep valleys affords a very nice picture to tourists and other people coming to Barbados.

I should like to support this amendment for the main reason that the area is too big and too picturesque an area and it involves a multi-disciplinary approach by several disciplines, including agronomists, engineering works, all of these people should be involved. And it would need somebody at the level of a Minister who would be responsible to the Cabinet, in order to plan the complete development of an area as important as the Scotland District area.

We have seen the present arrangement which we are now about to change, working hardship on the development of that area in the last five years, where we had a Project Manager under the Inter-American Development Funding and that Project Manager was doing some very good work in that area. As a matter of fact, we know now at Haggatts in St. Andrew that there is a complete workshop down there, responsible for the repair of all the vehicles, complete stores and spare parts, including lumber, galvanise, and all of those things that if anything should occur in that area, you would not have to come to town to get the requisite replacements in order to carry out certain repairs which is very important, considering the topography of the area and the hardship in getting to town with vehicles.

We know Sir, that Project Manager has encountered considerable difficulty because he was answerable to the Chief Agricultural Officer who is the legal person responsible for the whole area and even though a Project

Manager was recruited and he was at the level of a Permanent Secretary, he himself still encountered those kinds of difficulties although he was at that particular level. So this amendment Sir is very, very, welcome at this stage if we are going to move ahead in order to plan something real meaningful, with total development of the Scotland District.

I have heard Senator Barker talking about migration out of that area, but Sir, that is not within my knowledge. Over the last 25 years we have encountered considerable difficulty in getting people.... Even when you want to relocate them from one area in the same Scotland District to another district in another area, we have met with considerable resistance by people in that area. Even when the house spot is threatened and the foundations have become exposed because of soil erosion and we want to move people away from those dangerous areas we have always encountered considerable difficulty and resistance from the very people themselves who do not want to move from those very dangerous areas. So I do not know how he got the idea in his head that there has been migration from that particular area. It has never happened at all.

We see houses perched on very dangerous peaks which will be an easy solution by removal, Sir, and yet these people persist in retaining their house spots at that very point much to the chagrin and the ineffectiveness of the authorities to get them to move. When we relocated some people back down by Belleplaine at that time under a former Minister of Agriculture and who at that time was the representative for the area, Mr. Joy Edwards, he himself, had great problems in trying to convince his own electors to move to flatter lands, better suited for housing development. They just did not want to move to other areas.

Now Sir, a lot of work has been done in the area by way of getting the water from out of the soil. Because when the soil becomes swollen with water, it becomes waterlogged; it is then you get land slippage and sometimes you can get all of the land going into the sea. And we have been able to drain certain areas on a systematic basis because the amount of money needed to really make a real concerted attack on that area involves several millions of dollars, probably might be something in the region of \$450 million for start, almost half the Budget of this country. But the piecemeal development that has taken place has done some good. We have been able to reclaim certain areas and we have done a bit of fish farming in that area. We have had the Sedge Pond and we had the other area down by Greenland and we have produced some very good fish. But there again we have had people going into the ponds and taking out the fish. Indeed any amount of security arrangements even to provide the kind of watchman attitude of the people in the area....

So Government Sir, has been concerned about that area in general; we have been able to experiment, (which

the Minister will tell you later on) with the guava tree which is very indigenous to the area, and in recent years we have produced a very big guava of the size of an orange which if we continue to plant guava trees, we might be able to be self sufficient in guava pulp which is a very big ingredient in the Pine Hill Dairy as far as flavour is concerned.

The area is very well suited to this shaddock production and I would like to see more shaddock trees being promulgated in that area so that since shaddock seems to be very peculiar to Barbados as opposed to the other Caribbean Islands I think we should be pursuing more shaddock production.

Sir, as far as the road aspect of it is concerned, from the road engineering point of view (which I would like to shed a little light on for the benefit of the Members of the Senate and Senator Lewis will deal with the agricultural aspect) we in the Ministry of Transport and Works have been very concerned about that area, and during this Financial Year coming up, April 1991 to March 1992 we have moved in a new Sub-Head in the Estimates to ensure that we get some funding for our projects in the Scotland District area. We have actually started some already, Sir. We are embarking on the total repaving of the roads stretching from Greenland to Cattle Wash including the entire East Coast Road in the coming programme. We are talking about a major reconstruction and realignment of Horse Hill; this hill will be reduced in gradient and will become one of the primary access roads to the Scotland District.

12.10 p.m.

We would like also to state that the opportunity is being taken to relocate some houses and to reconstruct a new St. Joseph Post Office at the top of Horse Hill. This post office, Sir, will replace the current one which is rather cramped and cannot be expanded because of the inadequate space. We are also going to construct a temporary bridge at Walkers to replace the bridge which had been destroyed. Design work has already been started and should soon be completed. We are also constructing a temporary road at Turners Hall. It has already been constructed for that matter, Sir, and we are now monitoring the progress of that road in the hope that if it is found to be satisfactory we would go ahead with the paving of that new road at Turners Hall.

We have got in train some major road repairs and strengthening of bridges at Friendship, St. Sylvan's Village, East Coast Road, and Greenland. We have already completed major road reconstruction work at Coconut Grove and Upper Parks. Work has been started at Isolation Road, Jordan Road, St. Simon's, Porey Springs, Chalky Mount, Springfield, Hillaby, Boscobel, and Melrose Hill. Some of those roads have already been completed and some are about to be started. We have also constructed a big

boxed drain at Chimborazo in St. Joseph and we are expecting, Sir, to start some work on drainage improvement on the section of road from Cattlewash to Gaggs Hill for the extension of the East Coast Road project.

Sir, those are just a few highlights of what the Ministry of Transport and Works has in mind for the Scotland District in order to make it more accessible and make it a better roadway for the other developments to take place which mostly are of an agricultural nature and which no doubt the Minister of Agriculture will be able to inform this Honourable Senate about plans for the area. Sir, this Amendment gives the Government the kind of leeway so that it becomes the problem of the whole Cabinet through the Ministry of Agriculture in order to plan a comprehensive programme for the whole Scotland District and to make it a meaningful area in the whole entire island of Barbados.

With those few remarks, Sir, I would like to support this amendment.

SENATOR MISS M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. President, Sir, I believe that it is fair to say that we on this side welcome the amendments of this Bill. We also welcome the attitude that Government is displaying now towards doing as much as is possible not only to preserve the Scotland District, which I believe all good Barbadians will determine as absolutely necessary, but also to ensure that the human development in those areas are catered to, bearing in mind lapses in the past.

Sir, perhaps if we can go back, I believe the first serious action was taken with regard to the Scotland District which came in the 1955 to 1960 Physical Development Plans. Indeed, somewhere there is a survey by the Economic Planning Unit which outlines the actions which were taken in those days. I believe as early as the late fifties we saw the moving of houses from Bawden's where the residents there were experiencing severe difficulties and we saw something like 30 houses being moved at one time because of that. This at the time showed a comprehensive understanding by the Barbados Labour Party Government at the time to deal with problems pertaining to the Scotland District because we understood that it would effect the whole overall economic and physical well being of Barbados. We saw, Sir, also an understanding that these were problems that could not be solved overnight or by any one person or one group of people. Therefore, we committed ourselves to a non-partisan view towards the overall physical development of that area.

This was followed up, Sir, in 1979 when a study called the Scotland District Development Study was prepared and submitted, Sir, and in 1983 the Barbados National Parks Study where we saw recommendations for the whole of the Scotland District to become a national park, Sir, and to preserve the physical wellbeing of that area

whilst, Sir, accommodating the human element in it – that is the needs of the people living within the Scotland District area as well as to deal with the economic potential of that area bearing in mind, however, your overall aim of preserving the environment and preserving the inherent beauty value of the Scotland District, Sir.

I think that is the premise which seems to be advising this Government from what they have said here this morning and I welcome that. I think that at the end of the day, Sir, we have to ensure that the environment is preserved for us who are only here for a short period of time for our children's children. We are transients, Sir, in terms of our enjoyment also of the area. Nevertheless, Sir, what has happened over the years because of the problems faced by the Scotland District Authority...And I beg to differ from the Honourable Senator who just sat down, Senator Morrison, who found it difficult to accept Senator Barker's contention that there had indeed been migration from the Scotland District area and brought his own experience to bear in saying that they had difficulty in relocating people.

I have no doubt, Sir, that there has been some difficulty in relocating the older members who have spent their whole life down there, Sir. But if he looks at the Physical Development Plan of 1983, Sir, I have a photocopy here and I will make it a document of the Senate although I believe it has already been laid in this House before, Sir. On Page 10, I would wish to quote, Sir, this point where it says, "Population: Out-migration from the Scotland District is largely a consequence of the economic stagnation of the area". Prior to that, Sir, it supplies figures which state that in the parish of St. John there was a 0.4% decline, St. Andrew .6% decline, and St. Joseph .9% decline. That is as early as 1983 where we were already seeing a decline in the population in those parishes due to a variety of reasons – the actual physical reasons of remaining in a house where the land is slipping or where one is facing severe water problems, and the pure difficulties that have arisen as a result of those physical problems, Sir; the lack of economic activity in those areas to satisfy the needs; as well as the lack of infrastructural development whether it is roads, water, electricity, or whether it pertains to the general human development factor. So that we saw this migration factor and it has continued steadily, Sir. True enough the older members, Sir, may have difficulty in wanting to leave there because they more than anybody else, Sir, would understand the beauty of that area and they have fond memories of that area for most of their lives and would find difficulty in relocating. But the younger people, Sir, who do not have that deep attachment necessarily to the area and who see perhaps in their mind the development of two Barbados' when they come to Bridgetown, Holetown, or when they go to Oistins, Sir, and who see that there seems to be neglect in terms of roads. Sir, a few months ago I was trying to get to Belleplaine from St. James and came down by Turners

Hall. I am glad to have heard that something is being done about that road now. I hope that the road which I passed on was not the temporary road because the next week when I passed there the rain had washed away most of the marl. Sir, it was almost impossible to pass. You hear regular complaints of residents of St. Andrew who tell you that if they are up in Turners Hall and they want to go to Belleplaine they may as well go back to St. Michael and then come back down because they cannot reach there. So these are problems faced by the people living in the area, Sir.

12.20 p.m.

One other problem, Sir. We read recently in the paper that the farmers in St. Joseph, the sugar farmers in particular, were complaining that because of the fact that it was reported to them that tractors had broken down in terms of fixing the road, they had difficulty getting their crops out. The vegetable farmers, particularly the small man who is farming vegetables and who relies on bringing his produce to town to sell, he too has difficulties because of the lack of proper roads in this area. Therefore, I welcome the report by the Honourable Senator when he tells us of the roads, like Isolation Road and St. Simon's Road, being done in St. Andrew and I hope that Government will continue to ease the burden, after five years of neglect in St. Andrew.

Aside.

SENATOR MISS M. A. MOTTLEY: I didn't mean that, Sir. I think there is universal acceptance that there has been a dearth of resources, particularly in the last five years in St. Andrew, and I would wish to congratulate Senator Morrison. I know his competence is very well spoken of, and particularly as an experienced Parliamentary Secretary I am sure that he is going to ensure the needs of the small man, particularly in the St. Andrew, St. Joseph and St. John areas, are met.

Before we leave the question of the roads, there seems to be a difficulty on the part of the people down there and I think perhaps some sort of public relations campaign needs to be done, because it is almost an attitudinal problem in the sense that they really feel that they have been neglected by the rest of Barbados. We need to hold our hands out and bring them within the fold again, because after all, one hurtful thing is that the majority of this Island's natural resources, what little we have – the natural gas, the water, whatever – come from down there. We really need to bring them back within the fold and to harness their energies towards the total development of Barbados.

I understand that they were very upset when they heard of the proposed development at Cattlewash. We know that really and truly that presented a serious problem in terms of preserving the environment of this country and we are glad to see that we have not heard anything more

from Government and we hope that that is an indication that this Government will not condone any such type of development at Cattlewash or in any other area delineated as part of the Barbados National Park. I hope that this is a positive indication.

I see, Sir, that in this Session the Government has a Ministry of the Environment and I hope that that also is an indication that matters pertaining particularly to the Scotland District, where the environment is crucial, because of the delicacy of the landscape there, and the different types of landscape – the clay, the Joes River muds, the salt bed – that those things will be addressed also by that Ministry. I am a little disheartened there though, because there seems to have been a decision to leave the Environmental Engineering Unit in the Ministry of Health rather than encompass all of it under one Ministry, as Senator Lewis told us is being done in terms of the Scotland District Authority. I welcome that, because I think it is essential that there is one body which can comprehensively manage all types of development which take place in that area, whether it is housing, water, roads, mining and quarrying or the other economic potential that it has of eco-tourism, whether it is in pursuit of this same policy to which Senator Lewis referred being done by the FAO for the tropical re-afforestation, whatever it is I think you need one central body which can co-ordinate for the benefit of all Barbadians all the activity that takes place between the north and the south on that east coast.

We heard Senator Fraser, who made some very valuable comments in relation to the type of activity which could take place there in terms of the types of woods, et cetera, and aloe vera, which can be grown to enhance the economic potential of that area. We heard Senator Morrison refer to the fish farming. We hope that any subsequent project will be more successful than the previous one.

We know that the Barbados Labour Party, when it was in Government, pursued vigorously the planting of fruit trees in the Scotland District area, particularly citrus and banana production, and there was much assistance received from the Israelis at that time. There seems to have been some lapse between 1986 and 1989 but the Government, I believe after some pressure from the general public, appear as though they are resuming that project and I welcome that resumption in terms of the emphasis on fruit farming in that area.

In respect of the re-afforestation, Sir, it is generally accepted that trees bind and hold the soil. I hope that not only will we assist the FAO in their tropical re-afforestation project, but that there will be a general programme to sensitise all Barbadians in respect of the importance of the re-afforestation, not only to the Scotland District but to Barbados generally.

I wish also to deal with the economic potential that is possible through mining. The Scotland District, while having that kind of beauty, Sir, also has the great economic potential in terms of mining, but a caveat has to be issued here, because one knows that reckless and large scale mining without any proper management can easily wreck that landscape. While you have a situation where things like sand, clay and raw materials for the building and construction industries generally can be exploited for their economic potential, one has to be wary of environmental problems that might result from that mining.

This was one of the things that pleased me when I read the Physical Development Plan of 1983 which was tabled many years ago in this Chamber, and that is that they were cognisant of the dangers that could be wrought by uncontrolled and reckless mining. They laid down that some sort of guidelines had to be brought to bear to ensure, for example, that the sand extraction at Walkers Savannah did not destroy the community life and the farming in Belleplaine by having adverse effects on wind barriers. They dealt with the whole question of whether the excavation of sand and clay at Turner's Hall might have adverse effects on forest conservation. They dealt with whether the clay being extracted from Greenland and Morgan Lewis was likely to affect the landscape which many of us not only like to see for ourselves, but also like to take visitors and refer to as perhaps the eighth wonder of the world down there on the east coast.

These are things, for example, whether the proposed National Park would be affected by the sand extraction at Springfield, as well as also to affect that magnificent view from on top Bissex Hill.
12.30 p.m.

We would hope, Sir, that in the general approach towards the Scotland District and the Scotland District Authority that they be cognisant of matters pertaining, not only to exploiting the economic potential of the area, but, Sir, bearing in mind that the environment now is perhaps one of our major problems, not only in Barbados – I would say, Sir, that the world has finally awoken to that fact, and anything that is done there requires a due consideration of the effects that it could have on the environment.

We would hope, Sir, that one of the findings which was recommended in the earlier Scotland District Development Plan of 1979, that of Belleplaine becoming a major centre on that part of the East coast, that some consideration be given towards that aim again, because we will find that once you are able to develop the economic potential surrounding those areas; once you are able to ensure that people, for example, don't have to go to town to find work, Sir, or that people can find all the services which they require in normal daily living within that environment, that like Speightstown would take off as a small business

centre and would certainly benefit the inhabitants of the north and the eastern parishes.

I see Senator Phillips nodding and I know, Sir, that there is nothing more he would like to see than that. Perhaps, Sir, we would see branches of all kinds of companies up in the North there. If they have the woods, Senator Fraser says, and I agree with her. So, I hope that the reforestation plan would start soon, Sir.

In respect, Sir, of the human resources, it is essential that we look at the potential of developing a town like Belleplaine. Comments were made, Sir, in the other place, about the destruction of Four Roads as a commercial centre of activity. I think only within the last day or so, and one would hope that we exploit the development in areas on the eastern side of the island... I would wish also before I sit, Sir, to urge this Government. We see that the Estimates were laid today and we hope that part of the \$1.4 billion that is being spent... We would have liked to have seen a greater emphasis on spending within that Scotland District Authority.

Sir, I believe that sometime before the Barbados Labour Party left government in 1986, we received funding from the Inter-American Development Bank for \$12 million which was to provide terracing in the Scotland District as well as the provision of dams and we hear also from Senator Morrison of the possibility of further loans, Sir, to deal with that, but I would dare to say that that area of Barbados needs such a substantial part of Government's expenditure and attention to catch back up with the rest of Barbados that we must take the action now, Sir. We hear complaints of people from those areas saying that there are roads in St. Michael that were paved two and three times in two and three years when they, in the country, were unable to benefit from even one road, and while not wanting to deprive the rights and entitlements, Sir, of those in St. Michael, we must remember that after all we are one Barbados, Sir, and we must ensure that Government's activities as well as our own personal activities (as the Trade Union movement has done over the years), that those activities are brought under the banner of one. With unity there is strength: that is why I referred to it, bringing and dealing with the attitudinal difficulties with those people who feel that they have been neglected to bring them within the fold, Sir, and deal with them so that we can harness the energy of everyone who lives on this rock towards the betterment of this country.

I hope, Sir, therefore, that this Government will strengthen the resolve that it is beginning to show, having been given the good lead by the Barbados Labour Party in the 50's and in 1979 and 1983 with the various studies; that it will strengthen its resolve and continue in an area, Sir, which I think cannot be partisan, because it is for the benefit of this country, but it will also put aside its pride and follow the lead taken in the Barbados Labour Party's

manifesto of 1991 where we called for a rural modernisation plan which will ensure that that additional expenditure and that additional emphasis is placed on bringing rural Barbados back within the fold of the whole of this country.

I would hope, Sir, that Senator Lewis will do this. Before I sit, Sir, there are one or two other points slightly different relating to the Bill which I would wish to make at this stage. Senator Barker already said that with increased ministerial powers comes increased responsibility and accountability and I welcome the statement of Senator Lewis that it is necessary as we develop as a country that we ensure the principles of ministerial responsibility remain intact, and I am glad to see his approach to it, Sir, given the fact, that the track record of previous Ministers of Agriculture left one in doubt as to whether that was the principle from which they acted.

Nevertheless, Sir, in respect of the Review Committee which this amendment provides for, all I would wish to say at this point on that is that I wouldn't want to say it is superfluous because that may perhaps be a little too strong; but there is an act called the Administrative Justice Act which the Barbados Labour Party introduced which ensured that there were always grievances measures – Senator Inniss would be well briefed in these matters, Sir – that there were always procedures for dealing with grievances in public and administrative law. Indeed, we have seen recourse to this Act, time and time again. The only body which cannot benefit from appeal procedures under that Act are those listed in the Schedule to the Administrative Justice Act, like the Immigration Act. Perhaps, because that is sui generis and involves matters of high security, there has been provision that that Appeals body, established under the Immigration Act, is separate, and that, too, like this one that is proposed here is chaired by a different Minister, Sir, other than the Minister of Immigration, but I would say, Sir, that I wonder. I can understand perhaps the need for that in Immigration but I wonder whether there is a need to have that review committee chaired by another Cabinet Minister, bearing in mind the remedies that already exist under the Administrative Justice Act which was passed, I believe, in 1980 or 1981 when the present Leader of the Opposition brought in that great flood of legislation between 1976 and 1981.

That, Sir, perhaps might have satisfied the concerns raised by Senator Williams as to the political involvement and the need for the lack of partisanship when he suggested that a Member of the Opposition be appointed on the Committee. One would therefore have gone to the law courts of this country which have an excellent tradition for their independence in this part of the Western Hemisphere.

In respect, Sir, of the same review committee, I hope therefore, consideration will be given in the future when dealing with other aspects of bodies like this where appeals

are considered necessary that there is already provision under the Administrative Justice Act.

I do not believe that there is anything much left for me to say, except to aid Senator Williams in one of the concerns that he raised relating to whether the people who found stray animals on their property could do something about it rather than have the Minister do something about it. Apart from the traditional common law which made provision for that, Sir, I believe the last session of this Parliament, Sir, provided for a Bill which is now law since January which deals with that, I believe it is called the Livestock (Control of Strays) Act 1990. So, there is provision for that and there is no need therefore for him to be unduly perturbed about the absence of this part of it.
12.40 p.m.

With those few words, Sir, as I say, I hope Government will continue in its resolve, as it seems to have found, and ensure that now, unlike the last five years, those poor people in the eastern half of Barbados, in the Scotland District authority, receive the benefit of their largesse and spending. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON J. L. SPRINGER:
Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment. I have just a few ideas which I would like to express. St. Andrew and, indeed, the whole of the Scotland District is the last remaining area of real scenic beauty in this country. I think so. It is unique. I think unique situations must call for unique approaches. I have no doubt that from the assurances given by the Minister that this amendment marks the beginning of an aggressive programme of development for the Scotland District. I accept that. I am glad to be part of the Parliament to start that process. A lot has been said but I think there are two or three specific things I would like attention paid to.

The first one is the scenic beauty that I referred to and that whatever developments take place in the Scotland District an effort would be made to maintain its natural beauty. The second concern is that while we are waiting for the development to take place, there could be an accelerated approach to the reforestation programme as mentioned by the Senator who just spoke. I think that it ought to be made aware to this Senate that there has been an increase in lawlessness in that part of the country in recent times. The safety of many persons has been threatened. Gangs or individuals have been stopping cars in areas like Morgan Lewis and so on.

I think this says there is a need for greater policing. Since we are seeing the whole of the Scotland district as one big entity, there is a need for a special kind of ranger who would have powers to move about and arrest or take whatever action is necessary in the area. I do not think it is something for the police. I think, as in other countries where there are forest rangers, that there might be a need

for that kind of person. You are aware that a lot of people move out of the more thickly populated areas and settle in deserted areas in the Scotland District. They do not always mean well to those who live and work in these areas.

I hope that the Minister having this kind of power now, Sir, will give him the opportunity to look into these matters. I look forward to the day when our tourists will be taken on specific trips down to the Scotland area, not passing through, but going there to see another side of Barbados for it is the only place still left where any of us can drive and go and feel that we have gone away to some other part or some place else.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I have taken note of the manner in which the Scotland District may come alive again. The questions which Senator Williams raised about the possibilities of developmental loans and the need for ensuring profitability and the types of development in terms of cattle rearing, growing of trees and grasses, are matters which we are already concerning ourselves with.

One of the more serious difficulties in the Scotland District relates to the stray animals which roam many parts of the area. This was one of the reasons why the stray animals legislation which was passed recently was brought to Parliament. Another problem is that of praedial larceny in the area. This will be attended to. Indeed, there is a Bill which is before the House of Assembly which will, certainly, come to us. These are measures which will seek to respond to several of the concerns in the Scotland District.

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

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN in the Chair.

Clauses 1 – 22 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR the PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS the Bill was read a third time and passed.
12.50 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have to announce that I am in receipt of the following:

"MESSAGE

from the
Honourable the House of Assembly
to the
Honourable the Senate

This House has the honour to invite the Honourable the Senate to concur in a proposal for the establishment and constitution of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament to consider and report on:

A Bill entitled the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Bill, 1991.

This House proposes that the Joint Committee shall have the powers of committees under the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, Cap. 9, Sections 8-12 and Standing Orders of both Houses and receive memoranda, hear oral representations and otherwise proceed as the Committee sees fit.

This House further proposes that the Joint Committee shall report not later than three months after it is fully constituted.

This Honourable House proposes that, if the Honourable the Senate agrees to form the Joint Committee, the following Members of this House shall be Members of the Committee:

Hon. M. A. King, Q.C., Hon. N. K. Simmons, Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., Hon. D. J. H. Thompson, Mr. L. R. Tull, Q. C. and His Honour T. C. Estwick.

12th March, 1991.

LAWSON WEEKES
Speaker."

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Honourable Senate is empowered by Standing Order 67 to appoint not less than 6 Members to sit with Members of the House of Assembly as a Joint Select Committee. After consultation with the Clerk, it seems advisable that in order to appoint 5 Members to that Committee, I should first seek the suspension of Standing Order 67 until further notice.

I therefore beg to move that Standing Order 67 be suspended until further notice in order to clear the way for the appointment of five Members of the Senate to sit on the Joint Committee. I so move the suspension of Standing Order 67.

The question that Standing Order 67 be suspended was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I now beg to move, Mr. President, that this Honourable Senate accept the invitation from the Honourable the House of Assembly and that the Senate approve of the appointment of the following persons to sit as Members of the Joint Committee:

Senator Ada Straughn
 Senator Mia Mottley
 Senator Carmeta Fraser
 Senator Leroy Inniss and
 Senator Anderson Morrison.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is to concur in the Message received from the House of Assembly to establish and constitute a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament to consider and report on a Bill entitled the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Bill, 1991, to which Committee other Bills presently before the Honourable the House of Assembly may be sent for consideration and report without further reference to this House.

This House has appointed the following Senators to sit on the "Joint Committee" which you have heard.

Those Honourable Members in favour, please say aye, those against please say no, I think the ayes have it.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, for the purposes of the record, the following Message will therefore be sent and it will read as follows:

"This House concurs in the Message received today from your Honourable House and agrees to establish and constitute a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament to consider and report on a Bill entitled the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Bill, 1991, to which Committee other Bills presently before the Honourable the House of Assembly may be sent for consideration and report without further reference to this House.

This House has appointed the following Senators to sit on the "Joint Committee:...."

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this takes care of the business before us today. I therefore move that the Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate sine die at 1.00 p.m.

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(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

THE SENATE

Monday, March 25, 1991.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, March 25, 1991, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator A. MORRISON

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

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS

Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)

Senator Dr. Frank W. ALLEYNE

Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES

Senator Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH

Senator Dr. E. A. SIMMONS

Senator J. J. PAYNE

Senator Mrs. Ada STRAUGHN, G.C.M.

Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT

Senator W. Leroy INNISS

Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. SPRINGER

Senator J. G. BELLAMY

Senator J. A. F. COLE

Senator T. E. BARKER

Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following document entitled "Against Drug Abuse – A National Approach".

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) to enable us to deal with the Appropriation Bill during this sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move the First Reading of a Bill to provide for the grant of a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and for the appropriation of that sum for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1992.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1991

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, but before I get into the debate in full, what I would like to do is to remind us of the objects, reasons and goals of our fiscal policy, which the Appropriation Bill sets out, the expenditures to be made within that fiscal policy, and the effect this will have on our economy.

The major goal of our fiscal policy is to generate and maintain high levels of employment. The contributions which are set aside under such items as Education, Labour and Health generally apply to human capital when we are dealing with high levels of employment. We are also thinking of employment in all sectors of production.

Another goal and objective is to reduce the levels of unemployment. A further one is to stimulate capital formation and generate economic growth and development. These tend, at times when we hear about Government's expenditures, to be overlooked. We must bear in mind that Government must stand ready, as the employer of last resort, to stimulate the economy if stagnation is appearing. In addition, Government should also stand ready, as the investor of last resort, should Government so perceive the need for investment in special areas. I shall have more to say about this later as we deal with subsidies and grants, the whole question of privatisation.

Government is also committed to the maintenance of a stable price level so that people who are on fixed incomes, such as people who have retired, will not have their purchasing power eroded. Government is also committed to the achievement of equilibrium in our balance of payments. That is why fiscal deficits always present problems for the international balance, because in a country with a high tendency to import, the deficit tends to translate itself almost on a one to one basis to further aggravate the balance of payments position. In addition, this Government is striving for an equitable distribution of the economy by an equitable distribution of income. I think we have been referring to this as economic justice.

It is quite clear that, given these objectives, from time to time they will come into conflict. In addition to fiscal policy, as I said earlier, of which we will be dealing with one part today, that is, the expenditure side, we have monetary policy which concerns itself with the money supply and the rate of interest, which also seeks to achieve the same objectives, and we also have debt management which will decide the composition of the national debt, whether it is held locally or by foreigners, and if held locally, by what sectors within the economy.

11.25 a.m.

Recognising that it would have been neater to deal with both sides of fiscal policy, that is, taxation, or the revenue raising measures, and expenditures, so we can see it in its totality, it was rather heartening to read in the Nation newspaper on 20th March, 1991, at page 19A under the caption "No Reason for Two Debates, says the P.M." and I quote: "that the annual estimates budgetary proposals and financial statements may soon be debated together."

Such a reform, in my opinion, is very timely and would provide this Chamber an opportunity to debate Government's fiscal policy in its entirety. As it now stands, there is a gap between total revenues and total Government expenditures of some \$370 million. Before I get into the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates in detail, I would like to highlight some of the changes which have taken place in the presentation of the Estimates this year. The cover, last year, as set out, had current estimates (estimated current expenditure and the estimated excess of current revenue over current expenditure) for a surplus on current account, then the capital estimates. This year, what we do have is a total current revenue of \$977,570,543 and estimated total expenditure of \$1,347,598,148 for an overall estimated gap of \$370,027,605 and the difference is that on current you have total expenditure and only current revenue displayed, which is a significant departure from the presentation in the past.

The implications of this presentation are that whereas current expenditures were presented last year as to be identified and perceived as expenses with the capital element of it seen as an investment, that is having life beyond the current year by lumping both current and capital together, you get the distinct impression through presentation that you are expending all the money and that the money so expended, or the purposes to which such monies are put, that those purposes and those expenses will all be used up within the given year.

Business... and we have some businessmen sitting together at the table. When they invest in capital and make capital expenditures, they do not appear on the income statement but rather they appear on the balance sheet as an estimate. Here we have them expended in the year with a deficit being shown.

Another departure is that the Ombudsman – and some of this has been reported in the local Press – appeared last year as (D) Administrative Justice, Subhead 8: Ombudsman under Cabinet Office. This year the Ombudsman is appearing as a separate head, Head 17. Thirdly, last year Head 28 was the Ministry of Legal Affairs. This year, Head 28 is the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety. Fourthly, last year the estimates were presented solely on a line-by-line basis with non-recurrent expenditures, that is, expenditures for things like desks and typewriters included under current estimates.

This year, you have both the line by line presentation and for the first time an attempt at programmed budgeting. In its programmatic form, the programmed budgeting precedes the head on the old familiar line-by-line basis. In the programmatic form, the non-recurrent portion that used

to be shown as recently as last year under Current Estimates will now appear under the capital estimates programme, under the caption of Capital and Lending.

I do believe that this is an important first step, because over time and – as we refine the presentation of the line-by-line and by the programme budget – we begin to associate dollar expenditure with specific programmes. So that when we approve expenditures we know specifically what programme we are advocating rather than just lump sums of money which are rather difficult to apply to a given program.

Moving into the memorandum of the estimates, let us take a look first at Appendix 1 at page 3 and here we have the functional classification of current revenue. We will discover that taxes on incomes and profits increased over 1991 by 14.5 per cent; taxes on property increased by 12.3 per cent. The major factors accounting for the increases in incomes were the wage settlements which were granted during the last fiscal year.

Taxes on goods and services fell by 7.1 per cent; taxes on international trade also fell by 29.7 per cent; other taxes fell by 2.7 per cent; non-tax revenue fell by 11.8%; loans and advances fell by 47.7%; and there was a small increase of 0.6 per cent for special receipts. What has been happening over time is that there has been a gradual change in the application of taxes from the direct to the indirect system. I am happy to report that this is now under consideration – the whole tax structure, but the implications here, as we sought to improve our balance of payments position and as greater concessions were granted to the manufacturing sector, to agriculture, to tourism, within the economy, are that the base for your indirect taxes fell. The net result of this is that Government revenues on such items as international trade and on goods and services will automatically fall. Also, within that same period, 1990-91, concessions were granted. It is true that this was a one-off arrangement whereby consumption taxes were allowed to be paid not every 21 days but instead the business community was given 60 days in which to pay. This would have had an effect on the consumption taxes collected by those enterprises.

In addition, because you are looking at the indirect taxation to contribute a significant portion of current revenues the fall off in economic activity overall, the fall in GNP, the growth rate – that also significantly affected the overall total revenues derived during the year.
11.35 a.m.

In short then, the major factors affecting the fall off in revenues last year, and that will affect the collection of revenues this year if nothing is done to rectify it, are as follows:

- (1) the Customs Duty, Consumption Taxes and/or Stamp Duties granted for certain equipment and other raw materials used in the manufacturing and agricultural sector;
- (2) the exemption from duties and Consumption Taxes for computers, hardware and software;
- (3) the slow-down in the rate of growth of imports;
- (4) the exemption from duties and other imports on equipment and materials used in the refurbishing of hotels; and
- (5) the exemption from Customs Duties, Consumption Taxes and Stamp Duties on certain equipment and materials used in some sports.

It is therefore clear that if current levels of spending are to be maintained, and if the gap is to be narrowed, something must be done to stimulate the base of Government's revenues.

Turning now to the expenditure side of the Estimates, total expenditures, current and capital amount to \$1 347, 598 148 reflecting an overall gap to be financed of \$370 million less \$56.9 million of project funding. The sources for funding \$56.9 million have already been identified. This would then leave an overall balance for which funding will have to be sought of \$313.1 million. Capital spending will account for \$280.4 million of this total of which it is expected that \$152.2 million will contribute to capital formation which eventually will be reflected in an increase, all other things being equal, to the GDP output. The deficit on current, that is, the current revenue less current expenditures will total about \$151 million.

To the extent that there is an overall deficit to be financed, and that the deficit will be financed mainly from foreign borrowing, or from excess reserves, or from local idle balances, then the budget will be an expansionary one. The business sector will not only benefit directly from the sales of goods and services to Government, but from the increase in the level of disposable income in the hands of salaried and wage earners.

Mr. President, last year, especially towards the latter half of the year, we heard quite a bit of how poorly the business sector had been performing and the overall state of the Barbados economy. If, indeed, the business climate was as dismal as detractors would have us believe, we would have expected major declines in gross sales and revenues in the business sector. We would have expected sustained operating losses as the business sector tried to hold on to their staff and service existing accounts without raising

prices. We would have also expected an erosion of the capital bases of some of these companies as reflected in their retained earnings.

It is true that I do not have the financial statements for all of the businesses operating in Barbados. As a yardstick, I generally tend to use those 14 companies trading on the Barbados Stock Exchange to get a good feel of what has been happening within the business sector in Barbados.

In 1990, A.S. Bryden recorded a 4.4% increase in sales. Profit after tax showed a 8.3% increase and retained earnings grew by 9%. Banks Breweries showed a 14.3% increase in sales, a decline in profit after taxes. That is, although they were profitable to the tune of \$3 551 000 it was less than the profits they made the year before which totalled \$5 256 000. Retained earnings fell from \$3 220 000 to \$1 180. The cumulative retained earnings in Banks Breweries now stand at \$19 988 000. Most of this would have come from profitability over the years.

I have no data on Barbados Dairies, that is, Pine Hill Dairy and that group. I have the Barbados External Telecommunications. They had a 10.6% increase in growth. Profit after tax for 1990 showed a 4.6% increase over 1989, that is, \$14 436 000 in net profits, after taxes compared with \$30 803 000 in 1989. Retained earnings increased by 8.8%. The cumulative retained earnings now stand at \$24 023 000.

The Barbados Light and Power, we have no data for them but we can expect this. Barbados Shipping and Trading there was a decline in overall sales to this group by 7/10th of 1% less than 1%. Profit after taxes totalled \$11 359 000. This was down from the \$13 million made the year before, still very profitable \$11 359 000. The cumulative retained earnings was \$68 079 000. BARTEL had an increase of 5% in sales. Profit after tax increased by 32.7%. Retained earnings increased by 115.3%.
11.45 a.m.

Total retained earnings \$24 052 000. Bico increased by 3.8%. There has been a decline for Bico of profit after tax. They retained \$865 000 compared with \$1 174 000 the year before. The cumulative retained earnings \$4 503 000.

Cave Shepherd, overall sales declined by 6%. Profit after tax declined by 6.6%. But cumulative retained earnings still positive at \$11 411 000.

Courts increased sales by 12.7%; profits after tax by 29.7%; retained earnings increased by 46.9% to \$5 145 000.

The Goddard Group increased sales by 10.8%; profit after taxes fell from \$9 million to \$8 866 000 or 2.4% decline in profit after taxes, and total retained earnings now stand at \$36 526 000. I believe this company is getting

ready now for a stock split and trading at about \$5, the confidence reflected within the company and the faith in the economy.

The sick man of the group has been Plantations Limited and even that group of companies showed a small increase of 3.4% in overall sales but suffered significant losses. The profit after taxes fell. I do not know what is the reason for it. I have not seen the financial statements. But I suspect there might be revaluation of property, revaluation of inventory, inventory which has shrunk and what have you. But what is of particular interest here is that in spite of this whopping loss sustained in this group of companies, there has been an increase in the sales figure. They have actually increased sales in the year. Something must have happened within the management structure either in terms of the valuation of property or the writing off of bad debts or something else happening within there to account for such a mammoth loss and nothing to do with the economic climate in which we are operating. I think this should be made abundantly clear, that the economic climate was such as to afford the company to increase its sales but because of management and maybe...As I said I have not seen the financial statements so I do not know what the specific cause is, but certainly the economic climate was such as to permit them to increase overall sales.

The West India Rum Refinery increased sales by 64.8% going from \$6 162 000 in 1989 to \$10 153 000 in 1990. Profit after taxes increased by 88.1% from \$832 000 in 1989 to \$1 565 000 in 1990. Retained earnings increased by 123.8% up from \$546 000 in 1989 to \$1 222 000 in 1990 for a cumulative retained earnings, profitability over time of \$6 012 000.

WIBISCO increased sales by 3.7% in 1990 over 1989 up from \$13 772 000 to \$14 280 000. Profits after tax fell again in spite of the increase from \$816 000 to \$547 000, a 33% decrease in profit after tax. However retained earnings increased up from \$475 000 in 1989 – and this might be due to unusual activities within the company – to \$622 000 for a cumulative retained earnings of \$4 296 000.

In short I went through this exercise to show that in spite of the statements made last year that the economy was not performing the economic environment was one in which all the companies could operate and increase their sales. But those companies that were not as profitable in 1990 as they were in 1989 we have to look further for the causes. Because if all other things are equal and you are increasing sales, we assume that if you increase sales then you would also increase profitability, if you are holding the same relationship between cost of sales or cost of production and the operating sales figure. By and large the economic climate was not as dismal as our detractors would have us believe given the profitability and the ability to generate even more sales.

Turning to the functional classification, to the Memorandum at page 4, we find that of the total allocation of \$1 347 000 000 that Health and Education are accounting for over 31.3% of this sum. If we recognize that Education and Health contribute to the development of human capital and I prefer to think of it as infrastructural cost of human capital, then of course we could assume that, over time, a healthier labour force, a better educated labour force will become more productive and this in turn will contribute to the output of goods and services of the gross domestic product within the country.

A further measure of the mixed nature of the economy is that economic services including trade, industry, agriculture, tourism accounted for 13.7% of this total. At page 5 of the Memorandum we have the economic classification where wages and salaries account for \$475 789 918 or about 35.3% and debt servicing account for \$280 975 076.
11.55 a.m.

Together these two items which represent fixed charges against the Budget represent well over 56% of the total estimate. There is nothing that we can do about the debt servicing. We must honour our obligations and certainly we don't consider that retrenchment or cut backs in the labour force and the public sector is an alternative.

However, I would suggest that in those other areas, not affecting salaries and wages, if we sterilise about two or three percent of those non-statutory expenditures, we can, at least, take the first step towards closing part of the deficit. We are not cutting back on services, but a sterilization. That is where people go on vacation and there are acting appointments we can defer some of these acting appointments. Some expenditure on non-essentials can be deferred over time, these without any impairment of delivery of services; these can go a long way to reducing the gap between current revenue and current expenditures and I am thinking about a two or three percent sterilization of expenditures.

Total current transfers from the budget account for \$257 168 993 or 19.1% of the total estimates. Of this sum subsidies account for \$14 281 525 of which \$10 000 000 will go to the Transport Board and \$3 000 000 will go to assist the private schools. I have a detailed list of the subsidies and where they are going and I might come back to them later. But, what I would like to say here at this point ... This is an area in the budget about which much talk has been going around about the privatisation; this is a new word within the vocabulary. Let us privatise this; let us privatise that; and it is said very often with very, very little thought given to the implications of what privatisation would mean for Barbados. Very little thought is given to why certain industries or certain enterprises are owned by Government and exactly, when we talk about privatisation, are we really always talking about one and the same thing.

It is my own feeling that the whole myth about privatisation needs to be exploded. First of all the whole concept was introduced by the Bretton Woods Institutions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund back in the 60's as the way forward for Third World Developing Countries.

Early in the presentation I made the point that Government, especially in the developing countries must stand ready to be employer of last resort, investors of last resort. And, there are areas in which the private sector (in Barbados included) is reluctant to tread. We have the case of the marina. There is much talk about the marina, Government stands ready to enter joint ventures with any of the private sector organisations that might be interested in joining and teaming up in a joint venture affair. But, in the final analysis, if we must provide the infrastructure for our own tourism development Government must stand ready to develop it even if it means developing it on its own.

What I am saying here, Mr. President, is that we must be careful as we seek to import concepts which have been developed by the industrialised countries, in this case, especially Great Britain arising out of the nationalisation which took place. In Barbados we have never moved ahead and nationalised anything. I think the only thing we ever nationalised was the Transport Board and that was done by another Government, some time. I think it is about the only thing we nationalised. If we must give serious thought to the whole concept of privatisation, we need to look at the peculiarities and the problems of developing Third World countries which will impede and inhibit the transfer of the industrialised countries experiences with privatisation. Furthermore, those who would have us believe that privatisation is now a panacea, will do well to bear in mind that the experience with privatisation has been extremely limited and it is still much too early to properly evaluate the benefit to be derived from that course of action. I think it was in Argentina, if I am not mistaken, where after the Peron regime, where they started to privatise or denationalise (which I think is more appropriate, since these things were nationalised at that point in time) industries, that the Government had to go back in and re-nationalise those countries at great cost to the Government and I am serving a word of caution that we proceed and we examine these things.

As a matter of fact I would like to say here and now that I have a company that I would like to privatise tomorrow and that is Arawak Cement plant. It falls under my portfolio and if you have any takers you may feel free to talk to me about it and there will be no problem at all; just let me know.

Another case, or another argument, made for privatisation is that it will improve the fiscal deficit if there is one. I shall deal with them in detail as I move down the line. But I said earlier when we think of privatisation, we tend to think of it solely as an exercise in Government to

get rid of its assets, selling off plant or equipment. There is more to it than that. That is one type of privatisation where you sell, lock, stock and barrel, the assets of a company.

In a country where the stock markets and capital markets are not well defined one could easily see some of the problems that will arise. Another concept of privatisation is where Government retains ownership of the asset and hands out the enterprise to be managed by the private sector. In this case, we are in the fore-front of privatisation because this is exactly what is being done with the Hilton Hotel and the Heywoods Hotel. So we do not have to divest ourselves of the assets in order to do that.

Another concept to privatisation has been given as the removal of restrictions to market entry through liberalisation, more liberalised import policies, or through the deregulation of activities previously restricted to the public sector enterprises. So, the two major types of privatisation that we are concerned with here are:-

- (1) disposal of the assets in their entirety; and
- (2) the facilitation of private sector expansion by liberalisation and deregulation.

What we need to bear in mind is whether or not an enterprise is in a money making or profitable situation or whether or not it is a loss situation. And then we would look a little later at the fiscal implications, the impact on privatisation through the disposal of assets and find out really:-

- (1) if there is a deficit, will it improve or remove the deficit; and
- (2) if so, under what conditions they would be able to do it. But, I think it might do us well to, again, just go over the reasons why Governments get into sectors that people feel would be best left for the private sector.

I said earlier that Government must stand ready as the investor of last resort. But there are also areas ... And I mentioned from our own experience the reluctance of the private sector to move into the establishment of a marina. We examined this with a group of people and we walked around and looked at various sites and still nothing has been done in this area and perhaps we might classify this first objection or reluctance for the private sector as the high risk aversion and recognition of poorly developed financial markets; that is:-

- (1) they recognise the enterprise to be a highly risky one; or
- (2) if they invest their monies with a poorly defined capital market, then of course to transfer one asset into another can become rather difficult.

Another area where the problem is to persuade the private sector to establish an enterprise is where there is limited integration between the different sectors within the economy. Another area is if the private sector cannot raise financing for an enterprise due to the lack of savings existing in the economy. Of course, then Government by using its policy or its better credit rating might be able to raise necessary funds to set up the enterprise.
12.05 p.m.

Government might also feel it imperative that as employer of last resort it is necessary to get into a certain activity either to generate employment and/or to take industry to certain parts of the country that the private sector will be reluctant to take it. We have had throughout our industrialization drive few large industrial parks. I think by the establishment of these large industrial parks we have put all sorts of pressures in our infrastructure. Here I think in terms of the bus service. I do believe that in the future what we need to do is to take industry to the people and take it out to the rural areas to small industrial parks and by so doing you will reduce some of the pressures that you are now placing on your infrastructure. You would need less bus service and people will be closer and fewer man hours will be wasted in people commuting all across the country. I think in the future there will be a thrust to take industry further to the people within their community.

Government from time to time will also move into an area of economic activity to avoid the domination of that sector by foreign influences or to ensure that ownership within the economy is more widely dispersed. That is Government will move in and hold shares as it does now in companies like the electric company and the phone company which it will own in trust for the majority of the citizens. This is the only way we could ever hope to achieve economic justice given the limits which are currently in place in terms of the ability to trade shares or to obtain shares on the market. Government must, therefore, hold the shares to such time as the people stand ready to buy. It would also go into investment in areas normally reserved for the private sector in an attempt to offer subsidies to certain consumer groups and, as I said earlier, assist certain areas in development.

While I am on this, this is as good a time as any to say that early in the new fiscal year we will be taking a factory to Belleplaine, St. Andrew which will act as an outlet for people doing handicraft work in the Chalky Mount area, provide also some limited fast food arrangements, and also have working space where people can do work there as the tourists pass through the East Coast country. Hopefully, in that complex, we will also have a glass blower operating and doing his thing to make it more appealing and attractive to the people. We will be providing an outlet for the people

who currently do handicraft and pottery in the Chalky Mount area and also to provide additional jobs and opportunities for people in that part of the country.

Well, these are some of the reasons why Governments get into privatisation and get into certain enterprises that would normally be considered a private sector enterprises. What is worthy of note at this point in time is that the objectives why Governments go into them are not necessarily concerned with the maximization of profit. It might be to take industry, as I said earlier, to a community to create employment. It might be to act as an investor of last resort. But it is not always the maximization of profit. Therefore, it is totally erroneous when we hope to judge whether or not a public enterprise is satisfying its purpose or justifying its reasons for existence that we look solely at the bottom line which is the profit figure.

For those who would advocate privatisation, I would say that we must be careful to the extent that Government is willing to divest itself in certain enterprises and that we do not allow the assets to be concentrated into the hands of very few people within the community. But Government rather should ensure either through the use of pension funds and through the use of such agencies as the unions and National Insurance to ensure that we have the widest distribution of ownership of any assets that Government intends to divest itself of.

Furthermore, in a society in which we have interlocking directorates and very few shares traded, we cannot then transfer those public enterprises to those groups. Again, ownership will be less limited than it would have been had Government held it in trust for the whole community and the achievement of greater income distribution would be negated if we took that course of action. What gives rise to this whole concept of privatisation has been the fiscal impact. What will it do for the Budget? Let us take the first case where the company itself is profitable and Government wants to sell it. This is the one where you will get most of your takers for. Profitable people want to talk to you about it. So we assume that there is a fiscal deficit and we have a profitable organisation which they want to sell. What are the budgetary implications to the fiscal deficit? If you sell it, you will get a one shot sum total which would reduce the deficit, but you would have then have lost all future streams of income from that. Okay. That is one possibility. Government on the other hand, recognizing that you stand ready to get a sale, might reduce taxation and/or increase expenditures and to the extent that it does either one of the two of these things, then, of course, the effect of that sale would be lost. So the fiscal impact is a one shot deal in a profitable organisation and thereafter you lose the future stream. So really the benefit over time is minimal if any at all and the temptation is always great to cut taxes especially if you have a windfall. If you cut taxes, they tend to stay cut

and you have lost your future income. So the fiscal impact is not what it has been held out to be.

In the case where the enterprise is losing money and if it is to be sold at its true market value – it is losing money and retaining earnings in deficit – then, of course, in order to get somebody to take it off your hands you would expect to pay them a subsidy just to get it off your hands. While this might reduce in future years the outlay to offset the operating losses of that enterprise, in year one in which the transaction takes place the deficit would be further worsened. In short, it has not been demonstrated that there are any major benefits in terms of fiscal policy to be derived from privatisation. It has not yet been demonstrated especially in Third World countries.

Getting back to the Memorandum, I would like to draw your attention to the Summary of Total Expenditure and Estimates appearing at Page 14 of the Memorandum.
12.15 p.m.

We discover that Parliament's expenses have increased about 35.8% over the last year, Prime Minister's Office by 11%, the new Ministry of Justice and Public Safety by about 14.8%, a decline in the Ministry of Education of about 5%, a decline in the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment of about 50%, a decline in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce of about 23.6% and an increase in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation of 13.7%.

I would like to say something about the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, the Ministry for which I now have responsibility. The reduction in the first place is due to the fact that some of the activities once carried on in that Ministry have now been transferred to the Ministry of Labour and the Environment. Here I think in terms of licensing, consumer affairs and the Public Utilities Board.

Once we look at an economic Ministry, it tends to get certain politicians from the other side to make some mouthings that are more emotive than rational. I think it was reported in the Advocate newspaper of Wednesday, March 30 under the caption "Savage Cut to Allocation" that a Mr. Bernard St. John described as a savage cut the allocation to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce. For the enlightenment of Honourable Senators, I will go on to give the reasons for the reduction.

I have just itemised some of the functions which have been transferred to another Ministry. Another factor is that in IDC we have conflicting objectives. We have seen what happens when we look at the goals of fiscal policy and how they conflict as we try to achieve all the goals at the same time with limited instruments. So too in IDC we have the problem of on the one hand promoting industry, inviting people to come, offering them subsidised rent, and on the other hand and at the same time trying to collect rents from

these people to do all sorts of things. From time to time these two things come into conflict. IDC as a matter of policy stands ready to sell those factories to all the people who are interested in buying them, and these resources will be used to build additional factories and improve our estate.

There is no reason why the IDC, the largest landlord of commercial space in Barbados, should constantly be looking to central Government to finance its operations, when we have sufficient real estate that we can sell some of it and build the additional real estate and sell as we go ahead without having to rely on the public purse.

In addition, the IDC, based on the legislation creating it, has the ability to go into the marketplace and borrow funds. There are many Barbadians living overseas and others who would be willing to finance, or to contribute or purchase developmental bonds. I think that in Barbados for too long everybody who wants foreign exchange is expecting the central Government to go out and either earn and/or borrow it and make it available to private people. I do believe that some private institutions must now do it. It is being done but not at a fast enough rate. I think the Telephone Company has now availed itself of some 936 funds coming out of Puerto Rico, but I think there are some other institutions which can go further, like the IDC, issue developmental bonds and so take the pressure off the central Government to provide the country with all the foreign exchange it needs. I think some private companies too must also take it upon themselves to get out there and earn or borrow the foreign exchange rather than relying on the central Government to provide all of it for them.

We do believe that further savings could be effected, in terms of the overheads, with nothing lost in the promotional activities or in the provision of services for people who want to export either regionally or extra-regionally if the two institutions – the Export Promotion Corporation and the Barbados Industrial Corporation – are merged. At this point in time we are looking at the most feasible method without loss of service and an enhancement of the services we offer, if it is at all possible to have these two organisations merged, bearing in mind that they started out as one organisation. I believe we could offer better services.

I have had the experience, since becoming Minister, where I have been talking to one person from one organisation who said it was not his responsibility, it was the other person's responsibility. It is that we want it done, it is all coming out of the same Treasury and we need to get on to the job before us in furthering our exports and creating investment opportunities. I think that more is not always the answer but that a more rational allocation of the resources which you have could at times lead to greater efficiency achieving your objective at less cost to the taxpayers.

We are not planning, should the merger prove feasible, to reduce services but further to increase them. The thrust, as I see it, over the next year will be to identify specific industries and go after those industries and invite them to come to Barbados and set up. I think the days are gone when we could rely on the scatter shot approach, where you went out there and you promoted and hoped that something will come. We will now look at those industries we want to set up, manufacturing and services, and go after them and invite them to come and bring them into Barbados. We are also looking at industries with export potential, identifying them and taking that particular industry, or the company within that industry, into the marketplace and helping it, whether it needs brochures or assistance with advertising. I think we have to go for the one on one approach, the scatter shot approach is no longer working. It had appeal in the fifties, but now that Barbados can no longer attract foot loose industries, we must attract those industries that will stay with us well over time.

The Barbados National Standards Institution also falls under the Ministry and I strongly believe that it is not sufficient to set up standards for companies manufacturing in Barbados, while at the same time allowing all sorts of goods to come into the market not even meeting the minimum standards which we have set up for our own companies. Ever so often I go into the supermarket and I pick up something that is packaged, but I cannot read the label because it is written in a foreign language. While Senator Maisie Barker-Welch is teaching me some Spanish, I might be slow in learning.
12.25 p.m.

I do feel that all packages should be clearly labelled in Barbados and they should meet the same minimum standard. To this extent, we are planning to beef up the operations of the BNSI to ensure that our minimum standards in Barbados are met and that we do not have one set of standards for our own people and have unfair competition coming into this country selling at a lower price than we can, because it is an inferior product and our own manufacturers can't beat it, and our consumers are getting the inferior product. Sometimes not even knowing what it is that they are getting because they can't read the label.

On the question of the cooperative movement, this has done a remarkable job in Barbados and has contributed in no small measure to the economic growth and development in this country. I would like to see it go one step beyond now. While in the past the credit union aspect of it has been lending primarily for consumer durables, including housing and investment I would hope that it will go one step beyond, and find a way to lend to entrepreneurs. That is, not only should they consider lending for consumption purposes which are generally lost again into imports, but rather to small business people who are willing to go to borrow to set up their own businesses. I am prepared to sit

down and work with them, since they are concerned in lending against collateral, to find a mechanism through which, if at worst, a guarantee or some other form of collateral will have to be offered to help them to do this. I do believe that some further encouragement could be given to the cooperative movement to help people to get into investment and further enhance the direct investment.

Mr. President, I have more or less pointed out that we are looking here in this presentation at one blade of the scissors. We are looking at one half the fiscal policy. What the deficit will end up to be cannot be determined until after the 2nd of April when it will be determined within the budgetary proposals and financial statement how the gap will be financed, whether it will be through borrowing, whether through taxation, whether there will be a reduction or sterilisation of expenditures. We must bear in mind that there are certain rigidities within expenditures. Those include debt servicing, which you can do nothing about and is a given, recognising that we have no intentions of retrenching any one; that wages and salaries must also be taken as a given. We can only, therefore, look to other areas of goods and services and ask for greater efficiency in the use of the resources placed at the disposal of the various agencies. This is an estimate of expenditure with a human face on it. We have looked at the contributions made to the economic areas and also to the development which reinforces the nature of our mixed economy and we have also looked at the provision made for the further development to our human capital and that is in the area of education and health. I shall not at this point give a breakdown of all the subsidies that we are giving to improve the human face of this exercise or also to show our commitment in a tangible way to a more equitable distribution of income within the economy.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, the estimates for 1991-92 have come against a background of an economy which the Governor of the Central Bank estimated to have declined by over 3 per cent in the last calendar year. It is rather interesting to note that the Minister in his presentation pointed to the performance of certain companies as evidence of the fact that the economy is not as bad as we, on this side, and others, including the same Central bank, claim that it is. That is, his reference to those companies can be related to a man driving about the country and seeing a few big houses and saying that there is no down turn in the construction industry.

I would like the Minister to explain why it is, if the companies are doing so well, that the corporation tax paid by them increased marginally in the year 1990-91 and is expected to decline in the coming fiscal year. Sir, all independent and other observers, point to the fact that the economy is in serious trouble. It is said that last year all of

the productive sectors, with the exception of non-sugar agriculture, showed some kind of remarkable decline. The reason why non-sugar failed to decline is because it has fallen so badly in recent years that the only way it can go is up. All the evidence points to a decline in economic activity and no amount of companies naming, showing their profits will make the situation any better. Not only, Sir, are the productive sectors in retreat but also we are facing an unprecedented foreign resource crisis where at the end of December we only had \$150 million in reserves and of that we have \$115 million owed by CMCF and at the rate that the Guyanese are paying well into the 21st century they will still have a large sum outstanding. Our reserves are in a terrible state and I think that the state of the economy is going to impact negatively on any chances the economy has for recovery in the next couple of years and I urge that urgent measures be taken to arrest this situation. The estimates also come at a time when the credit squeeze is squeezing the life out of the business sector to the extent that the corporation taxes are expected to decline around 3 per cent in the fiscal year 1991-92. Not only are the businesses hard hit by the imposition of the credit squeeze, but the small fellow wanting to build a house finds that because bridging loans are included in the personal loans sector that he is unable to get the finance with which he can improve his life. Also, Sir, small businesses and medium sized businesses are very hard hit by this credit squeeze because we are an economy which depends quite a lot on the availability of credit. Very few of us in here can afford to go in a store and buy an item costing \$3,000 or \$4,000 just like that. We depend on credit in some form or another.

12.35 p.m.

The small manufacturer and the medium sized ones are, indeed, extremely hard hit by the unavailability of credit. That is one of the reasons, in my view, why we see a decline in output by the manufacturing sector. Not only is the credit squeeze and the foreign reserves causing problems but last year saw us for the first time, since Independence, having tremendous difficulty in securing a foreign loan to meet our needs.

Indeed, Sir, the end of 1990 saw us having to go to Barclay's Bank, formerly a bastion of capitalism and an ardent supporter of the apartheid regime in South Africa, to use their influence to get us a loan on the London market. The terms were extremely usurious and insulting to the national image. They told us they would lend the money but we would have to put down a certain amount in case we did not repay. Sir, I as a Barbadian feel insulted by the action of this particular banking consortium. It does nothing for our national psyche when we have to get a loan at these terrible terms.

Sir, the Estimates also come against a background where there is a crisis in the management of our economic affairs. No longer are we in the fortunate position where the outside world thinks highly of the way in which we manage

our affairs. The crisis in management is so pervasive that the said loan I just referred to was imposed upon and we had no option but to accept it or face the terrible consequences. If our standing in the international community was of a higher standard, we would not have had the trouble we had in securing a loan because nobody has ever seriously said that our debt position is proving to be extremely detrimental. Everybody is agreed we have a reasonably high level of debt but it is nothing that a country of our size and development cannot absorb in the normal realm of things. The inability to secure that loan points to a crisis in the management of our affairs. The sooner we realise this, the better.

Sir, the Estimates also come at a time when unemployment is very high. It is so high that the last available figures on unemployment was for the end of 1989. Never before has a whole year passed without the public of Barbados knowing what the true level of unemployment is. Is it so high that we cannot afford to publish it or was it not published because of events that happened in January? The point is that all independent commentators are pointing to the fact that there is a tremendous rise in the level of unemployment. One indicator is that for the first time in the history the National Insurance Scheme the amount of money it has received as contributions had declined. I do not know if there are others but it is the first time on record. To me, Sir, that is an indication of the intolerable level of unemployment.

Sir, the Estimates are also presented at a time where our trade gap has widened to the extent that it is possible – I have not seen the figures past October – to be close to, if not up to \$1 billion. The figure for 1989 was about \$960 million. For the first ten months it looks as though it could be somewhere near up there. Whether it is \$1 000 million or \$900 million is beside the point. The trade gap has worsened. We are now in a position where we are exporting about half of the level of goods and services that we had exported in the 1980's.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You said the figures have not been published? I just want to follow you. You seem to be saying one thing and then coming back and saying something else. You say the figures have not been published but then...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are talking to me, not Senator Mottley. You have to pay some respect to the Chair. I am speaking to you. You are going down there listening. You said the figures have not been published. Then you start quoting figures so I want to know what figures you are quoting then since they have not been published.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, what I was saying is as far as the balance of trade goes, the figures for the last two months of 1990 have not yet been published. All the

indications are that it has widened. I had mentioned the fact that we are now exporting about half. There is no precise figure but...

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, No. I do not want you to say anything. I only wanted to know precisely what it was you were stating so that I could get the leeway clearly from you what it was you were stating. I am not questioning you. You are free to state whatever figures you like. You said they were not published so I just wanted to get that clear if you were aware of what it was you said.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. I will assure you I will not quote a figure that is not authentic. Therefore, Sir, against this background we have to judge the Estimates for the coming fiscal year. What the Estimates should be doing then, Sir, is to stimulate the economy especially the productive sectors going again and bringing them out of the malaise that they find themselves in.

Secondly, we need to stimulate exports. The Estimates should have a social distribution function where, noting the fact that we still have pockets of poverty in our Island, the Estimates should be doing everything to ensure that there is a better distribution of resources. I think in terms of the welfare function of the Estimates they should also be seeking to eliminate any waste there is in the public service. The Estimates must be judged by how they seeks to achieve these goals. The success or the failure of the Estimates must be judged by the attempt they make to stimulate the economy and hence, ultimately, improve the social and other conditions of our citizens.

I now turn to the item of Current Revenue. We will note that 1990-91 was the first year, since Independence, that the amount of current revenue collected has fallen from one year to the next. Normally, even in spite of the recession we had before, in spite of tax cuts we had before, current revenue almost remained reasonably buoyant. As we look at the actual items we see reasons for this.

In 1976 half of Government's revenue was derived from taxes on profits and income. It was felt that this figure was too high and was serving as a disincentive for hard work and for entrepreneurial activity. The Government of that day decided it would implement measures to redress the balance a bit so that by the end of that Government's term in 1986 the figure declined from about half to about 32%. Around a third of our income at that time was derived from taxes on incomes and profits.

The events of 1986 and subsequently, meant that the amount of money collected from that source declined to where it is now to about 27%. Slightly more than a quarter of Government's revenue is derived from taxes on incomes and profits.

12.45 p.m.

While theoretically that may seem to be a desirable thing yet it has had disastrous effects on the economy as a whole and on the distribution of income also. In other places I warned the Government about too high a dependence on indirect taxation. There were two main reasons:

- (1) Indirect taxation meant that a lot of the money that Government needed to run the country came through spending especially through our two ports. A high proportion of our income came through import taxes, consumption taxes and stamp duties on imports. A lot of our revenue was derived from the import trade.

I said then in a publication that any time the Government had to deal with a balance of payments crisis because so much of its income is derived from imports it could only correct a balance of payments crisis at the expense of its revenue. In other words to correct a balance of payments crisis you are going to have to forego a lot of revenue. This has happened because what has happened in the past year is that – and I only have figures for the first half of the last fiscal year – imports have declined in the last fiscal year. As a result of imports declining – which was a desirable achievement because we were importing way too high – the taxation which was derived from international trade has declined. Consumption Tax has declined, imports duties have declined and stamp duties have declined in the 1990-91 figure. This can be attributed to a decline in the level of imports which was brought about by the credit squeeze. While Government achieved a desirable aim in reducing imports it has opened itself to current account difficulties.

Sir, it is noteworthy that income taxes and tax on income and profits including income tax in spite of the fact that the economy declined by 3%, taxes on income and profits increased. In other words, these taxes are more resilient to declining economic activity than spending taxes. As a result of the over-dependence on indirect taxes Government realized much less revenue last year than it had anticipated. The result is that, whereas they were forecasting a \$12 million current account surplus they ended with an \$89 million current account deficit. Not only has the over-dependence on indirect taxes caused difficulties in the current account but it also impacted negatively on those people in our society who are less able to help themselves.

If you will recall, Sir, in 1986 people working for \$10 000 or less paid no income tax. It was increased to \$12 000 and then to \$15 000. But those persons out there working for less than \$15 a week paid no income tax. But the shift from direct to indirect taxation meant that every time they went into the shop to buy something that whereas, previously, they were paying no tax and hence did not benefit directly from the imposition of the tax cuts in 1986,

they were called upon to contribute to the public purse whenever they went into the store to buy anything for their own uses. They did not directly benefit from the \$15 000 imposition. But on the other hand they were called upon to pay more for their goods and services.

Indeed, Sir, if we look at the retail price index, we note that for two years up until the middle of 1987 the index was fairly stable and even declined by a few points. For about two years the retail price index was fairly stable. But in 1987 when that Budget was implemented which increased indirect taxes, we see there was a jump in the retail price index. Then after a time when those increase worked through, it stabilized. In 1988 more indirect taxes, it jumped again then it stabilized. In 1989 more indirect taxes, it jumped again.

What I am saying, Sir, is that the imposition of these indirect taxes caused an increase in the retail price index, hence inflation. So that the goods and services available on the island then cost more. Again I will make the point that those who benefited from the income tax concessions were all right. But the ones who did not benefit directly from the tax concessions, that is, those who worked for \$189 a week or less were called upon to pay more in terms of duties and other taxes. Not only that, but something happened in 1987 which to me is a national disgrace.

In 1982 the Government of that day introduced Levies. They introduced the Transportation Levy, the Training Levy and the Health Levy. The Levies were introduced for specific purposes. The Health Levy was introduced to pay for the proposed National Health Scheme which everybody knows was stillborn. The Transportation Levy was introduced to assist Government in the building of bridges like the one at Bridge Road and also for help for the Transport Board. The Training Levy was introduced to accelerate the rate of training in the economy as a way of solving some of the labour shortages we were having in certain specific sectors. These three Levies were introduced for specific purposes. When we left office in 1986 the three Levies brought in just under \$30 million.

In 1987, after the middle class including myself benefited from the tax concessions and the Government saw that it was losing revenue fast it decided well we have to plug the gap. But how did they plug the gap? They called upon every citizen in Barbados so long as you are working I think it was about \$90 a month and you pay National Insurance Contributions, I do not care who you were, you were called upon to pay a proportion of your tax in the form of... Sorry, I will go back there. I was being a little bit unfair in the sense that...

12.55 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Get your point clear because I want to ask you what it is you are calling a national disgrace. I want to get your language. You are using this extravagant

language in the debate that I do not want to ask you to withdraw anything, but you talk of something as a national disgrace. I did not stop you when you used these words, but what is a national disgrace?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am coming to that, Mr. President, with your ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Parliament has a right to tax. You cannot say anything that Parliament does in its right is a national disgrace.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, if you want me to withdraw the words I will gladly withdraw.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, I do not want you to withdraw anything. I want you to be more careful with the language you use up here. Up here is different from the street.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point I was coming to, was that the levies in 1982 were introduced on everybody. Well anybody working for about \$90 per month or more, and it brought in \$30 million by the end of 1985/1986 fiscal year. In 1987 what we witnessed, Sir, is that the same government which opposed the Barbados Labour Party, strenuously on imposition of these taxes now saw them as a convenient way to raise revenue, with the result that whereas we took in about \$30 million in 1985/86 we are now taking in close to \$90 million in levies in the coming fiscal year.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: On a point of order, Sir, It is untrue to say, Mr. President, that the Government saw these levies as something that should not be done. The government argued from the outset that levies should be paid totally into the Consolidated Fund, rather than for any other purpose.

On that point, Mr. President, I wish to take the opportunity to suspend this sitting because we have reached one o'clock and I beg this sitting be suspended for 1 hour, until 2.00 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.

RESUMPTION

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, when we broke for lunch I was talking about the levies, and the point I want to make, Sir, is that at the time of their imposition, levies were for specific purposes. But what happened since 1986, was that the levies which were previously bringing in \$30 million a year have been used as a revenue-raising measure and, Sir, the National Health Scheme is no longer

to come into being. We see grants to the Training Board being cut. So what I am saying is that the rationale, the reason for having these levies no longer exists and, Sir, I am calling for the removal of these levies because the purpose for which they were designed no longer exists.

If you want to raise the same amount of money call it something else. But do not raise a levy for a specific purpose, for the National Health Scheme or whatever, and then having raised the money you put it in the general fund and it is used for general purposes. I believe, Sir, if we are going to have a Health Levy it must be spent on health matters, if we have a Transport Levy it must be spent purely on transport matters; if you have a Training Levy and an Employment Levy it should be spent for training and employment generating purposes and not for general expenditure purposes.

So, I am calling upon the Government to remove this anomaly where levies are collected for a specific purpose and then not used for that purpose because the levies are paid by every working person in this society, even those who previously were not paying income tax. They are called upon so long as they were contributing to the National Insurance Scheme; they are called upon to contribute, I think, about seven percent or so, of their income to these levies. I could be wrong about the seven percent but that is not a debating issue. The point is, they are levied on everybody, and to make matters worse in the upper end of the scale those who are working for \$10,000 a month they only pay the levies on \$2 600 per month which is the maximum insurable earnings; so that they are paying the percentage on a smaller proportion of their income than those who are working for less than \$2 700 per month who are paying the same percentage on the whole of their income. So, it is repressive tax in that it impacts more heavily on those at the lower end of the scale and those in the middle and upper end of the scale only pay on a proportion of their income. So, for these reasons, especially this last one I feel that Government should remove these levies and how they want to recapture the money is their business. But, I believe that the poor in our community should be protected from these punitive taxation measures.

Sir, as we look at specific items of Government revenue, we notice, Sir, a few things. Income tax is expected to yield more money and this is as I expected, but on taxes on property on page (iv) we see that the Land Development Duty which brought in \$12,000 by 1988/89 and only \$6,000 in 1991, on page (vi) Current Estimates Revenue, Land Development Duty is estimated to bring in \$10,000 in this coming financial year, the year for which the estimates pertain.

Sir, I want to make the point that the Land Development Duty is scheduled to bring in \$10,000 and, Sir, this is one area where I am a little bit angry. Angry

because those on the other side criticised the building of the ABC Highway from the time they heard there were plans for it and even after it was built they were criticising it. But, Sir, there was a 1963 Act brought in by the then Government and to which I fully subscribe which said that if Government undertakes or proposes to undertake works out of the public purse, then they can, under certain conditions design that area as a Special Development Area with the result that any benefits that accrue from the sale of land in that area to private individuals who benefited because of the public expenditure, that some of the money, in most cases, half of the excess money (this is the difference between what the land was worth prior to development and what it was sold for after development) that half of the difference should come into the public purse.

2.05 p.m.

Sir, I am told that the transaction went on in the Warrens area where land was sold for \$7 million and that land was bought for little or nothing. Almost all of the \$7 million would have come under the Land Development Duty Act and hence the benefit to the Treasury would have been over \$3 million.

I want the Ministers to tell me when they come to reply why this Order was not placed in time on that ABC Highway so that we in Barbados who spent \$90 million, according to the other side, could have recovered \$3 million on that one transaction. There were other transactions, but that one alone they could have recovered three million dollars. Because of the tardiness in bringing this Land Development Order, we forego \$3 million. Just think, Sir, what this \$3 million could have done in terms of the Sites and Services Programme, in terms of housing for the poor, and in terms of welfare benefits. Just think what that would have done. This negligence cost us over \$3 million on one transaction alone. The person who benefited is not going to come and build a school for our children. They took the money and pocketed it, laughing at us here, and we shouting now the horse has gone and we now go out to the stable. The horse carried away \$3 million of our dollars.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think that that type of debate is worthy of saying that somebody carried away our \$3 million. Be careful with the language that you use. You are getting a bit on the edge now. You cannot be using this kind of vapid language inside the Chamber that somebody carried away \$3 million. This is not the place for that kind of language but for elsewhere. This is a place for proper debate to be recorded down through history. That kind of language is unsuitable.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I never said that anybody carried away \$3 million.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, your implications are very rigid. Do not say that you never said that. You are telling

me now that I am a liar and I am not quoting you in absentia. I am quoting you right in your face and not behind your back. You may proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I do not want to give the impression...

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, I am not carrying out any argument with you. I am here to see that the debates are conducted how they should be. All I am asking you is to keep within the Rules.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, we now turn to taxes on goods and services. Sir, I read in the Advocate that an official from the Ministry of Finance said that with the implementation of the Common External Tariff to which we subscribe and which I am told should come on next week that we stand to lose \$30 million in revenue. The question I would like to ask is: Was the loss of \$30 million budgeted in these Estimates?

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Okay. I thank the Minister for his clarification.

Sir, I want to come to Tax Collection. Sir, it is said that if all of the taxes that should have been paid that the Government would be in a strong position to reduce the level of taxation in the Island and I agree with that statement. Sir, that is why I cannot understand why matters at the Customs where I am told over \$400 million is collected annually on behalf of the state have been allowed to drift as they have been over the last couple of years. We cannot, Sir, have a Department of this importance to the national life being run for almost a year by an individual who is only acting in the position. I find that strange that for almost a year we have an Acting Comptroller of Customs. I believe, Sir, that the Comptroller of Customs and, in fact, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue are important persons in the whole apparatus and as such I believe that they should be given the power or authority to carry out their job as efficiently as possible. It does not send the correct signals to the wider community when you have a man acting in an important position as that for so long. Is it that the Minister of Finance does not have the confidence in the man? Anyhow, it is sending the wrong signal and the Customs Department is too important.

SENATOR The HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I think for the benefit of Senator Barker the Minister of Finance does not appoint the Comptroller of Customs but the Public Service Commission. I would have thought you would have known that Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I thank you for that information but the point is that whoever is responsible for appointing the Comptroller of Customs should not allow a

situation to continue where the Head of that important institution for almost a year is only acting. He does not have the authority which comes from the Parliament holding of that position. He knows that at somebody's whims and fancy he can be sent back to his substantive post. I am saying, Sir, that the person in charge of these revenue collecting departments must be given the tools. Sir, I am of the view that nobody likes to pay taxes and if you can get away from paying taxes. If you can pay \$9 instead of \$10, you will pay \$9.00. Most of us operate that way.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no. You cannot bring the community in with yourself when you say that most of us like doing it that way. That is what you like doing. You cannot bring people in with you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am sure, Sir, that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and the Comptroller of Customs would attest to the fact that they have a lot of problems in getting the just deserts.

Mr. PRESIDENT: When you read back that, you will see how that reads.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir, I am aware of that. Anyhow, Sir, I just want to make the point that these two posts are extremely important and must be treated as such by the political directorate. I believe that the Government should act with haste to make sure that the positions are properly filled.

Another thing too, I notice in the Tables of Personal Emoluments that both of these posts are classified "S2". I see no reason why these two important posts should not be classified as the same way that we classify the Chief Technical Officer or the Chief Medical Officer as "S2" or "S1" to allow the holders of these posts to remain in the same job until they reach the top, financially speaking, of the Civil Service. Okay. It is just a view that I hold that these two posts should be reclassified "S2" and "S1" to allow the holder if he is doing a good job...

Mr. PRESIDENT: When you are coming to revise the Civil Service and that is the debate that you have, you will do it then. This is a statute. These are statutes that you are dealing with. You seem not to be able to differentiate between statute law and things that you can mess around with. These are not mess around laws. These are statute laws that have been passed both Chambers of the House already. You cannot be up here messing around with them now as if we are now passing them. They are passed. They are the Laws of Barbados. So when they are up for amendment, therefore, you have the right to amend them. We are not amending these laws now. You are dealing with the persons who you are appointing and these are the rules under which you amend them. I think you should read the Civil Service Rules and the laws that govern these things a little more and you would not make these errors.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I now turn to Expenditure.
2.15 p.m.

There have been a lot of calls over the past few years for Government to do something about the rate at which current expenditure has been allowed to grow. The Government has indicated that they are not going to cut welfare services, that cutting expenditure is going to necessarily mean cutting these areas. I will never advocate any cut in welfare or social services. On the contrary, I believe that there is scope for Government doing more to assist people who for one reason or another are unable to help themselves. I do not think that we treat our handicapped well enough. I believe that there are certain areas where we need to do more for certain disadvantaged people in our society, so I will never advocate any reduction in social or welfare services.

Only a few weeks ago, Sir, we were in here talking about housing and I was very insistent that Government should do everything to provide housing, sites and services and other services for those who are the most disadvantaged in our society. But, Sir, the rise in public expenditure cannot be accounted for by any extraordinarily great increase in the level of welfare services to our communities, because we see here in the 1991-92 Estimates that expenditure has grown way over last year, but at the same time the National Training Board has less funds available to it. The sites and services programmes have less funds available to them, the National Assistance Board is receiving less funds, so in the face of increasing public expenditure we are seeing areas where the social and welfare programmes are under attack. That argument about welfare services does not hold water, because we are seeing an increase in public expenditure and at the same time a decrease in certain welfare services.

The Prime Minister has said on many occasions, first in 1988, that he is going to look at ways of cutting Government expenditure, so some spokesmen on the other side are committed to the fact that public expenditure cannot afford to grow out of hand. There has to be some control on Government spending.

Sir, when we come to the economic classification of total expenditure, the Minister alluded to page 5 and he started on the subsidies, which are \$14 million, but he forgot to go to the item called Grants to Public Institutions which amounted to \$158.6 million.

I listened with interest to the debate by the Minister on privatisation. I just want to remind him that the 1986 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party said, among other things, that they are going to privatise everything except the Transport Board, so any talk about privatisation started then. Do not come now and be an agent for public enterprise when you in your Manifesto made a commitment

to the people to privatise everything except the Transport Board. The privatisation debate did not start on this side, it started on the other side, so if you saw the wisdom of wholesale privatisation in 1986, what has happened in five years that in 1991 you are now telling me otherwise?

My position is that there are certain public institutions which have to remain in private hands, but there are others which are prime candidates, and the Minister mentioned the Arawak Cement Plant among others. Sir, the State has got to get into the business of directing the economy of Barbados. For example, what is wrong with Government selling, as they said they would, the Hilton Hotel, and instead of putting the money into the public purse use it to build the convention centre? Our evidence would indicate that we need a convention centre in Barbados, so Government can use the funds realised in certain areas to positively effect developments in other areas where there is an urgent national need.

I do not think there is a wholesale case against privatisation, because Government should be at the forefront of economic activity directing, redirecting and causing things to happen. If that would entail selling off something to go in those areas, I see no problem with that. For instance, I am very worried about the ADC, because only a little while ago we were commenting on the fact that while private estates were getting 1 200 pounds of cotton per acre, the ADC, which has land in the same area, is only realising 400. The result is that we see the losses to the ADC tend to be increasing. The question is, why is it that certain plantations in the same area, having nearly the same conditions, can achieve yields which are two or three times as much as the yields which are obtained on State estates? It is an important and a vital question, one that we cannot ignore.

I would argue that there are certain activities where the State can be a facilitator, but to get involved in the day to day running of certain activities is going to lead to certain problems. Take the Transport Board. I am convinced that with proper management systems in place we should not be paying \$10 million to the Transport Board, but what we see happening is that the Transport Board has been used over the years as a convenient political football and nobody is interested in the profitability of the Transport Board, because the State will subsidise. Every year we come in here with an ever increasing subsidy and nobody is saying it has got to stop somewhere. Why is it that year after year we are called upon to use taxpayers' money to subsidise a venture which – I don't think will ever be run at a profit because of certain welfare and other considerations – but I am sure that with the proper systems we can get that subsidy down.

I am saying that if the political directorate will allow management of State enterprises to function as managers, then we will get greater efficiency in the organisation, and

when we get greater efficiency the benefit to the taxpayer will be tremendous. He will be getting virtually the same service, but he is called upon to pay less taxes in order to run that enterprise.

This is not only a partisan matter, this is a matter which cuts across the political divide. For too long we have had our State Corporations not being allowed to function as they should and it is time that we in this Chamber tell Government to institute systems and policies so that these enterprises which are so vital to national life are run to the best of their efficiency.
2.25 p.m.

Sir, I do not subscribe to the view that the private sector is any more efficient than Government, because I see a lot of waste in the private sector. We have heard of too many good companies going burst in the private sector. So I do not see privatisation as any panacea of all the ills of management, because the private sector managers have not proved themselves to be all that competent either. So, we have got to look at our private institutions again, cut out a lot of the political interference, let the Ministers or whoever appoint managers, and let them manage. Another thing, too, Sir, very often the salaries paid to the managers in these public institutions are tied not to their own activity but is tied to civil service considerations and invariably what you pay for is what you get. That is a problem that we will have to look at to give these corporations certain autonomy even at the level of fixing salaries.

Sir, let us deal with debt service. It has been mentioned as one of the reasons for the escalating government expenditure. Some people are saying that we have all this debt to repay. This year the figure is... I am not saying that anybody mentioned it today but this has been mentioned. Sir, we have to pay in the next...

Mr. PRESIDENT: We are debating a subject today. Not because it has been mentioned ten years ago you have to mention it today. It is not an open sesame to debate anything that comes to your head. It is what is on the order paper that we are debating not what name you remember.

We are not on a picnic; we are debating subjects so you have to stick to what it is you are debating. If you don't have any notes on the subject and you come to a close, close! There is nothing wrong in closing when you reach the end. All of us have to reach that point – period, in some form or another. So don't be afraid.

If you have reached the end of your debate, come to the end. Don't go searching to start off again.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: In the current financial year the state has to look for \$280 million to service outstanding debt. Last year it was around \$190 million and the point I want to make is that whereas in 1989-90 we

were paying \$266 million to service our debt, last year the figure was reduced to \$190 million. So we got a reprieve of \$76 million. Why is it then that in spite of the reduction in debt service that we see the level of public expenditure increasing? Why is it that when we were in a position because of the ease in the debt service to be reducing public expenditure that the opposite has happened? The argument could not be debt, because the debt payments have reduced. Therefore, what then is the reason? We have seen no great improvements in the delivery of welfare service because we have the case where, in spite of all this, we see children at Turner's Hall Primary School having to use substandard toilets and so on. In spite of all the record levels of spending at Turner's Hall, our children cannot go to the toilet in comfort. It may be a laughing matter over there but it is not a laughing matter to me. I was incensed when I read what conditions our children have to undergo at Turner's Hall. I am told that at the school at Farmer's which is to replace that Turner's Hall school as well as the school at Airy Cot, that five years ago the land was acquired for the purpose of building that school to replace the two schools which have seen better days and for five years nothing was done to alleviate the suffering of the children there. On the other hand, what do we see? We see public expenditure escalating but still a school that costs a million or so we have not yet built for the benefit of our children.

I think, Sir, that is an indictment on the present Administration, when in this day and age, our children are made to suffer like that.

Sir, I could go on.

MR. PRESIDENT: No don't go on. You think this is a picnic? It isn't about going on; it is what is the point you are making, Senator Barker. You seem to think we are here for entertainment. We are debating the matter and I don't like these phrases such as you can go on. You have to make the point you are making. You are not addressing a crowd that you are not sure about. The Senate is here. If the point you have to debate, you are not clear about, do you have to make these things to get a point? This is not the place for that. Make the point you have to make. You are holding up the debate. You are taking too long to debate by bringing them up and going back over and that sort of stuff. I am very patient with you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the estimates show that the priorities of this Administration are all misplaced. At a time where they are having all of this expenditure, we see the level of social services taking a beating.

Let us now go on to the deficit, because the Government is asking us to approve estimates where the deficit is going to be about \$3.70 million and they have only indicated finance for just over \$50 million. So, there is

about \$340 million difference about what they are getting from all sources and what we are asked to approve.
2.35 p.m.

We are in a situation where we are told to approve this amount of money but we are only sure where \$330 million less is coming from. We should not be in that position. We should be in the position where we are told the gap is \$370 million. It is going to be financed from source A, B or C so that we then have a complete picture of the whole budgetary exercise. At the present, we are just saying this is what we are spending. This is what we are getting in. We are asked to approve it not knowing. I hope that the Prime Minister is true to his word when he says one debate is going to cover both the Estimates and the Budgetary Proposals. I look forward very much to that time where we can look at the whole situation globally instead of partially as is presently being done.

Sir, last year the Government financed the gap as we see on page 2 of the Estimates. We see a situation where domestic financing accounted for over \$104 million. I take this to mean borrowings from the Central Bank basically. I have a problem with that. Everybody who has studied the situation carefully would agree that Government financing a deficit by resorting to borrowings from the Central Bank is one sure way of economic ruin. It is going to impact unfavourably on the foreign reserves. It is going to cause all sorts of dislocations within the economy.

This \$104 million that they have financed from the Central Bank, the figure ought not to have been anywhere as high as that. I believe that the Governor of the Central Bank had a right to use the legal powers given to him so that when Government exceeded the overdraft limit to refuse to honour Government's cheques. Government was then operating outside of the law. The Central Bank could have asserted its independence. We heard the Governor talking about the need for the Central Bank to have more independence. I say he had the opportunity a few months ago when Government was so far in excess of its legal limit to tell the Minister of Finance they were not going to operate outside of the law. If you wanted to do anything, change the law and then they would honour the cheques but do not expect us to...

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am not a lawyer. I happen to know a little bit about the situation. I do not believe Senator Barker is on firm ground on the point he is making which is reflecting adversely on the Governor of the Central Bank.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I believe if the legal limit was \$95 million which is 1/10 of estimated revenue, and it was until the law was changed in December, that the Central Bank ought to have ensured the Government did not go above that \$95 million. The Central Bank, among other things, is the banker to the Government. It has a

responsibility both to the state and to itself to ensure that the overdraft limit is not exceeded in that way. I believe that the Central Bank could have asserted its independence that it had and told the Government it was not honouring the cheques which were above the legal limit. I do not think that the law, which was passed in both Chambers – I am not commenting on the law – that increased it to 17%...

Mr. PRESIDENT: If it was passed in both Chambers why are you wasting the time of this Chamber with that? Where you want it to pass now, in your Chamber? Use your commonsense. The people of Barbados who have the authority to deal with it dealt with it according to you. Therefore why are you making this fuss?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The financing of the deficit last year leaves a lot to be desired. The Central Bank for the first time in its history in 1989 achieved a loss. I believe the Central Bank is too important an institution in the economic and other affairs of our country for this sort of thing to happen. The Central Bank has to put itself in order.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, Sir, I do not think Senator Barker is in a position to be talking about the Central Bank putting itself in order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker has been playing about language here today that I wonder if he is a Barbadian, a Russian or what because he is using the language as he likes. The next thing is you are going to find yourself out of order in using some language that you should not use. I am very patient with you. I do not run out of time until Senators step over the crease. Go ahead.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The Central Bank, Sir, has made a loss in 1989. I hope that everything is done to ensure that in the coming years it is restored to its profitable status. When the international community examines the balance sheet of the Central Bank and if the loss continues, it will affect the credit rating of Barbados, hence, the international position of Barbados and will make borrowing in the international community even more difficult than it proved to be last year when, as I said before, we had difficulty raising that loan.

Sir, I now come to the issue of information, that is, getting economic information in a timely manner. As I said before, we have not had official unemployment statistics for quite a little while. I call upon Government to make sure that its departments and institutions are properly functioning. As far as the Statistical Department is concerned, we notice that they are given special money for the 10-year census. I see no reason why they should not be given additional funding to ensure that the Household Budget Survey is carried out so that when the Household Budget Survey is being carried out, the Statistical Department does not have to suspend the compilation of the unemployment figures.

In terms of planning the economy, we need all the information, including the unemployment statistics, in order to make our plans. We cannot afford to be in a state where for over one year we do not know what the level of employment is on the Island.

2.45 p.m.

I believe that special funds should be given to the Statistical Department so that when they have to carry out these 10-yearly or 5-yearly exercise it would not have to stop its normal work. I would also want to ask the Central Bank that they also make sure that their publications are put out in a very timely manner. Over the years I have always been impressed with the Central Bank in the way how it gives out information on the economy to the public so that we can have timely and accurate information on the economy. But I notice that on the last few occasions that the Central Bank has been tardy in putting out its economic information. I hope that the Central Bank will regain its former status in this regard so that we can get the information timely and as accurately as feasible.

Sir, there is no doubt that morale at the Central Bank is low. I like most of us in here did not like the spectacle where a Director of the Bank was on a political platform threatening to kick people out of the Bank even after due process. Such behaviour must not be tolerated. The Bank is an institution which symbolizes stability in the economic management of our country and for these sorts of statements to be made on a political platform is ill-advised and would seriously undermine staff morale at the same institution.

I now turn, Sir, to certain individual Heads. I should like, if possible, the Ministers when the time comes, with your indulgence and with your permission, to ask them a few questions concerning some aspects of financing. For example, I notice that in the Ministry of Finance, this is on page 16, Ministry of Finance, Head 19, subprogramme 1, Item 212 Operating Expenses where we are budgetting for just over \$1 million. When I read the Note to 212 on the facing page, it says:

"Operating Expenses

Provides for postage, toiletries and cleaning supplies and miscellaneous expenditure."

When I did some checking I found that in years gone by this Head was normally \$10 000, \$12 000. I do not know exactly what is in this Head so I would like the Minister when he replies to let us know why we are approving \$1 million for an item which includes postage, toiletries and so on. Notice, Sir, that last year it was \$667 000 and this year it is just over \$1 million. That is about a 50% increase or thereabouts. We would want to know what item on miscellaneous expenditure goes into this Head to cause it to rise to this figure.

As I mentioned before, and we see on page 18, that is two pages down, that an item is there for "Population and Housing Census." We notice that since the Census year has passed that the figure has declined from \$1.1 million to \$161 000. I will just reiterate the point I made before that probably we need a subhead for the Household Budget Survey so that when we have it we would not have the difficulties.

On that same page 18, I see "Subprogramme 04: NEW ENTERPRISE ADMINISTRATION" where we are budgeting \$1 168 000 for NEW ENTERPRISE ADMINISTRATION and in the Note on the page facing it says:

"Provides a grant for the operation of the new Enterprise Administration Unit for the 1991-92 financial year."

We are asked to approve \$1.1 million but nobody has told us, by way of explanation or note, exactly what this money is to be spent for. I have no problem with any scheme which is going to improve the living standard or the standard of life for our people. But we should not be asked to approve \$1.1 million without an explanation from the Minister as to exactly how this money is going to be financed. Why is it a public institution? Is there any advantage why it is a public institution and not part of the public service? We need to know these answers because I think that this item is, reading the DLP Manifesto, part of their thrust for economic enfranchisement which is laudible and commendable. But we will need more information to decide whether or not we should approve this item, because as you would appreciate although we would have no difficulty with it, we would just want to know what it is we are approving. Probably the Minister, when he... Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was saying you might not understand your powers.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I would be glad if we could get an explanation before we approve the money about this new....

Mr. PRESIDENT: You might not understand your powers.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, whether we approve the New Enterprise Administration or not, we should, as a matter of course, get an explanation as to what exactly is involved in this.

As I said before the Estimates should be doing everything to stimulate especially the productive sectors which are under severe stress and strain resulting in a 3% decline in output last year.

When I turn to agriculture I have a few problems. Our food import in 1989 was \$213 million. For the first 10 months of last year, there was some reduction. I do not know what happened in the last two months but I am glad to see that the figure has come down. But to spend \$200 million in food is a lot of money and it would cause a drain on our foreign reserves especially when we could and should be doing better with the available land that we have. When I drive around the country I see the idle land that could be productive but under bush. I am sure that all of us in here are annoyed with the situation where we are importing \$200 million in food and as we drive around the country we see evidence of ruin and neglect of our good agricultural land.

Only a week or so ago we saw the Barbados Marketing Corporation looking about for sweet potatoes to export. They were begging people if they had sweet potatoes to let them come for them because there is a market for them overseas. But we, because of the neglect in the agricultural sector, are unable to meet the market overseas. Our future, to a large extent, depends on our productive sectors.
2.55 p.m.

I was looking for evidence under Head 23 that Government is serious about improvements in this sector. What do I notice? On page 30 under Head 25 – Measures to stimulate increased production – What I notice, Sir, measures to increase production last year \$2.3 million, this year \$1.8 million. So they have taken half million dollars under this Head for food crop research, development and extension.

Are we serious, Sir, about our agriculture, when we are taking this sort of money? The budget has been cut by almost one fifth and yet we are talking about increasing food production. How can we increase food production unless we do the relevant research to enable our planters to know what to plant, when to plant, and how to plant. So, when I talk about priorities, this is exactly what I mean, the Government should be spending more money on research in agriculture, not less. We should be spending more because if we want to boost food production in this island we have got to look at these sorts of services.

The research arm must be properly financed and activated. On page 32....

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I did not wish to interfere with the Honourable Senator, but you see there is this convenience of quoting one thing without giving the whole story. He talks about a reduction in food crop research of half million dollars. What he does not say is that the services to increase the output of crops has been increased by over \$800 000. If you are going to give one side of the story, give both.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I still say that the amount of money for food crop research, development extension has declined by half million dollars. I also see on page 32, the same Head, Item No. 3 – Methods to increase live stock production – what do we see? A decline from four million to 3.26 million. \$739 000 taken off that Head and we are serious about feeding ourselves.

I am saying, Sir, that if we are serious about production in agriculture we have got to put the money in these areas so that our livestock farmers can benefit from a better strain of cattle, a better strain of black belly sheep, a better strain of whatever. So we need to put money in livestock research; we need to put money in crop research in order to cut that enormous food bill and to feed our people.

Sir, two weeks ago a Bill came to this Chamber which gave the Minister certain powers with regard to the Scotland District and the Minister said, and I was happy, that he now has power to do work in the Scotland District and to improve. Look at page 33, Sir, under Scotland District Development. What I notice, the money cut, from \$6.445 million to \$6.143 million. They took \$352 000 so they have given the Minister more power and less money. \$352 000 has been cut from the Scotland District Development Programme and we are serious about agriculture in this country. The Minister comes in here and he has a brand new Bill, giving him enormous power and what is he doing with the power? He takes the power and cuts....

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir, I really hate to interrupt Senator Barker, but I think in the interest of fair play, honesty in reporting, at page 33, the Head cited, Item 625, Plant, Equipment and Furniture was reduced from \$528 000 to \$32 775. If he is familiar with the Estimates and their compilation he will fully recognise that this is not a recurrent item and you would not expect it to recur and it has nothing to do with the problematic content of the programme. I started off by saying earlier that we are moving to a programme budget which will give you further information as to programmes and not by sheer numbers.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: But the budget has still been cut by \$352 000. If you made a saving in one area and you were serious about production in that area you have a right....

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, no, you can't. This isn't a tamarind tree argument; this is a debate in the Senate. If you have not reached that stage yet, say so. If it has been pointed out to you that you made an error, therefore, you have to comply and say, you did not see it. But don't come up here and try to argue. This is for when you get up in Scotland District. But here in the Senate it is above that level.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, all I was saying....

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Member is trying to explain to you so that you can go back and explain to the people you have to deal with and don't carry ignorant arguments to them, but try to enlighten them.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, this \$352 000 that was taken off the Scotland District Development could have been spent in improving agriculture and hence, Sir, more crops, more tree crops and others can be ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, go on to another Head, I am not hearing any more on that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I also notice on page 34 that land and water use protection has also been cut from \$659 000 to \$476 000, and on the facing page the functions of this sub-programme are concerned with research and development activities associated with planned irrigation expansion. I notice, Sir, that \$182 000 has been cut from this Head.

Sir, Barbados, for about three or four months of the year, face desert-like conditions. Rain hardly falls for the first three or four months of the year. So that if we are going to realise the goal of feeding ourselves, then we have got to put more money into irrigation schemes so when the dry season come we can still grow crops. The irony is, Sir, that the latter part of the year, when rain is plentiful, that is when the pests are also more plentiful, so that if we can have proper irrigation scheme going, right now when there is less bush and so around and hence less pests we could be realising more output from our agricultural activities. But, when you are going to cut the irrigation expansion programme, you cannot be serious then, about improving agricultural production, because we need again, Sir, we need to be looking at more and more ways of getting the water from under the ground and from under the ground especially in the Scotland District, where we are told that all of those subterranean springs and so on cause a lot of land slippage, we should be spending money down there trying to harness that amount of water that at present goes into the East Coast. We should be spending money harnessing that water to irrigate crops when the dry months of the year come, between January and let's say May. But, we notice Sir, that this Budget has been cut and I am saying, Sir, that the Government cannot be serious about trying to improve agriculture and not giving the Minister of Agriculture the funds to do what he is mandated to do.

I also notice, Sir, that on page 39, Head 25, Sub-Programme 3, under Incentives and other Subsidies, that the grant has been cut from \$8.2 million to \$2 million.
3.05 p.m.

I understand the reason for this is that it is not expected this year that sugar will need any price support. Sir, I remember a year or two ago the Prime Minister....

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Ministry of Agriculture with a vote as shown at Appendix 6 has been increased by 53.2% in 1991-92. It is erroneous to give the impression that the vote has been reduced. Appendix 6, Head 25, Approved Estimates 1990-91, \$27 916 561 and 1991-92 \$42 779 985, a 53.2% increase. Please do not mislead the Chamber.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, as I was saying, I notice that the reason for reducing subsidy is because they did not expect that there would be any need for price support in the coming year. But I was going on to say that a few years ago the Prime Minister said that he was going to put \$3 million as a subsidy to enable people with idle land if they want to get this land back into production they could use this scheme. I do not know, Sir, what has happened to that scheme. I do not know if there were any takers. Okay. But I would like the Minister if possible when he gets the opportunity to inform us if the scheme is still in operation and why has it not been fully utilized over the past year or so, and what measures Government is putting in place to see that idle land is put back into production.

Sir, I am very distressed when I am driving about especially in the Warrens area where I live to see the land that many, many years ago was producing so much sugar cane and potatoes and so on that I now see it under a lot of houses. The whole Warrens Estate seems to have gone out of production and into housing. I was passing through Welches the other day and I was amazed to see that when they are building the road that one can see, I am sure, about 3 or 4 depths of soil. A lot of our soil is 18 inches or 2 feet and you have prime land with 3 or 4 feet of good soil which is going into houses. It makes one wonder, Sir, how serious we are when we are taking such good land and putting it into houses. I am saying, Sir, that when a person owns a piece of land in Barbados or any country for that matter he has a responsibility to the citizens of that country to use the land for the benefit of himself and also to the people of the country. What I mean, Sir, if I own a piece of land here and I decide not to work that piece of land, it can create problems for the man next door to me who may be cultivating his piece of land. So when I have land, I have a public responsibility to use the land for the benefit of the citizens. When I take my land and do not do anything with it for years and then get permission in subdividing my land and make enormous profit out of it and at the same time the country is importing \$200 million in food, I am doing a disservice to my country.

I believe that Government must look again at its land use policy and zone land in certain areas for purely agriculture. Zone land in other areas for commercial and

housing so nobody will suffer as has happened in St. George and St. John where good land is taken and put under housing when there are tracks of land which are of lesser quality which could have been used for housing purposes. We have got to make maximum use of the land that we have in Barbados. Every square foot of land must be used for the benefit of the people of Barbados. I would like Government to look again at the whole question of idle land and see if it can come up with some measures. If the owners feel that they cannot get the land put into production for one reason or another, the state can say okay I will lease the land from you and see if there are people in the community who would not mind leasing a few acres of land and looking after it.

Sir, the Springhall Land Lease Project with all its difficulties, in my view, was a step in the right direction. It represented a step in the right direction. It had its problems with water and so on, because unfortunately it is in one of the drier parts of the island. But we should be encouraging more and more schemes like the Springhall Land Lease Project as a way of increasing our food production and at the same time encouraging young people with ambition and drive to get the relevant skills and be self-made men. Sir, I am of the opinion that the young people of our country are no longer prepared to be just workers at a plantation. I think, Sir, we must find a scheme where we can lease them land and give them the necessary skills to enable them to be their own men and women. I want Government to get serious with agriculture and I have seen nothing in the Estimates which indicates to me that Government is serious about stimulating agricultural production in the Island. I call upon Government to send a signal to the community that they are serious about reducing that high import bill. Sir, I am disappointed that nothing significant or tangible has been done to improve agricultural production.

Sir, I now turn to the area of Health and this area concerns me quite a lot for obvious reasons. The last BLP Administration in 1980 introduced the Barbados Drug Service and only on Saturday I was reading the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners, July 1990 Edition where they had an editorial of the Tenth Anniversary of the Barbados Drug Service. They were at pains to point out the benefits that the community has derived from the implementation of the Barbados Drug Service. They mentioned the fact that a lot of children who got sick and their mothers were only able to provide drugs for them at the expense of milk. They mentioned the fact that there were a lot of old age pensioners when they were treated and they had to get drugs the doctors could not understand how come these people are not responding to the treatment. When they checked, the poor people could not afford the drugs. So the doctor thought that when they gave them the prescription that they would go and buy the drug. But the poor old people could not afford the cost of drugs. The Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners had high praise for the Barbados Drug Service. But they mentioned

one or two concerns. Their argument was that the scheme has little or no wastage and any serious attempts at cost cutting could affect the quality of the Drug Service.
3.15 p.m.

They mentioned what they called The Protocol, where the doctors were given certain instructions that for certain drugs they could only give a certain supply of that particular drug. The doctors were complaining that this sometimes interfered with the quality of service that they could give to their patients.

Sir, the Barbados Drug Service is costing this year about \$17 million which is money scheduled to be spent for this coming year. But, Sir, I have a problem. On page 77, it shows that they are spending over \$16 million on the Barbados Drug Service. Note, Sir, that this year we are bringing in from the Health Levy \$34 million as per the estimates, page xix, and the Drug Service is costing \$16+ million. The point I want to make, Sir, is that the only component of National Health Service for which the health levy was imposed that has got off the ground is the Barbados Drug Service and this is only taking half of the money of the health levy. Why then, Sir, is Government using these cost cutting measures to the detriment of the Service? This document has said that these cost-cutting measures can be detrimental to the Barbados Drug Service because there wasn't that amount of fat to cut off in the first place. If we are spending only half of the the health levy money on the Drug Service, why do we have to implement these massive cost-cutting schemes when we are told that they can affect the viability of the scheme? I would advise Government to be very careful about how far it implements cost-cutting measures in the Barbados Drug Service.

Sir, the estimates as presented to us, as I pointed out, show that the Government is unclear about their priorities. In the face of increased expenditure, we are getting cuts in welfare services. Sir, I want to suggest that Government look again at the estimates because I strongly feel that more money ought to be placed in the productive sectors. The Ministry of Trade can do with some more money to implement things like the Design Centre and other measures to improve production in Barbados. We have to look and cut waste where waste can be cut, but I am not so certain that we should be spending \$8 million on the St. Joseph Hospital when we are not even sure as to what sort of hospital it is going to be. We are not sure as to the ratio of public and private beds. We are not sure of anything, but yet we are called upon to pay \$8 million for, what I am told, is going to be basically a private institution. Eighty of the beds are private and twenty are public. We saw an advertisement going out only two weeks ago where they were advertising eighty beds for a drug rehabilitation centre. That money can be better off spent in other productive areas of the economy.

So, Mr. President, with those comments, I have these reservations about the estimates as presented to us and I hope that Government takes serious note of some of the points I raised and do everything in their power to make sure that the economy of Barbados and the people of Barbados benefit in the long run.

I thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: I want to make a few observations to the estimates that are before us.

I found it an imposition to be listening to the previous speaker, because I certainly didn't get the impression that he knew precisely where he was going. As I understand it, the estimates of expenditure for 1991 set out Government's policies. That's what they do and these estimates are set against a certain background. Mr. President, the most important consideration which Government has to bear in mind in setting out expenditure policy for the year 1991-92 is whether the Barbadian economy can afford to support a given level of expenditure given the availability of foreign exchange earnings. That is the major consideration. One does not go about deciding on a figure by pulling it out of the air. A critical limit to what this economy can support by way of spending in any particular time period depends in the final analysis on what foreign exchange there is available to support that expenditure.

In Barbados, we have to find the foreign currency to support current consumption, capital expenditure as well as debt service repayments. I believe Senator Barker might be unfamiliar with the external position of the country and this might have led him to make statements which are unsubstantiated by fact. Senator Barker apparently is unaware that in 1991-92 in addition to finding the foreign currency to support current consumption and capital expenditure, this Government will have to look for \$280 million approximately to repay amortisation and interest on foreign debt. This is a substantial sum of money. I find it painful, Mr. President, trying to follow the arguments put forward by Senator Barker. At times, Senator Barker complains about too much expenditure and then he comes back and complains about cuts and I really do not understand what he is complaining about. Just this morning, in trying to provide a background to the economic situation, Senator Barker made the statement that non-sugar for quite some time has been in a chronic state of decline.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. President, these are matters of fact. These are not matters of opinion. I draw the attention of the Senate to the Economic Report which was laid in this House in 1989. I imagine just before the debate the Economic Report is laid by the Minister of Finance. If you turn to page 61 of this document which was laid in the House, I am dealing with Table 27 - Production of selected Agricultural Commodities, 1981-89 you will notice if you start at the

bottom of the page, Livestock and Dairy Production, there is a consistent increase in production. I do not know where Senator Barker is getting his evidence from but this is a document of this House.

When I come higher up the page and I look at Vegetables and Root Crop Production, you will notice that in the case of carrots, there is a persistent increase starting from 1984 to 1989. The same is true for 1984-1989 with string beans, tomatoes, cucumbers. I believe Senator Barker does not understand what he is talking about with onions. This is a serious research problem. We started commercial production of onions in Barbados around 1967. Somewhere around 1972 we were exporting 700 tonnes of onions. What happened to our onion crop? It does not have anything to do with the Government cutting expenditure on it. There were technical problems with production. Onion blast, a very serious fungal disease surfaced in the 1970's and literally wiped out the crop.

Under the Trinidad marketing protocol Trinidad and Antigua, should have taken their quotas under the agricultural marketing protocol but for one reason or the other did not take them. We were left with the crop on our hands. I do not like to place blame where the blame does not properly rest. The decline in onion production has nothing to do with the cuts of capital on the current expenditure. In fact, this Government has, in the area of onion production, an enviable record in relation to addressing those problems. It is the only one of the three Governments in the Caribbean where there has been substantial onion production which has set up an onion development programme and has achieved a substantial success in dealing with those technical problems. These are the matters which Senator Barker must get right.

Mr. President, I am concerned about these matters because, as I understand it, learning a little Latin at school, I came through that time, the Senate is a place for mature debate. I believe that the wild statements and politicking are part and parcel of some – I emphasise "some" – of the Members of the Lower House. I do not believe they have any place in the Senate. That is why it pains me when Members make statements which cannot be supported by fact.

Senator Barker this morning referred to the Barclay's loan, the loan which the Government of Barbados raised on the London market late last year. Again, nothing but confusion comes out of it. I have never heard anyone being a borrower and a lender at the same time. You cannot borrow and state the terms on which you are going to borrow. That is a simple fact of life. Again, and I am not going to stay with these errors of fact, not to mention an analysis of what Senator Barker thought of it. Senator Barker speaks about a worsening of the merchandise trade gap. Basically what he fails to understand is why merchandise exports fell substantially after 1976. In

Barbados what has always been important for us is not the merchandise trade. Certainly after the mid 1960's it has not been the merchandise trade but services.

I believe most Senators, if not all, will recall that in 1986 many of the large foreign firms, Intel, Corcom, Playtex and others pulled out of Barbados. When these firms pulled out, it had an immediate effect in depressing the quantum of physical goods which we were exporting from Barbados. There is nothing we could have done about that. It is a matter of international firm strategy. Intel looks at the bottom line of Intel, not the bottom line for Barbados. I have no difficulty with that because you have to recognise the rules of the game and play it by the rules. I have nothing against Intel, Corcom, or Playtex if they relocate because it suits their advantage. We must not seek to misinterpret the evidence and where there is no causation try to establish a causation.

I cannot understand and I will never be able to understand the arguments advanced by Senator Barker and those of his ilk. I make bold to say, there has been a lot of talk in Barbados about the level of expenditure. Mr. President, I have no difficulty with the level of expenditure. If at all I have any difficulty it is I would like to see more of that expenditure shifted to support directly productive export activities. If at all we are spending too much money, if at all there needs to be a shift, it needs to be a shift in support of activities which will earn us more foreign exchange.

I am not sure if Senator Barker understands what is meant by social expenditure. He complains of cuts in social expenditure. I am yet to hear him do a thorough analysis of health or education. These are the major areas of social expenditure in Barbados. I challenge Senator Barker to point out to me another Caribbean Government which is spending as high a percentage of its current and capital expenditure on education and health as Barbados. Barbados is the only country today in the Anglophone Caribbean which provides fully taxpayer funded education for all its citizens from infant school to pre-school right through to university. It is the only country in the Anglophone Caribbean which can make that statement today. I find it very difficult to follow the illogic of Senator Barker when he starts to make these non-points about cuts in social expenditure.

As I understand it, this Government has committed itself to that social policy because it is of the view that one cannot disentangle social expenditure from economic expenditure. You cannot analyse an economy out of its social context. If you have an economy which is starved of human capital, you will find that you have factories and other physical fixtures and there is nobody to man them. Again I come to errors of fact. I am a bit disturbed when I find persons who should know better committing errors in fact. I always tell my students there is no room for

argument when it comes to facts. It is a matter of diligence. I am a tough customer when it comes to errors of fact.

I recall some years ago, I cannot remember which year it was, when I was charged with the final responsibility for assessing students on three campuses on a paper. In one paper I found so many errors of fact that I cut that script from 63. I remember when I finished with it he got 31. There can be no compromise when it comes to diligence. Facts are facts. You do not have facts and half facts. Senator Barker this morning talked about the share of direct taxation and revenue being around 30% for quite some time. It is not true.

3.35 p.m.

In 1989 it was just over 38%, the share in direct taxation. He admits it has gone up. The projection for the year just ended 1990-91 is just over 41%. We cannot treat something like 10% as a margin of error. It is too large. Because you are talking about 30% of the total but 10% in absolute terms.

Again we come to this area of confusion, I call it confusion because I am not convinced that Senator Barker is capable of deception. He makes the point that increase in consumption taxes leads to price increases and these price increases lead to inflation. This is the farthest from the truth. All of the research done on small economies like Barbados demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that the major source of inflation in these economies... Not only Barbados because there are some who believe that when you talk about a small open economy you are only talking about Barbados. That is a joke. If they will read enough they will know that in the Journals when you are talking about small open economies, you are talking about the United Kingdom, you are talking about Australia, you are talking about New Zealand. You are talking about those massive economies too. Barbados is what I call a mini economy.

But the point however which I am making is that Senator Barker is totally misguided on this point. When you are a First Year student in Economics... I taught my students what was inflation. Inflation is not a once-for-all increase in prices. If tomorrow the Minister of Finance came and he adjusted consumption taxes upward and prices rose as a result of that, that is not inflation. That is a price increase. In the normal course of things in the world, prices increase over time. It is when prices not only increase but they increase at an abnormal rate and do it persistently that you talk about inflation. For Senator Barker to talk about inflation is to do a great disservice to the whole concept of inflation. He should know better. He should know that the shift to consumption tax as a major source of revenue started under the late Tom Adams. He should also know that the present Minister of Finance has committed himself to a fundamental rethinking of the structure of taxation in

Barbados with the view of achieving greater equity in that tax structure. The Minister is on record as saying that.

He speaks about Levies in these Estimates and refers to them as an anomaly. I do not know what he means by anomaly. I understand a little about the Levies. But I do not understand all of this talk about the poor. I remember some time ago Senator Morrison in speaking in this Senate said that people are offended when you talk about the poor. Nobody likes to be in a position where they are called a poor man. But to talk about Levies being imposed on small salaries is to present a part of a picture.

In Barbados a substantial amount of Government expenditure goes in providing social supports for the low income groups. We must not as Parliamentarians put ourselves in positions where the low income people will start to feel that we are their worst enemies. It is the farthest from the truth. In Barbados you can go into the hospital, you can have the best services funded by the taxpayer of this country. There are some people who go from polyclinic to the other, collect the medication and they put it down. They do not use it. All kinds of social supports. If you have a child who has passed for a secondary school and you can get no pumps, not a pair of pumps nowadays because the lower income group you are the more expensive the shoes you wear. I have seen some children wearing shoes that I do not think I would ever be able to provide for my children. The kinds of shirts that they wear, I have not worn yet. This notion about the poor is a stilted and upside down idea which they have.

I am saying that in Barbados, to the credit of successive administrations, a substantial amount of expenditure has gone on providing social supports for the less fortunate in our society.

Senator Barker this morning spoke about the deficit. I am not sure which deficit he is talking about. I listened to him very carefully. Mr. President as I understand it when we speak about deficit, we are referring to the difference between expenditure and revenue, to the total expenditure, the total revenue. That is one way of looking at it, Sir. On other occasions we speak about the deficit but we take out amortization. When people come to speak of these things, they must be clear on their terms. If we look at the Estimates, there appears to be a gap on the cover of the Estimates of \$370 million. Of course that includes amortization. It comes out to a little over I think. But we have to recognize then some things which Senator Barker failed to recognize about the situation in this economy. Those persons who look at this document and see it in static terms and tell us the deficit is \$370 million and the Minister of Finance must tell us how he is going to finance it, whether he is going to raise \$370 million in taxation, they do not understand what is going on. Twelve months from now if we are all alive we will find that this economy is not sitting stable. The economy is not going to be sitting stable.

It would either have grown in real terms or it would have contracted. Chances are it would have grown marginally. If it has grown marginally, in real terms, it means that the tax base would have expanded in real terms as well as nominal terms. Therefore with the same level of taxation and the same level of management efficiency in the public service, you would get a larger tax take.

So to take up this document and say you have a deficit of \$370 million and you have to tell us how much you are going to tax to close the deficit is to demonstrate a total misunderstanding of fiscal policy.

I am encouraged from all the statements I have heard from the Minister of Finance who understands, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that it would be the most ill-advised thing to do to try to close this gap by taxation. It is far more important, Mr. President, for the Minister of Finance to indicate unequivocally to the country and to the international community how he plans to deal with this deficit over time. Thank God we have never had a Minister of Finance, and if we have had one he was not around for a long time, who would even consider the kind of action to close this gap by taxation measures. Because you would contract the economy in such a rapid way that you would destroy the base from which you wanted to draw your sustenance.

I have no doubt that in the fullness of time the Minister of Finance will address the issue and address it in a sensible and balanced way looking to the future. An economy is not a static organism. It is a very dynamic organism.

Senator Barker made the comment about the Central Bank, the losses the Central Bank made. I believe that all the public affairs... I am not going to try to get into the internal business of the Central Bank of Barbados. This is not the place to discuss it. This administration has to live with decisions of a previous administration in relation to that Central Bank. We have to live with that. Government is a continuing responsibility. So to behave as if the loss which the Central Bank incurred in 1989 is something which this Government has to be ashamed of is to fail to understand the problems with which this Government was burdened when it came to office with respect to the Central Bank of Barbados. Furthermore it is a failure to show an appreciation that in all countries when the external sector is under stress, the Central Bank is under stress because it has to use its short-term lines and therefore it incurs interest cost.

3.45 p.m.

I don't know what is the problem with Senator Barker's statistical information. I challenge anybody, to prove that in the last four and a half years there has been a delay in providing official statistical information.

The Director of Statistical Services made a public release last week. He did not send a subordinate to do it; he did it himself and he said no Minister or nobody gave him any instructions to delay the figures on unemployment and he said that in the last quarter of 1990 the figure was 14.7%. That is public knowledge for everybody to know, so, I don't understand what Senator Barker is complaining about. The Central Bank report for the last quarter, I have never seen it come out so fast; so I don't know what he is complaining about.

Senator Barker, I believe referred to somebody on a political platform, who said that mischief makers in the Central Bank should be dealt with through process of law. Mr. President, I believe he was referring to me. I said so then, and I say so now. I am no hypocrite; I say what I believe in, and I believe in fair play. I believe if you are part of an institution you should uphold the standards and ethics of that institution and there is no doubt, that there is substance to support the position I took.

Mr. President, I have never been a coward in my whole life. Those cowards, they can write in the newspaper under the pseudonym of R. W. P. Brathwaite, they can write from now until resurrection morning I will not change my position. They can abuse me in the House of Assembly from now until resurrection morning, my position remains unchanged.

I want to turn to a particular Head in the estimates, Mr. President. The Head which deals with National Insurance. On page 10, Head 15. This deals with National Insurance. Just last week in the Lower House of Parliament, an Ex Prime Minister, Bernard St. John, took it upon himself to say, and he quoted me correctly, in the first instance, that I said, about \$600 million of National Insurance money was improperly accounted for. I said so then, and I repeat it now and it is more money than that.

Mr. President, I am not going to delay the work of this Senate, I am going to make certain documents, documents of this House so that when Bernard St. John and Mr. Owen Arthur set out to mislead, and to misinform, subsequent generations can come to this House and they can read the documents. I don't believe in pussy footing and I will read the concluding paragraph of the Auditor General of Barbados who is the accounting officer for the expenditure of public funds. This is a document 1981-1984 and 1987 Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund. This is a document produced by the Auditor General and I read what he says in Section 8 of the Report.

"From the above, it is evident that the accounting situation in the Fund cannot be regarded as satisfactory. There is need for the exercise of stricter controls, safeguards and vigilance in the maintenance of accounts. It is suggested that urgent consideration

be given to establishing an internal audit system whereby several of the problems now experienced could be minimised or eliminated."

And Section 9, in a one line concluding this is what he says: "In view of the foregoing it has not been possible to certify the accounts."

This is so for 1980, it is so for 1981, it is so for 1982, it is so for 1983, it is so for 1984 and Mr. President, with the best of will in the world, nobody in Barbados can ever produce a statement to the Auditor General for 1986. Let the Labour Party challenge me on that. I am going to make these things documents of the House. When I am dead and gone they will still be here.

I turn now to another document, the 12th December 1986 and this is the same Auditor General commenting on the National Insurance Accounts for the year 1982. This is what he has to say: I will just read a section which vividly indicates - Section 11 - I will make this a document of the House, Mr. President:

"An amount of \$749 892 82 is shown as cash in hand, whereas the cash book shows a balance of \$2 982 384.70. On the other hand a physical cash examination carried out at the close of business on 31st December 1982 disclose a balance of \$724 916.54", and he goes on.

17, and I will just give you the concluding statement again-

"In light of the above ...

this is what I have been talking about, Mr. President,

"In light of the above it has not been possible to certify the accounts".

There is this type of flagrant violation of the law under the Labour Party regime which I have been talking about. My position as Chairman of the National Insurance Board is a public responsibility. It is not a private business; it is not anything between me and my wife, or me and my children. It is a public responsibility and you are dealing with public funds, and I am telling you when you check those documents for '80 to '85, I can't tell you about '86 because nobody knows. It is more than \$600 million and all I am telling the Labour Party is, stop playing around me, because when you play with me, you are looking for trouble. The whole set of documents I am going to make documents of this House.

So we find ourselves today, in the National Insurance, caught in a web where the poor public servants can hardly find a way and that is brought about by the incompetence of the Barbados Labour Party administration which refused to give staff to do the work of National Insurance. That is as much as I am going to say now; a word to the wise is enough.

I come, Mr. President, to the business of the Inland Revenue Department. Page 22. Inland Revenue Department. Just last week Mr. Owen Arthur in Parliament accused me of saying that I accused him of being party to providing mis-information to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. Mr. Arthur knows that is not true. 3.55 p.m.

What I said is that I am aware and the truth is, Mr. President, that I know. I did not say what I know or I did not say who. I said then that I knew that there were some persons who were tax consultants, I will be a bit more specific this afternoon, but who were also practicing politicians who gave advice which was wrong to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. I said so then and I repeat it this evening, Mr. President. The Member for St. Peter met me at the top of the staircase in the presence of Mr. David Thompson, the present Minister of Community Development and accused me of making allegations about him and, in Mr. Thompson's presence, he said I do not know anything about you. If you want to tell me about yourself and your doings, I am prepared to listen to you. That is the truth. But what I know and I fully support is the position of the Minister of Finance.

I think it is time that the Inland Revenue be given the tools. The private sector cannot have access to highly qualified tax accountants and revenue lawyers and you have boys doing men's jobs in the Inland Revenue. It cannot work. This is why I fully support the position of the Prime Minister. If he has to spend more money to recruit and train staff and put it in the Inland Revenue, do it by all means because the tax burden must be equitably distributed and not only those of us in the PAYE net. I have no difficulty with paying my taxes because I believe that that is a social responsibility and the more taxes I can pay the better I feel because I know that I am working for the money. So I do not take the position of Senator Barker. I am happy when I can pay my taxes.

I would say, Mr. President, the cuts which we have seen in these Estimates are cuts which are tolerable. I believe that the Minister of Finance and his colleagues fully understand the problem which the country has to grapple with. It is not a problem that you can run away from. Just this weekend I heard the Minister of Finance saying that he was advised by one of his public servants that he should renegotiate the 3 per cent wage agreement which was worked out with the unions and, of course, the Prime Minister did not hesitate to say that he did not even think about the advice. That is a matter for commonsense because you always have to trade off industrial upheaval against some potential financial gain.

I believe that the talk about straight economics when we come to matters of public policy is to misunderstand the point. What the Minister of Finance has to deal with is not economics but economics and people development which is

political economy. Whenever you come to this business of taxation and you believe in your straight economics and you forget that you have people and that they are just numbers that you can throw out, you are bound to end up like the fellow Nicholas Kaldorf who advised Jagan in the 1950's and by the time he got on the plane there was a riot in Guyana. We do not want that around here. A lot of advice which Senator Barker is offering the Government the Government does not need it and I am not sure if Senator Barker can advise himself. So the Government does not need that advice.

I am satisfied, Mr. President, that the Minister of Finance fully appreciates the problem which he has to deal with. I believe that the Minister recognizes that the slack which he has to deal with will have to be found in the area of Capital Expenditure. That is where if slack exists or if he is going to create slack, that is where he is going to find it. But when you look at these Estimates (Members on the other side like to talk in terms of bald figures and they do not like to face the facts) I ask quite seriously tell me what room is there for cutting in the present state? – Forty-two point one per cent on Wages and Salaries, Goods and Services 10.2 per cent, 22.8 per cent on Transfers, and 24.9 per cent on Current Debt Servicing. Debt Servicing is an inescapable responsibility. You have to pay. When you enter into a contract, you cannot opt out. You cannot do like that fellow in Peru tried sometime ago. You will become an international pariah. Nobody will deal with you.

Current Transfers – I have heard the Minister of Finance say before and he has committed himself in his policy document to a programme of privatisation which takes into interest all the interests of Barbadians. You cannot go overnight in 1991-92 and say you are going to cut these transfers by saying you are not going to finance the Transport Board, you are closing down CBC, and you are closing down Arawak. It has to be a phased programme. You cannot jump inside there and hope to do things like that. Nobody will argue that there is not a merit in a privatisation programme which generates a proper balance between the private and public sectors. What I fail to understand is the argument by Senator Barker that there should be a programme of privatisation and then he turns around and says, "Those private sector managers are inefficient too." But you are privatising and you have nobody to privatise with. That is the end result of his argument.

I looked at a document, the 1986 Manifesto, in which Senator Barker says that we should privatise everything. On Page 5 of this document, I am not going to read it, I refer him to it because I do not want to take up time. On Page 5, the Government's statement in 1986 on privatisation is here. Government at that time said they would privatise if we are to accept the Transport Board. It does not accord with fact and I would caution the Senator to avoid making

those kinds of extravagant claims because it can be very easily demonstrated that it is not true.

Now 10.2 per cent – I noticed that Senator Barker was talking a lot about cutting. Up to now he has not said what he would cut. He has not said it, but I will say this and I have said it before and Barbadians must realize it. Look when the time comes, you do not have a choice and it is best for Barbados in spite of the protestations of Senator Barker to start doing the cuts which will make Barbados safe. It is best to start doing it now. In Jamaica, hospitals were closed down, schools were closed down, and the JSIC was closed down and they started burning the garbage beside the street. They cut the Public Service by 40 per cent. They did it in Trinidad not to mention Guyana. The fact of the matter is that the Government is assailed for high expenditure. Mr. President, when the Government after careful study decides this is where we are going to make cuts, they come inside and say we disadvantage the poor. But I am saying, Mr. President, that we in Barbados fail to make judicious reductions in the economy. The people who are going to be hardest hit are the low income people. I do not need to make this point, Mr. President. You have travelled all parts of the world and you know these economies which are hard hit by devaluation. The poor have no escape valve. The middle class with their skills get a plane ticket and leave and they leave the less able to fight in the dust bins for food.

4.05 p.m.

Government is wise to start making the economies now and I will say the Minister of Finance showed sound judgment when in Parliament last week he said that it was his intention to introduce the kinds of programmes which would eliminate wastage in the public service. I am concerned about wastage and any Minister of Finance has a right to be concerned about wastage, because there is no point taxing and taxing, otherwise you will destroy the goose that lays the golden egg.

I have every confidence that when the Minister of Finance brings the other half of the exercise as Senator Barker is asking for that he will do what is right. I don't expect him to please the other side and when I say the other side, I mean the Barbados Labour Party, because if you don't do something they will attack you, if you do something they will still attack. So, I agree with my Prime Minister, make up your mind and do what you know you have to do. Mr. President, I have no doubt that the estimates before us is the result of careful and mature concern and I have no doubt either that in the hands of the Minister of Finance, he will see to it that the various programmes are implemented in a way which takes cognisance of the difficult external environment which this country faces.

With those words, Mr. President, I support this.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. President, I want to make my comments under Head 34 – Sub-Programme 04: Special Schools, page 58, sub-programme 04 and Head 36 – Programme 4: Care of the Disabled, Program. In both of those explanatory notes, we have to deal with the disabled or in one particular case, care of the disabled.

Mr. President, the Barbados Association of the Physically Handicapped constantly refer to the need for the upgrading of the facilities provided by Government for the education of these special people. These facilities appear to be neglected, inadequate and even degrading. As a matter of fact, in one particular facility it has been brought to my attention that even the floor covering has been put there by parents long ago and for years it hasn't been changed.

While it is pleasing to note that provision is being made for these special people and even very recently the Chief Education Officer in a speech at the St. Stephen's prize-giving made note on Friday, March 22 and reported in the Advocate newspaper on Monday March 24, a special consideration is being given in the construction of the new St. Stephen's School for the facilities for the handicapped; I would submit that these facilities must be of minimum acceptable standard to any provision that is made. These people are special and their needs are special. Not many of the parents can afford to send these children to the privately run institutions and I submit, Mr. President, that upgrading these facilities should be a priority in Government expenditure.

Furthermore, Mr. President, no one knows really as well as the parents of the handicapped their situation, especially the mothers of these children. Many of them, however qualified they are, because of their commitment to these children, cannot take a full-time job. Qualification, even among teaching staff for these special people and commitment are not in any way synonymous. You can have qualifications to the nth degree and the commitment is not there to the people whom you have to look after, especially people like these, they will suffer.

There is no day nursery yet, I think, in our country that can be staffed adequately or even adequately equipped to cater for the needs of these children. The parents are crying out for a facility, for what they term, respite care. This is a new concept, Mr. President, and this facility would allow parents themselves to get some kind of rest bed from the continuous supervision of these children. The facility, I submit, Mr. President, may be coordinated and staffed by the very parents themselves. It will naturally need a lot of financial assistance, but the services of the parents themselves could be used as a resource for this facility, because they have the most direct experience and they are the most knowledgeable in dealing with these children. I repeat, Mr. President, it is a new concept and it could be best discussed by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of

Education and the Barbados Association of the Parents of the Handicapped.

Mr. President, I would wish that the Government will give this some form of consideration. A caring Government, I know, will do it.

The next observation and comment is under Head 34 in the explanatory notes – Education under Maintenance. I note with pleasure, Mr. President, that throughout this document on the estimates, provision is made for maintenance of buildings and equipment. I would like to emphasise the maintenance of schools and I might add here at the risk of being facetious that over forty years of experience, I think, would have given me more license than any form of inhibition. It is a helpful point to note, and perhaps an enlightening point that the daily human traffic in any school, and especially, these large schools with which we are saddled, is inordinately more than and different from any form of traffic that would go on in any other construction.

What we need in our schools is what, I term, first-aid maintenance: maintenance that is immediately available, maintenance for which we don't have to work – and excuse my saying "we", but after forty years it is difficult to say anything but "we" – maintenance, for which we wouldn't have to wait on because of the long paperwork. If maintenance is neglected, we know in any circumstance, that if it is neglected, it grows bigger. We could go back to the old adage:—

"Because of a nail, the shoe was lost.
Because of a shoe, the horse was lost.
Because of a horse, the rider was lost.
Because of the rider, a battle was lost."

and we could go right down the line because in a school with all this human traffic and the human traffic of the type that it is, the harm is potentially bigger. Quality maintenance, Mr. President, is like good first aid in medicine. A while ago, the Honourable Minister referred to the amount of money, which was reinforced by Senator Alleyne, that is being spent on education and health.
4.15 p.m.

He referred to it as the development of human capital. Senator Alleyne referred to it as getting a more productive labour force. We should like to see in all our maintenance programmes, real quality maintenance.

The size of our schools is a problem in itself, a problem with which we would probably have to be saddled with for many generations to come. We cannot change that right now. The myriad problems which are the spin-offs of this particular problem might be the subject of another debate. But the crux of it all is the technique of proper maintenance. From experience, again I submit, Mr.

President, that the requesting, the directing and the implementing to a large extent of such first aid maintenance is simply left to the people who work within these schools, namely, the principals and the staff. Mr. President, I should hope, and I feel sure, that maintenance within our schools especially should be looked into very carefully because it is an extremely important method within the school system.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we have been going steadily for more than two hours. I am going to move that this sitting be suspended until 4.45 p.m. That will give us a 35 minutes break. I therefore move, Sir, that the sitting be suspended until 4.45 p.m.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 4.45 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
4.20 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Mr. President, this is my first speech in this Honourable House. I must admit when I first saw these Estimates I was somewhat taken back by the size of the expenditure plan of \$1.3 billion for an island as small as Barbados. Having gone through the Estimates there are obvious areas of expenditure that need to be made.

One of the concerns I have is the tremendous part of the expenditure that is associated with salaries and wages. The salaries and wages figure that is shown is not only the amount shown for salaries and wages but in a part of the grants to public institutions there would be further salaries and wages involved in those public institutions which means that the actual percentage on salaries and wages paid by the Government directly or through statutory corporations is a very sizeable part of this expenditure.

I understand that there is no desire to reduce employment. I do not think anybody in Barbados wishes to see employment reduced. I feel we have to look at these things realistically. As a businessman and, perhaps, not having been afforded the privilege of informed information of how Government was run previously, one hears comments regularly about what appears to be wastage in the Government sector. I am sure we have all heard comments about the number of people that can be seen apparently doing nothing but drawing a wage from Government. In this regard I have been extremely impressed by – unfortunately, the page does not have a

number – what I assume to be the purpose of the Ministry of the Civil Service in which it states that the purpose of the Ministry of the Civil Service is:

1. Promoting and implementing the best management and personnel systems for the Public Service;
2. Initiating and maintaining a wide range and high standard of training courses to enable officers at all levels to participate (this, to me, is the key to the whole thing) in an efficient, well informed and dynamic Public Service."

For that Ministry it is proposed to allocate \$5.829 million. I sincerely hope that the objective outlined for that Ministry can be fulfilled and that we can look forward to much improved efficiency in all areas in which Government money is spent.

One of the other interesting aspects of the revenue side of the Estimates is the extremely heavy dependency, almost total dependency, on revenue through taxation. I would hope that in Barbados, which is now a much better informed society than it was in the past, where debates such as these are widely publicised and the public is becoming more and more aware of what is going on, that once and for all when one considers how taxation is derived, that we can get away from the somewhat popular belief that is frequently thrown against the private sector that profit is a bad word because taxes are actually paid out of profit. A company that does not make a profit does not pay tax. I hope once and for all that this attitude to profit is dispelled and that all mechanisms can be put in place for regeneration of good profit.

The profits of a company are utilised for reinvestment in the company or utilised for a return on the investment to shareholders. After tax I believe we need to have a healthy profit margin for the continued expansion and development of businesses in Barbados. Free enterprise is extremely important. In this regard in the opening remarks made by the Honourable Minister this morning he made several comments, some of which I would like to make of my own comments.

Reference was made to privatisation which has been bandied around now for a number of years and has become somewhat of a talking point. I do not think there is anybody in Barbados that wishes to propose privatisation for privatisation sake. There are, obviously, some areas of concern which involve Government expenditure and on which a belief is held that, perhaps, if these areas were privatised they may perform better. I am not proposing to stand here this evening and say whether they would or would not perform better. What I would like to use this opportunity to do is to request even more consultation between the Government and the so-called private sector. I

prefer to use the system of free enterprise. I would like to suggest even more consultation in this regard. As I see it at present we still operate, to some extent, on antagonistic lines.

4.55 p.m.

To some extent not as bad as it was before. But I feel that if we have more open and frank discussions that we can better understand the motives of each other and hopefully come together for the betterment of the nation as a whole. In this regard, Sir, I should like to propose that it be a tripartite effort not only between Government and the private sector or free enterprise but that will include the workers' representatives.

We are living in a society in Barbados where we are enjoying an extremely high standard of living and our wages policy is, comparatively speaking, on the high side. I have no intention of proposing that we attempt to reduce that in any way but I think that these are all factors that have to be taken into account when committing to the investment in business as to whether this business is a viable entity or not. It might very well be that there are some businesses that Government have entered into that are not practical to be privatised at all in Barbados, under any circumstances and, in fact, they are not practical to be continued. We may have to consider whether, at this point in time, we may not be better off cutting our losses and getting out of them rather than continuing to subsidize them at the expense of the public purse.

The Civil Service has been accused of all sorts of things over the years. I know that there are many people in commerce in Barbados that would attest to the excellent performance of many departments of the Civil Service, many individuals in the Civil Service. And, as has been said already this afternoon, in the private sector end of business there is no perfection. There are faults on both sides.

But there are areas of serious concern with the performance of the Civil Service and in this regard I stress again the objectives of the Ministry of the Civil Service and I would hope that we can devise a method for improving productivity. There are certain areas which I believe we should attempt to find a way of relating remuneration to results achieved. I am thinking now specifically of the areas concerned with the attraction of investment or the attraction of tourists or any such areas especially those areas where we maintain, at considerable expense, offices abroad. I would like to be sure that everything has been done to ensure that the people who represent us in those positions, in the first place, are well trained and therefore know what they are there to do and that they are qualified to do the job and in fact get on with it and do the job.

I am therefore suggesting that in this regard that we put the stress on quality as opposed to quantity and try to ensure that the job is done to its best advantage. Just by way

of example, I believe that there has been considerable growth in what is familiarly known as the offshore business sector and the international financial sector. I am not aware myself if we have qualified personnel in our offices abroad for attracting such investment, people who are qualified to be able to sit down at the right levels with potential investors in that area and attract that investment. I would like to think that this is the sort of thing that we aim to achieve.

Debt servicing forms a major component, in fact the second biggest component after wages and salaries, in respect of these Estimates. As has been stated before, this is nothing that we can cut back on. It is something that we must honour, particularly where it concerns foreign debt. None of us would wish to see Barbados ever placed in a credibility position on the international financial scene. In this regard, I am heartened by remarks made a short while ago by Senator Alleyne that one of the areas that Government may be able to consider looking at with a review of this proposed position would be in the area of capital expenditure since a significant portion of capital expenditure is in fact funded through overseas borrowing. This borrowing carries a debt service component. I think that this is an area that we have to be extremely concerned about. It may very well be that there are some projects that have been considered and the cost factor involved with them put into these Estimates which could be shelved or put aside for a period of time until we are in a better position to finance them.

I am also encouraged by the remarks made in the opening speech by Dr. Clarke that Government may be considering, I think he referred to it as a sterilization of some areas maybe 2% to 3% of the total. This sort of statement is encouraging from the point of view that it shows us that serious attention is being paid to the spend and to areas where this spend can be reduced and bring us more in line with what is reasonable.

We have just concluded a year which has been referred to earlier on where there was actually a contraction of the economy and at best this year may show a marginal improvement over 1990. That may still represent some contraction under what we achieved in 1989. It is therefore a little concerning to me that these Estimates project a 9.3% of expenditure. I recognize, as I said before, that a significant portion of this additional expenditure is directly related to increases in salaries and wages and the debt service component over which we, at this point in time, have no control. But the other areas of expenditure I hope will be viewed in the most serious manner and I am heartened by some of the statements that I heard were made in the House last week on this very point from Members of the Government and some that I have read about in local newspapers subsequently indicating that very serious attention is being paid to this matter.

The Honourable Minister highlighted the shift in expenditure from the Ministry of Trade to the Ministry of Labour and explained that a portion of the Ministry of Trade or a portion of what used to be the Ministry of Trade has now been attached to the Ministry of Labour. I would take this opportunity of stating that I am not in favour of that change. The area that has been moved is the area of licensing and price control which to me forms an integral part of trade. I find it very difficult to accept that we now have to deal with two separate Ministries to achieve the same result that was previously achieved by one Ministry. In this regard I would make a general comment from personal experience that I have found that whenever you have to deal with more than one Ministry the problems that ensue are tremendous. In this regard I would make a plea that a re-examination of that division may be considered.

5.05 p.m.

In the area of Government involvement in business or this whole question of privatisation, the Government owns some very profitable investments which the Minister referred to as shares being held in trust for the public. I think that is a very admirable stand to take. I would however remind the Minister and other Members of the Senate that I am sure the Government welcomes the profit that it realises from these investments in such companies as BET, Barbados Light and Power and Bartel, which I am sure in no small measure contribute to the non-tax revenue that we see here that is in excess of \$50 million. So one has to be careful in doing away with that revenue unless we are going to propose to offset it in some other form which the only other method of raising money that Government has, is through taxation and Barbados is already an extremely heavily taxed country.

I don't think that any of us in the private sector, and I am speaking here from that point of view, have any problem with such investment. Where the problem arises is when there is government investment in areas that continually cost the Treasury money. I think those are the areas that I would like to suggest that we consult on, on a more regular basis with a view to trying to alleviate the problem.

The Minister made the point that if Government sells a business it owns it realises a one shot injection to the capital realisation of that particular year and then the stream stops. I would however suggest that Government being the regulatory body that it is, if it is believed that the private sector could do a better job and this is the belief held by several individuals, then it stands to reason that the profits realised from that company should increase and through the regulatory process that Government has the power to enforce, it is likely to realise increased taxation from the increased profits of that company. So, it would not necessarily be a one-off deal and a loss or total loss of revenue.

I am also heartened to hear from the Minister, speaking specifically, on the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce that there is a proposal to merge the IDC and the EPC. For a long time now, I am sure that we have all heard or read in the newspapers or whatever of the complaints of people involved in business, especially potential investors coming into Barbados of the need to create a one-stop shop.

There are continuing complaints of the amount of red tape that one has to go through in trying to get established here. This move, or this proposed move to again put the EPC and the IDC and those functions back together, I think it is a step in the right direction and I hope that it leads to further development in this area so that our true potential for trafficking investment can be realised without having to run the risk or run the fear of putting off potential investors who feel that they can get a better deal or get through with their deal in another country and we lose that potential investment as a result.

In this area, (and I don't know if I am over stepping the bounds of the particular debate) but in this area I have become extremely concerned about the whole mechanism attached to price controls and the removal of such price controls in Barbados which I am informed requires a decision of Cabinet, and I am beginning to get concerned about the number of papers that Cabinet has to deal with. If the removal of an item from price control becomes an issue for Cabinet, I am sure the Cabinet has much more important things to deal with than to decide whether the price of a particular product should, or should not be whatever it is, and it involves considerable delay in the mechanism for establishing a new price, since one has to wait on the approval, which for matters of more serious business, may get shelved or put back for consideration.

In another area and I believe it would help in the development of the free enterprise system in the economy, we have heard and continue to hear serious complaints about Government's indebtedness to the commercial sector. I believe it runs into the millions of dollars that is overdue for payment. Once again here, I would state that there are certain aspects of Government operations that handle themselves in the most efficient manner and with whom very little problem is encountered. It therefore suggests to me the same point that I referred to earlier on, that it may be a matter of having properly trained personnel and we are literally having the right people in the right job to get the job done.

The commercial sector do not have much chance of imposing financial penalties on Governments for the non-payment of bills. Government, however, imposes serious penalties whenever the commercial sector or private individuals don't pay their bills and that is also a question that you may want to address. If Government wishes to effectively utilise commercial finance then I think that it is

only reasonable that they should pay the price so to do in much the same way as they would have to pay if they borrowed money from a foreigner. I don't really understand why a foreigner should have a better deal than a local.

Just one other point and that is in respect of the allocation that I see in the Estimates (I think it is on page 110) in respect of the promotion of tourism. If we accept (and I think it is an undisputed fact) that tourism is our biggest money spinner at this point in time, I am concerned that the level of investment in tourism may not be proportionate to the realisation that we achieve from this end. I am not proposing that more money be given for the employment of further people; I am talking now about the possibility of more money being considered for the advancement of Barbados abroad, through advertising, promotion or other such mechanisms. It has been quite an eye opener to me to discover how many people in the United States which happens at this point in time to be our biggest source market for tourists do not even know where Barbados is, and I think that this is an area that we should be more concerned about in terms of the spending that we are allocating. With those few remarks, I resume my seat.
5.15 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I have some concerns regarding the large number of automobiles operating on the roads of this country. I understand there are some 55 000 vehicles and I think that is rather high in relation to the size of our population and the size of our Island.

Firstly, we have been accustomed to have a comprehensive network of reasonably good roads. These have now been improved but the roads just cannot stand up to heavy traffic to which they are subjected and maintenance and repairs are not only costly but it seems that they get into arrears in no time. There is the question of air pollution. From every side we are being warned to concern ourselves about the environment and once upon a time we used to say that over this Island the air changed overnight and every new day we had clean air. But now the atmosphere seems to have some element of pollution in it at all times. I am sure that a lot of this is due to the constant feeding of the carbon monoxide originating from the exhaust of the numerous vehicles travelling on the roads and the traffic does not ever stop. So the feeding of this into the air must be continuous.

I feel too, Mr. President, that the high incidents of accidents on the roadways are in some part due to the heavy traffic that we have there. Now these accidents involve serious injuries and loss of life and that is a chain reaction which families are involved, services, and institutions. So it is really a community affair and a matter of concern for the whole community. Now an automobile is an expensive commodity and people have good reasons for investing their hard-earned money in an automobile and I am sure

that everyone who is an owner of a vehicle out there can justify and give you a valid reason why they should have that vehicle on the roads I have no doubt. But I strongly feel that some measures should be put in place to reduce or control the number of vehicles that use the roads at certain times. This limitation would also help with energy conservation. Of course, conservation of energy goes towards lessening the fuel bill and foreign exchange as well.

In another connection, it is good to note that it is proposed to set in place a Youth Service Programme to help put the youth in the right direction and assist their eventual employment potential. Meanwhile, however, we must not lose sight of the fact that there have been in existence for many, many years several voluntary organisations catering to the interests and concerns of young people that help their personal and social development, providing an important link between the home and the school, and above all keeping them off the roads, and training them to be good citizens. These volunteer organisations over the years have performed an invaluable service to the community and to the country and a service that has been uncatalogued. One thing they all have in common is that they have difficulty in raising funds required to maintain their management and programmes at a reasonable standard and to keep up with the changing times. Government, I know, makes welcome monetary grants and subventions to these organisations and I hope that these will not be reduced and firms help wherever possible, but the end result is never sufficient. With improved and more professional administrative structures, these organisations could be much more effective. One way of alleviating this situation might be through the introduction of a postage stamp of a very small denomination to be used on each letter posted and if there are proceeds these could further assist the voluntary organisations to enhance their programmes and to get more young people playing an active role in the many aspects of community development. Thank you.

SENATOR W. LEROY INNISS: Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments on one or two Heads. I would like to start by looking at the provision for Education especially Education for Special Schools. I noticed that there has been some provision for Special Schools, but I would suggest that even when the cake is small and has to be cut in many slices we still have to remember those who are least able to help themselves. It is commendable that the Government in providing education for our special children in their own institutions have found it fit to grant subventions. I noticed in the Estimates the Challenor School and the Learning Centre. I have been very closely associated with the Learning Centre for some years and I know the kinds of problems involved when parents are poor and have children who cannot benefit from education at ordinary schools. Indeed, I often think that when the time comes for sharing medals and CMG's and all other kinds of things that every person who finds herself or himself teaching at a special

school is entitled to one more than many of the persons in the community. Because theirs is a work of love and a work of commitment to the people of this country. The pittance on which the teachers in some of these institutions have to work on is unbelievable. These schools are called upon to raise their own funds and they rely on the generosity of the public and public enterprise. We are never one to believe that Government can supply all our needs. But we are asking that when the time comes again for distribution of the little that there may be that some greater attention be paid to these people because our special children are children too.

Much has been said, Mr. President, about privatisation and how it can effect profits or wastage of funds. This whole idea of privatisation is a two way process. Government cannot afford to privatise everything simply thinking in terms of profit. I dare say that we may be making a retrograde step, for example, if we try to privatise the Transport Board because Government has a social responsibility to this country. It cannot have buses running only when it is profitable so to do either in terms of areas or in terms of time. Bus transportation is a social need and not just a profit-making venture.

I would say that all effort must be made to ensure that there is no wastage at the Transport Board like any other Government enterprise and Government should not even think twice or consider the thought of taking peoples' jobs and livelihood and playing with it lightly by suggesting that people who live in remote areas should be left at the whims and fancies of entrepreneurs who only go into particular areas or when they can have a bus full.

I would suggest that when Government made this step to give old persons and school children easy access to transportation that it was a wise step. It would be asking a lot of a private entrepreneur no matter how great his profits were to expect that he would do likewise. So when we speak in one breath about profits, we must remember the human face.

Another Government entity that has come in for lots of criticism and sometimes justifiably so is CBC.
5.25 p.m.

Why is it that so much money is being spent on that Corporation? Are we getting all that we should get for it? I am saying that there is room for a lot of improvement. But, again, I would suggest it is not the best thing to privatise CBC. What you will be doing is taking away what is perceived as a Government monopoly and making it a private sector monopoly. Any general who has nerve gas, when push comes to shove and his back is against the wall, he will use it. If you put CBC, a weapon as potent as CBC, wholly in the hands of private enterprise, if they are against a particular government, no matter what government that may be, they will use it to the hilt. One has to read the

newspapers and all the newspapers. No matter how independent a newspaper may be, when push comes to shove, like when it is an election, for example, you can see who is with whom. I am saying that I am not in favour of any Minister of Government taking up a telephone and telling CBC, telecast this or telecast that. I consider that an insult to the management of the organisation.

Government must appoint proper managers to run its enterprise. The question is not to privatise the entire country, not in a country like Barbados. You have to give the private sector those things to run which they can run and which they have shown they can run well. I do say, there are some areas that Government is involved in that they should not be. Hand it to private sector as soon as possible! However, there are some areas that the Government must hold in trust for the citizens of this country. When we look at CBC, for example, appoint as independent as possible as one can have a Board to run it. However, there is no point saying, let somebody run it because he has the money, and then he uses it against the community to whom it belongs. Let all of us have access to it. Free it up! Do not set any political restraint on it! And that is possible. All it needs is the will of those who have to take those decisions, but I am saying that if one has to err on public sector tyranny and public sector tyranny – tyranny in any form is bad – but in public sector tyranny we can know at least who are the directors and we can change the directorate at least every five years. Those are the kinds of things we have to look at when we come to make those kinds of decisions.

For those of us who might not have been following closely what is happening at the National Insurance Department, the speech by Senator Alleyne has been eye-opening. To see the millions of dollars of Government finance that cannot be accounted for accurately, I say it is disgraceful. There were some critics, when some time ago, there was a list of defaulters published. I was critical of it too, but I was critical to find out why the National Insurance Department would have waited for so many years to take some kind of action. It is not a question of being hard and being rapacious. If some businesses are having a cash flow problem... They deduct money every week from people's salaries. Suppose they said that we have problems and we cannot find our own money to put in, could they not at least put in the employees' money? At least they would only have half of the problem, because they would make payments every other week, spending none of their own money but putting in the money for the employees. It is heartrending that some persons go to National Insurance to collect money they believe is theirs, and when they go there, the officer says, "I know you not." They have never been registered with the National Insurance authorities.

Mr. President, it brings us to something else which is aligned with this. This concerns some of the things we have to do to look in the areas of labour legislation in this

country, because it is allied to this National Insurance issue. There are many persons in this country who do not know who their employers are. You work for an entire five years or six years, believing they are working for Mr. John Brown and when you are dismissed, or when you are unemployed, you are surprised to hear Mr. Brown say, "But you never worked for me. You work for some company that is non-existent."

We need certain minimum standards in every conduct of employment in this country, where employees must be clear in no uncertain terms about your hours of work and your minimum wage and let every one know who is his employer, because the average person is not versed in Company Law. He does not know the intricacies of the juristic person as opposed to the natural person and government is here to protect those who need protection. We need to open this whole idea of labour relations tied into our National Insurance so that those who are least able to help themselves receive the assistance of Government.

At some time in the future, I shall have more to speak about the relationship between employers and employees. Sometimes, we speak of the employers giving the employees a bad break, but if we have to be honest and fair, we must look at the other side of the coin. We can't be one-sided. We have to look at some employees who believe they will take their employers for a ride. They are some people who see the National Insurance Fund as a bonus. You become an employee and for six months, you say, I don't have to work. It goes to show that very often a good scheme is sometimes prostituted, because that scheme was put there to assist people. You find that very often persons believe that when they become unemployed it means that you go to this thing called the Government and you get free money. As soon as something belongs to Government it is as though the Government is a tap and you turn it on and money flows instead of water. I am saying that when the Government sets up its institutions it needs to police them. It needs to manage. When one makes appointments, political considerations should be set aside. These things are too serious to put square pegs in round holes. We need people to come forward fearlessly and guard the taxpayers' money in the same way as business people guard their own money. We cannot have people saying that it belongs to Government and therefore we don't have to care. If the roof drops off, tell Government! If somebody is stealing, tell Government! You shut your eyes to everything when it belongs to this strange creature called government.

I believe that we have to go back to school and start at education. We need to educate our citizens – parties come and parties go, governments come and governments go, but the assets of this country will remain forever. We have to educate our children that what we call government's property is our property. Sometimes, we get involved with these big and lofty things. We discuss estimates and we talk about a Cabinet and we forget that we are talking about

people. We have to go to the communities. We have to go to the schools, in the villages, and educate our people that when you short change Government, you are short changing yourself. Your loyalty to yourself is shown in your loyalty, not to the government of the day, but to your country and someone has to govern. When you show allegiance to those who happen to hold tentative office *pro tem*, in truth and in fact, they are only guardians for the time being. What you are doing is protecting the state and not the individual. I thank you, Mr. President.

5.35 p.m.

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: Mr. President, earlier on at the very beginning of our session today, the Honourable Minister of Trade painted a picture which alluded to the buoyancy of our economy in certain areas but, all in all, as I understood it, it seemed that we were, perhaps, in some areas less buoyant than we were last year. In particular he did also mention – this is at the top of page 3, the first line there "Taxes on Income and Profits – \$259 200 000". That is, perhaps, a generous and optimistic figure bearing in mind the general recessionary nature of business over the last several months, particularly, as Senator Amory Phillips would understand, manufacturing had not done so well in the last several months.

I cannot help feeling that if manufacturing did somewhat better this figure would be more realistic. Here it is we have people leading with the manufacturers to earn more regionally, particularly it would even be better if we could earn more extra-regionally. We have a problem in manufacturing – I am speaking really now as a manufacturer – in that the Severance Pay legislation is damaging the profitability of the manufacturing sector in Barbados. It was good legislation at the time but I think circumstances around it have changed with the passing of the years. Right now we are in a position where employers are unwilling to employ more people because their severance pay liability is going up. Coupled with relatively narrow job descriptions and narrow categorisations in their trade unions, the combination is turning off the employer.

I read an article by Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne not long ago in which he said that the manufacturing sector was doing all right but the sector did need some new tools. These tools nowadays are high tech tools which cost a lot of money that could be going towards this that you could tell your banker you have \$300 000, could you borrow \$750 000 now, as, indeed, the company I am with, that proposition is being put to our bankers; it is very close to me. Instead I am paying out this money to very skilled workers who could easily convert to the new technology but are saying to themselves, they have been with the company 15 years, if they could get severed, they could go home and drive. They have \$50 000 so the money that could be used as collateral for your banker is going to a worker who has done a good job and is the ideal man to take the new

technology from there. In fact, he is opting to put it in his pocket, go next door and do the same job with new technology, or even apply again.

I have had to make a strong point that anybody who has been inflexible and has been laid off, please do not come and ask for a recommendation or re-apply for the job. I am not alone in this, Mr. President. This is a tendency. We have to look at it in the light of broader job descriptions and broader union categorisations. I can tell you that in the printing industry we had two-year negotiations not long ago. We put categories for general workers. We would not do anything different. It would just mean that if your offset press was down today, or for some reason you had no work, you would move over to the folder or collator and do this. Now with the present categorisation, the operator sits back and says that is not in his category. He is a pressman. This is not a press.

Aside.

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: You can talk about proper relations but when a man is looking for \$50 000 he is looking for \$50 000. He is not going to jail for it. He is going to get it right there by just being inflexible. This will happen at home farless at the office. We have to get around to freeing this up. I have sent a middle manager to a place in Rochester called Flower City Printing. Rochester, as you know, is the home of Kodak and Xerox. It is a high tech city in Upstate New York. We have sent people there and they are amazed. They have said "Mr. Cole, I went into the Binding Section yesterday and there were 30 people there." The next morning I said, "Is there a strike there? Is anybody there?" They said "No, but the work is finished. We are trying to get it on the train now. They are all in the delivery section."

These people are winning back from the Japanese contracts that were printed for New York in Japan for the last 15 years. That is flexibility. I am making a plea that if we want to get a contribution from the manufacturing sector, if you want them to retool, if you want them to break into regional markets and extra regional markets, let us put this area of employment into second gear. We have had first gear. That has expired. We are not going any faster. Let us get it in second gear, relook at it and see if we cannot encourage the employer to, in fact, look a little further down the line.

Thanks.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I must say it is not easy to speak to this document because while my heart tells me there are many things that probably need to be done in the country and would be attempted under normal circumstances, my head tells me that we are in difficult times. Several things we would want to suggest that would be in the interest of

various institutions and the country we recognise we cannot necessarily ask for at this time. However, I would still like to make a few comments.

The first one relates to Head 34, Education, on the matter of security on school campuses. I am not sure where exactly the amount is provided for security. You are aware, Sir, that in recent times there has been a lot of interference on school campuses, individuals or gangs moving on to campuses and interfering with the children on the premises or sometimes when leaving the schools and arriving. Members of staff are beginning to be uneasy in many cases about their own safety because it is clear that before long the violence could escalate and affect the staff members on the campuses.

This is partly a question, Sir, and partly a suggestion. I wonder what provisions are being made for proper insurance of the personnel on the school campuses? That would be an area of, perhaps, tremendous expenditure in terms of the entire country. It is an area that needs to be looked at less one day something very serious happens and we find that eventually we have to expend more funds in dealing with the solution to the problem than we would have had to spend if we had anticipated it. I hope something would be done to see that these persons, students included, are adequately covered in a case of any violence or any such incidence.

It is true to say that there are not enough security guards provided on school campuses especially those schools in the more dangerous areas of the country. It might be possible without expending new funds to allow some flexibility to members of boards so they could swap, as it were, funds allocated for other Heads but unexpended and, perhaps, take on here and there an additional guard. I know at the moment that is not possible. Some schools will end up with what they call a saving on unexpended funds and yet still have a need in some particular area. I hope this matter is dealt with as a matter of urgency.

The other matter, Sir, is what was alluded to by my colleague here on my right, Senator Inniss, which was so ably dealt with by the Minister and Senator Alleyne on privatisation. I would like just to make a comment on this particularly as it relates to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I believe the time has come for us to recognise the Government related broadcast media as an essential service. 5.45 p.m.

I know that there would be a lot of difficulty in having the Union recognize this in making certain provisions when there is bargaining at stake. Perhaps if it is recognized then some easier terms might be arrived at. But it is essential because as Senator Inniss indicated it would be a terrible pity to lose such a valuable medium to outsiders who are not in touch with our education system or who are not in touch or care little for our culture. The purpose of the

electronic media is to entertain, to inform and to educate. I see the second one, information, as something intimately bound up with what any government has got to do. I do not understand myself why it is that whenever attempts are being made to bring information to the people that comes out of government quarters there is such a hullabaloo when in fact everybody does it. I think that it would be a pity to have such a medium and not to use it to advantage to bring to the people what is happening in the country. I am not talking about politicking, Sir. I am talking about genuine information about what is going on which should reach all people of the country. We ought to have access, I think, and the Government of the country should have access to this particular medium.

Therefore I see justification for the \$2 million I think that I saw voted under that Head, under Head 13, Prime Minister's Office.

In the area of the media as a source for dissemination of culture perhaps we need to appeal a little stronger than we have done in the past to the business community. It is not particularly well known that it is exceedingly difficult for the broadcast medium to get local business places to support local programmes. They would rather support overseas programmes. That is a very unfortunate thing. Because while on the one hand it is the policy of the Government and the policy of all those who care in the country to see to it that the culture of the land is given a boost, it is unfortunate that the necessary funding is not available because of that reluctance to support local programmes. I hope that this message gets across beyond these walls here, Sir, to those who are responsible and that they think again of that responsibility to support the culture of the country.

Where the matter of the media as essential is concerned there is no doubt that where disaster preparedness is concerned that we can hardly do without such a medium. All in all I see that there is the temptation to push overseas programmes and even programmes that come from regional governments and so on. You get for example full coverage on occasions of material coming from Opposition sources in other countries and then a reluctance to bring genuine information from whatever source here in the country. This is an area therefore in which there is need for co-operation between the various sectors, not to try to privatize such an institution in order to solve the problem.

I have a radical view that rather than privatize, I can see the medium hitched up to one of the Ministries perhaps into the Civil Service so that you would find somewhere to transfer people who had had enough of the corporation and who for various reasons one would be reluctant to get rid of. You can move them by whatever methods are used currently in the public service to move people around. I think that there is a need for than kind of manoeuvring

because a lot of people who are employed at CBC spend a lot of their time just trying to hang in there rather than carrying on the work that they are there to perform. But if it were possible to note that a person was not performing and to transfer him or her then that would be a solution. But privatization is not going to be a solution, particularly in this essential service. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries recognizes the very important role it has to play in ensuring further expansion of the economy in times when the Estimates as presented to us show a substantial gap between the earnings of the country and the demands which will be made upon the Treasury to meet expenditure.

Government will therefore during the coming financial year continue its implementation of an agricultural diversification programme as well as an action plan for revitalization of the agricultural sector. Over the past few years certain problems have emerged which relate to the increasing size of the food import bill, declining acreage under commercial agricultural production particularly in sugar, a reduction in the last two years of the quantity of sugar exported annually, increasing cost of production within the sugar industry and in some areas the persistence of pests and disease problems which affected root crops. Added to all of these has been the high cost of producing animal feeds.

Government therefore will have to pay special attention to the formulation and execution of solutions to these and any other problems which will arise during the coming financial year. The Government recognizes the need to motivate the private farming community to gain its confidence in order to better ensure realization of its agricultural policy and it will therefore focus on certain objectives. These will include stimulating domestic food production, expanding agricultural export earnings, improving agricultural efficiency at all levels, upgrading and strengthening agricultural support services and providing much more liberalized access to farmers to factors of production. There will be, of necessity, strenuous efforts implemented to increase the food production with emphasis on vegetables, on root crops, on fruits. In the area of livestock, emphasis will be on sheep, beef and dairying cattle. In the area of agro processing efforts will continue to stimulate existing companies and developments in the area of agro processing both for fruits as well as for vegetables and for fish.

Incentives presently exist which will continue to be available to encourage farmers to expand their production. But we recognize that support services will be needed in the area of credit as well as in the areas of marketing and in the provision of more competent and dedicated research and extension services.

5.55 p.m.

The research activities will be aimed at finding more resolute solutions to the existing problems and the Ministry will continue its search for varieties of root crops which can provide higher yields under existing conditions.

The focus of an export programme will be aimed at increasing and indeed this year's returns on the sugar crops will show an increase in the amount of sugar which is available for export. It will place further emphasis in the area of cotton. Small farmers will be provided with more encouragement to provide root crops and indeed larger farmers will be encouraged to diversify in the areas of food crops, cut flowers and foliage. Indeed some exciting new developments are taking place in the area of cut flowers and foliage, not only is the horticultural society and other groups interested, but private farmers are getting together with sources of external funding and together they are developing projects which will see a very interesting export industry come on stream in the area of cut flowers and foliage.

If one attempts to give a very brief over-view of some sectors of agriculture for 1990 one will recognise that in the area of sugar, output for 1990 was 4.5% above the 1989 level when some 69 310 tons of sugar was produced, well below the levels recorded during the period 1981 to 1988 but certainly an increase in 1990 over the 1989 level and the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited representatives have indicated to us their commitment to improving their performances not only at the level of production in the field but as well as output in the factory.

Sugar recovery was some 6.6 tons per hectare and this represented an improvement on the 1989 figure of 6.0 tons per hectare. Export earnings were therefore up when therefore in the estimates it was noted that no provision was made to provide a subsidy this year, this is based on the anticipated projections for returns in that sector.

The total sugar export earnings for 1990 amounted to \$66.2 million which is a provisional figure as compared with \$52 million in 1989. In 1990 the production of seed cotton was only 49.4 kilograms as compared with... And this produced some 15.2 kilos of lint. This was much lower than the amount recorded in 1989. It is however safe to say, based on the returns for the crop which is being harvested now that the production is substantially higher than in 1990 and indeed there is a commitment not only by some small farmers but by some larger farmers, members of the sugar industry limited group who have indicated an intention to get involved in the planting of cotton in 1991.

I am not going into the area of discussion about Carsicot, that is a matter before the courts of law in this country. I have said before and I will repeat again, I do not mind who talks about Carsicot, most of them don't know the facts, these will be revealed at the appropriate time in the appropriate place. Suffice it to say that more than one

year ago the Government recognised that was a dead end and the Government moved as swiftly as it could away from that cul-de-sac and started on a venture called Caribbean Cotton Industries Incorporated, which company has been vested with share capital of just under \$1 million Barbados Currency, paid up by the Government of Barbados, which company has received vocal support from three other countries in the Caribbean and which Company has already received a deposit from a Japanese concern as intent of their commitment to participating in the cotton venture. Let me also say that I share the comment made by an Honourable Member in the other place when he said that Barbados should concentrate on production of cotton and available cotton lint before it gets into any talk about secondary manufacturing. I do not know, and I do not subscribe to any comments made by any individuals who work for the company, who talk about they setting up any manufacturing concern. When that time comes I will come to this place and make the appropriate announcement or I will make it in another place. Until such time as Barbados, and the people in Barbados understand that you have to creep before you walk and you have to walk before you run, and run before you hurdle, and I am not identifying with any arrangements which will talk about or get involved in setting up any company to produce any cotton fabric until such time as local production reaches the point that it can take off. A statement was wanted from me, you have a statement now.

In terms of root crops, there have been problems with diseases which affect the production of yam and the Ministry research staff have been working on that problem. In terms of cassava output, it stood at 162 000 kilos, while in eddoe production it reached 224 000 kilos, an increase of 20% and 3% growth over the 1989 figures. Indeed in terms of non sugar agriculture there was an increase in production in 1990 over the 1989 figures.

The performance of vegetables was somewhat disappointing, but I am persuaded and I have been assured by the persons involved in vegetables that now that the agro processing plant is on stream that they will feel happier to believe that their gluts of vegetables will be taken care of for processing. I believe that although vegetable output would have been adversely affected by the withdrawal of a major producer from the industry, that same producer has given me an assurance that there is a plan to get back into vegetables.

The livestock sub-sector performed creditably during the year 1990. With the exception of turkey meat and chicken all commodities recorded increases in output.

In terms of sugar the government will focus on the implementation of the action plan which is a consequence of its response after examination of the Landell Mills

Report and the work it has been collaborating with the Sugar Industries Limited in pursuing.
6.05 p.m.

The process of modernizing and rationalizing of the industry has already started and it should gain momentum during this year. The Export Programme of the Government will be given greater focus with a view to the realization of economies of scale and any benefits which will accrue therefrom. In this connection, it is proposed to establish a committee involving both the public sector and the private sector representatives in order to plan for and monitor a programme of export marketing which will address all aspects from production through to marketing.

We recognize the need for agriculture to be more competitive and in consequence more emphasis will be placed on assisting small farmers to produce more efficiently. The existing Extension Services in the Ministry will be continued and the Ministry has their Research and Extension Services combined and what we have examined and indeed have started discussions on is interaction between the Extension Services of the Ministry proper and those of the Agricultural Development Corporation and the Barbados Marketing Corporation, recognizing that there has to be a unified thrust and a surge forward in the area of agriculture if Barbados is to prosper. The Ministry will redouble its efforts in the area of assisting with farm management in support of this particular policy objective.

Training is an area which will continue to receive priority attention and not only will there be additional training for the Ministry's professional and technical staff but in collaboration with the Barbados Agricultural Society and other private sector groupings appropriate training programmes are being put on for farmers. Indeed, such programmes have taken place to date and in the area of pigs that will be taking place tomorrow. So that the Ministry will continue to give its priority attention to training. It will intensify the programmes and intensify its efforts of upgrading the skills not only of the staff of the Ministry but of farmers in general.

Another area that will receive our attention is the Information Unit of the Ministry. It is now a fledgling unit with two or three people who provide information to farmers and provide information on the radio in the mornings which many people do not take too seriously. My own opinion is that an Information Unit of a Ministry of Agriculture must delve and go further than that. It needs to be the medium for ensuring that the people of Barbados understand where Government is coming from and where Government is hoping to go in the field of agriculture and it must serve as a propaganda arm. I make no bones about using the word "propaganda". It must be seen to be and known to be and conduct the business of translating the message which Government intends to broadcast to the people of the country in terms of its agricultural thrust. So

that appropriate mechanisms will have to be put in place to facilitate greater coordination in the areas of extension, credit, marketing, and information. These will be supported by the research arm of the Ministry and the research arm of the Ministry will continue to function in such areas as development of activities of goats. I am told that some experiments have seen substantially good results in the area of goat's milk.

In addition, for farmers the Incentives Programme will be reviewed in order to ensure that it more effectively meets the needs of the farmers while at the same time it promotes the realization of Government's policy objectives. Marketing infrastructure will be upgraded in relation to both domestic markets and export markets and special efforts will be made to upgrade skills via training for both the Agricultural Development Corporation and the Barbados Marketing Corporation. These initiatives which we contemplate should provide the sort of climate which will be more conducive to the expansion of agricultural output.

Comment was made earlier in the debate about landless farmers. Government will endeavour to help landless farmers to the extent that is feasible and practical. One notes that there are certain lands which are lying idle which need to be brought back into production. Some of these lands will overtime be made available to interested farmers if they are Government lands. If they are lands of private individuals, appropriate negotiations will be undertaken to try to ensure that the lands are not allowed to remain idle. If it is necessary, legislation will have to be introduced to arrange for the leasing of these lands with a view to promoting use of lease arrangements by farmers. At the same time in the area of the Springhall Land Lease Programme, a complete review of that programme will be undertaken to try to ensure that much greater use is made of the opportunities which present themselves in that part of the Island.

While we are on the subject of land, I believe that I can make the statement that in my own view the policy of the Ministry will be that, wherever lands that have been productive in Barbados and there is an opportunity to utilize those lands either for vegetables, fruits, or forestry, our business will be to persuade the owners of these lands to utilize them for those purposes. At the present time there is no shortage of house spots for which permission has been given already and, unless it is a programme in which Government is going to be utilizing the lands for providing sites and services, I really do not believe that the private sector persons who want to develop lands cannot find lands which have already been given permission for subdivisions.

It may well be that a year from now I am persuaded otherwise. It may be that two years from now that I understand otherwise. I am still learning. But my present

gut feeling is that sufficient lands are out there available and ready for use and that people should make use of those.

With respect to water, various projects will be executed in the Scotland District to utilize the water resources which lie under the surface of the soil. Government is committed in the Estimates to development of the Three Houses Spring and other water in the St. Philip area which can be utilized for irrigation purposes. Action has already commenced to try to obtain the lands adjoining to the Three Houses Spring for the purposes of that development.

In addition to the use of water resources and the provision of irrigation services to farmers, Government recognizes that if some of these farmers are really to develop their properties and the opportunity to increase produce and to reduce the food import bill, then it will be necessary to provide some credit facilities. Some such arrangements exist by way of the Barbados National Bank for the sources of funds for credit. Some other sources are known but these resources will have to be mobilized from regional or international institutions if necessary to supplement whatever Government will be able to provide from its own resources.

6.15 p.m.

In the area of the environment, Government will continue to manage agriculture in such a way to ensure that land and water resources available are protected and preserved for future generations. Further vigilance will be intensified to minimise chances of contamination of food through the abuse of agricultural chemicals and the appropriate agency which deals with pesticides has been given instructions to meet more frequently and to carefully exercise a regulatory influence over the use of pesticides. In addition, there will be need for the programmes of education available to farmers to advise them on the proper use of pesticides and which pesticides should be avoided. This will be a means of monitoring the quality of food, particularly in relation to assessing the presence of insecticides and pesticides, which residues may remain in food crops.

The programme of the Government will see further action being pursued in the Scotland District. When the amending legislation came to this Chamber I indicated that Government was trying to ensure not only that there was certain direction given to the Scotland District Division, but what I did not say then and I will say now is that the Scotland District Board will, as part of its responsibility, be required to advise the Minister on those areas of non-agriculture which impact on the agricultural thrust in the Scotland District. Those areas will include work on bridges, work of the Barbados Water Authority, decisions of the Town Planner which can affect the topography in the Scotland District, and our intention is that over time we will be able to bring an assessment to bear on whether the time

is right or not for Government to look at the Scotland District, not only as a special development area in terms of soil conservation, but a special area in terms of global facilities for the Scotland District.

It seems to me, and I have already recognised, that there is double jurisdiction in the area of agriculture. The Soil Conservation Department is responsible for certain activities in agriculture, the ADC is responsible for others. They need to work in tandem. While they are carrying out their functions and interfering with the water streams, there are water courses which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Works, so that there is a crossing of jurisdictions and until such time as all the agencies of Government which have the same objective, that is, improving the way of life of people in the Scotland District, until such time as all the agencies can work together, then in some instances we are literally spinning top in mud.

The Ministry's public sector investment programme. The Ministry, as I said, will work closely with its agencies, the BMC, the ADC, it will work closely with the Barbados Agricultural Society and the Barbados Sugar Industries Limited in its efforts to improve statistical information. Staff will be recruited for the Agricultural Planning Unit in order to strengthen its capability to collect and process agricultural statistical information and also to carry out periodic surveys, to collect information on production and farm gate prices which the Information Unit will use in collaboration with the other agencies. The objective is to provide an efficient and comprehensive agricultural statistical information system which will provide benefits for enhanced planning both at the farm level and for the national agricultural activity.

A census was carried out in 1989. Processing of this information is continuing and that census showed that there was a reduction in the number of agricultural holdings from some 26,000 in the previous census of 1971 to just under 18,000 in 1991. The information collected from this census will provide a proper basis for informing the agricultural information base.

There are proposals in the Estimates for construction of a building to house laboratories for the Animal Nutrition Unit, for veterinary diagnostic laboratory, for plant pathology activities and for soils. If it is possible to get this project off the ground, certain sources of funding have already been contemplated and an approach is to be made to the European Development Fund for assistance in this area.

With regard to the national fruit orchard project, the credit component of the project will become operational during the coming year and a sum of \$485,000 is being made available for this purpose to farmers. These funds, again, represent a source of income from the European Development Fund for the project.

With regard to the proposed abattoir and meat packing house, final designs and cost estimates are being prepared and Government is in the process of negotiating for the purchase of some eight acres of land in St. Thomas for the purpose of siting the abattoir. These are lands presently owned by the Vauclose Factory and funding for the project has already been negotiated with the European Investment Bank, so all things being equal we anticipate that during this financial year work will commence, at least for the ground breaking and some other activities, in relation to the abattoir.

With regard to the export marketing facility, final designs and cost estimates for the construction of a new facility to handle exports of fruits, vegetables and root crops will be prepared during the financial year. It is anticipated that funding for the study will be provided by the World Bank. It is already known that the Barbados Marketing Corporation has a fledgling export marketing facility, which they call an export packaging unit, and we hope to improve on the facilities which that unit is providing until such time as the larger export marketing facility comes on stream. This will provide a much needed boost for the non-sugar agricultural export programme.

In the area of cut flowers and foliage, the implementation of that project will continue. It is being executed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, while funding is being provided by UNDP. During the coming year there will be a continuation of the training of technical staff assigned to the project.

6:25 p.m.

Some local farmers will have the opportunity to visit other countries to observe the production of cut flowers. A tissue culture laboratory is being constructed at the Home Agricultural Station and will be equipped. Propagating facilities for cut flowers will be upgraded and these are taking place at Bullens in St. James. A system for the marketing of locally produced cut flowers will be put in place and production packages for selected cut flowers will be formulated and made available to farmers. I would like to assure Honourable Members of this Chamber that I am happy to learn something more about the country of Barbados which I love.

The livestock development project – This is a project in which it is in its final stages and the idea is to provide funding and credit assistance through the Barbados National Bank to assist farmers in improving their herds of cattle. The project is also expected to provide machinery and equipment to strengthen the grassland schemes. Some of the monies will be used for the development of that information unit I was talking about.

I mentioned the Three Houses Spring. There is a project which has to do with the dam, damming the Three Houses spring to store water, so that it can be used to

facilitate farmers in that area. Then there will be clearing and reinforcing of the channel from Three Houses through to Wiltshire's and the river, clearing of wells in the vicinity of the stream and clearing of a pond at Golden Grove. In all these projects, assistance is being sought in order to ensure that we can provide appropriate technology to the farmers of Barbados. Assistance was provided during 1990 from the Government of Israel and assistance is also being sought from the Inter-American Development Bank so that equipment could be provided to farmers as irrigation equipment and they can be trained in the use of this equipment. There is a plan that the areas which will benefit from this scheme will be parts of St. Philip, Christ Church, St. George, St. James, St. Peter, St. Lucy and the Scotland District.

One of the programmes which, I believe, will merit attention is the continuation of the programme for improvement of the fish landing sites at Tent Bay in St. Joseph and Martin's Bay in St. John. These have been going for some time but, in addition, it is proposed that the fish marketing facilities are contemplated for Consett Bay and Skeete Bay. The final report is expected at any time and we are hoping that project will also get on stream during this year.

When I went to the Ministry of Agriculture last year and had responsibility for the Barbados Marketing Corporation, among other things, one of my concerns was that the word "Food" appears in the title of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, but I did not see a lot of emphasis or a commitment in the Ministry towards the question of turning around what I regarded as a situation where Barbados had a high food import bill.

I have information which I could probably make available but my voice is the sort that soothes and sends people to sleep and I do not necessarily want to send certain of our colleagues any further across the border.

I wish to assure the Honourable Members of this Senate that the policy of the Ministry will be to leave no stone unturned to ensure that every possible half acre of land that can be planted in anything which can be eaten and which can assist in reducing our sizeable food import bill, anything that can be done in that direction will find favour with the Ministry under its present directorate. To that end, we will be encouraging farmers. Indeed the ADC have been given a mandate that they have to do something about increasing the production of water coconuts in St. Ann, which fields of coconuts are not now harvested by that agency but are harvested by any citizen who goes down there. It is a form of praedial larceny, but it is winked at and what we intend to do is to increase the acreage in coconuts and to harvest them for the benefits which can come. In addition, they have been given instructions that they have to find ways and means of overcoming the problem which is alleged to exist in relation to papaw.

Papaw which was being exported and which was a substantial earner of foreign exchange, all the tops have now gone or are going or some other problem exists. Whatever the problem that exists, I am certain that there has to be a solution to it and the ADC will have to pick up the challenge because the private sector individual who is in that area has indicated an intention to withdraw. Let me also say, that the Ministry of Agriculture had been involved in the project from the outset and that it was not only private sector initiative, but it was, in fact, Government initiative, which was translated into the hands of a private sector person and the only unfortunate thing is that it was not translated into an half dozen persons, so that if one field failed, the other five may have survived. The lesson we must learn for the future is, do not concentrate all our eggs literally in one basket, because if the bottom falls out, all the eggs will go. So that the Ministry and its agencies will seek to ensure that papaw is not a missing item from the tables of our people and that there are several crops which are in the Scotland District which have not been paid the appropriate attention like the cherries and the guavas and the possibilities of other food crops in that area will be explored.

While I am on this subject, let me also say that in the area of forestry, the Government is involved in what is known as a tropical forestry action plan with funding from external sources and a study has been done. I am positively advised by persons who understand something about forestry that Barbados is a country which could benefit from a programme of tropical forestry. There will be no intention to interfere with the existing Turner's Hall forest but the environmentalists would like it preserved and I believe that as a matter of policy we could collaborate with them in retaining the existing Turner's Hall forest as well as the Joes River forest but that we should seek to improve upon them and in areas fairly close to them and in other suitable areas in the Scotland District that can hold trees that we should start planting a forest.

6.35 p.m.

The return from some of these trees could be short-term. The return from the others would not come until another 15 to 20 years. We need to do something about Barbados because we are losing the trees which exist all over the country. We need to systematically get back to the planting of trees which can bring some commercial return to the country Barbados. In this respect I would like to commend the actions of the non-governmental organisations that have been involved in the planting of trees along the ABC Highway. I think if their efforts appear to be flagging, Government will have to do something about bolstering and supporting those efforts. The Ministry of Agriculture is fully committed to continuing with a programme which will ensure that further into the 1990's Barbados becomes self-sufficient in food, that our other

areas of agriculture are enhanced to the point where we could reduce our food import bill substantially.

Mr. President, in the area of fishing the Government of Barbados, as this Chamber is aware, entered into an agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago relating to the importation of fish because the fish farmers in Barbados had been encroaching upon areas near to Tobago. As it turned out during 1990 and early 1991 fishing season, there was no necessity for the fishermen of Barbados to be seen in the waters of Trinidad and Tobago. Only one license was issued in respect of that project. Now, the whole question of that arrangement will come up for review.

The Government is in the process of trying to put in place an agreement which has been worked out with the Government of Guyana in relation to fishing in the waters of Guyana. This is a proposed joint venture between offshore interests and the Government of Barbados. The whole objective of that exercise is to land fish in Barbados which can be processed for export to non-regional markets and, in some areas, to regional markets. Indeed, the exercise could well see Barbados being involved, apart from the processing of fish, into the canning of fish. That is not a far-fetched idea.

Also, in the area of fishing, apart from the training which is provided for fishermen and the assistance and encouragement which is given to the persons who own ice boats, the Government is committed to, and action has started towards improving the facilities both at the Bridgetown Complex where there are still problems, and at Oistins. There is provision in the Estimates to remedy what are really irritants.

There is need for fencing of the compound at Oistins. There is need for firm management of the compound. There is need for reinstalling lights which are knocked out from time to time by various persons for what purposes and to what benefits they will know. I believe if the premises are fenced, and if the place is properly policed, that will serve as some sort of deterrent to whatever peculiar intentions exist by putting out of the lights. In addition, a way will have to be found to ensure that the lights cannot be tampered with by normal means.

In relation to other marketing facilities around the Island, from time to time steps will be taken to upgrade those facilities. The market at Eagle Hall will be replaced and new facilities provided at the same time that the road programme for widening of the Eagle Hall corner takes place as part of the Ministry of Transport and Works programme for the movement of traffic in Bridgetown.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Yes, the shed will be knocked down. When we put back something it will no longer be a shed.

With regard to the Cheapside Market, a decision was already taken that the facilities there will give way to an expansion of the Transport Board facilities for the bus terminal. If funds can be provided or obtained substantial work will take place for redesigning and redecoration of the Cheapside Market. The first step towards that will see the relocation of the existing minibus stand, an expansion for temporary facilities of the market in the area which is presently the minibus stand as well as a stand for small business people with the leathercraft. They will be relocated to an appropriate location in the same general area. Those are the sorts of activities in the area of markets which can be contemplated during this coming financial year. Plans are still proceeding for the relocation of some of the hawkers from Swan Street into an area near Palmetto Square with the construction of one or two buildings in that general area.

If I go back to fishing, it will be generally known that the ground was broken and construction of a new Fisheries Department has started on the site of the old fish market in Bridgetown. It may well be, because of constraints on funding, that we may have to hold back on that project. The holding back would only be for a brief period because the existing facilities of the Fisheries Department are altogether inadequate and unsuitable for a Fisheries Department in 1991 which has a commitment and is, indeed, training fishermen in improved techniques.

In addition, that Fisheries Department has staffing and is provided with sophisticated equipment in order to provide the sort of fishing information and statistics which a country surrounded by water will need. These are programmes which will depend upon additional funding. Also in the area of fishing I believe it is well known that there are four or five fish processing activities in Barbados which are presently run by persons who are citizens of Barbados. They are contributing to the income from export of commodities from Barbados.

I believe the Ministry of Agriculture is poised to respond to some of the problems which the economy of Barbados will throw up in the short-term. We recognise there is need for prompt and urgent action in this area of activity so we may ensure there is a response to the size of the food import bill. We will try to bring back into active production the several areas of land which have not been utilised in the recent past. We will pay somewhat more attention along with the Sugar Industries Limited to increase the output of sugar. We hope there will be expansion in the area of non sugar agriculture including horticulture, root crops, fisheries as well as in the area of dairying sheep and other cattle production.

I beg to support this Resolution.
6.45 p.m.

Mr. Deputy President, I believe that some of us have had a long day and would like me to suspend the sitting. I had promised that we would suspend some time between quarter to seven and 7.00 o'clock. It is now ten minutes to seven.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, there are 7 items on the Order Paper which I contemplate to complete by tomorrow evening. I therefore beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly at 6.48 p.m.

RESUMPTION (Tuesday, March 26, 1991)

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. President, as you well know, Sir, the stability of the economy of Barbados is most important to the well-being of the country and to its inhabitants. Sir, there are a number of supportive measures which together produce a stable economy. I refer to measures such as the production of more food to feed our inhabitants, control of public expenditure as expressed in this Senate yesterday by some Senators. We also, Sir, must have a competent public service because they are the people that implement Government's policy. Government also has the responsibility to provide more jobs. Also, there is the question of privatisation which was raised in this Senate yesterday. However, Sir, in my view, in all the supportive measures that I have mentioned, the need to earn foreign exchange is presently Barbados' most important.

These estimates, Sir (and, indeed, I believe that the budget which is due on April 2) will reflect Government's policy as far as export trade to generate foreign exchange is concerned.

Yesterday evening as they would say in cricket, as the shadows lengthened over the debate on the Appropriation Bill, this Honourable Chamber, Sir, benefited from a ministerial statement delivered by the Minister of Agriculture which has enlightened Senators and which was a reasoned and informed presentation which could only do us good as we have a look at these estimates and as we think of accusations giving the impression that Government is lacking in an agricultural policy. The Minister, Sir, was incisive. He was clear and I believe all Senators would like to congratulate the Minister on his ministerial statement. Furthermore, I would like to wish him well in the

implementation of his statement, particularly as it relates to the improvement in non-sugar agriculture which means that his aim is that he would want to increase the import possibilities of non sugar agriculture. This does not mean, Sir, that he will not be interested in the improvement of the sugar export earnings.

However, Head 25, Ministry of Agriculture – I would want to make a few comments in relation to certain matters the Minister mentioned yesterday at the risk probably of repeating some of the things that the Minister had said.

I would like first to address my attention to the Scotland District and to make some comments on the Scotland district, not only in relation to its agricultural possibilities but to its tourism possibilities. The greatest problem, Sir, in my view, in the Scotland District is that of drainage. The reason for that is the Scotland District, unlike the other parts of Barbados, does not have a coral stone foundation and therefore, there is great difficulty during heavy rains and not so heavy rains for the water which forms in that area to find itself to the sea or wherever it should be disposed of, whether in wells or otherwise. I believe, Sir, that an emphasis is going to have to be put on the drainage problem in the Scotland District in order that the water can be so channelled as to assist in preventing the number of land slides which still take place in the Scotland District. Also, we are going to have to look very closely at the way the land in the Scotland District is contoured and we may need to have scientific advice on how we proceed with the contours which will assist with the drainage problem.

Ideally, Sir, I see the Scotland District as a nature lover's haven where tourists would want to go and spend a whole day. I believe that the opportunities in the Scotland District, if properly investigated, and instituted, can create that sort of situation. There was mention yesterday of the possibility of rain forests. I too, Sir, can see that as being a reality where we may be able to establish some kind of wild life. When I say wild life, I mean tame life like deer. People in Barbados also are interested in clay pigeon shooting. We may be able to establish that sort of thing. In addition to that, we may be able to establish a bird sanctuary. With the availability of water and the proper harnessing of water in the Scotland District, we may be able to establish fish ponds. We may be able to dam the water in such a way as to have fish ponds. Some of the ponds may be so big that we may be able to have a little canoe paddling on some of these fish ponds.

I can see too, Sir, the Scotland District being developed into the horticulturist's dream where all types of flowers and shrubbery could be planted in an area like this. I believe we could develop large parks and one only has to look at the development of the Flower Forest in St. Joseph and picture the transformation of the Flower Forest into the whole Scotland District in an expansive way and you will

visualise what I am saying about the Scotland District. Then, Sir, surrounding the Scotland District for the most part is a substantial amount of terraced land, not only Farley Hill and Cherry Tree Hill but also Morgan Lewis, and on the other side there is this terrain where the Government may be able to establish the sort of seating arrangements, the sort of plateau situation where people would want to go, those who are not in the Scotland District of itself, to admire the works of nature. That is the sort of situation that I believe that we need to work towards in Barbados because our tourists coming here do not have enough to do, particularly those persons coming on cruise liners, those one-day stay visitors. I believe at the moment, Sir, what we have to offer is a boring situation for them. We need those visitors here and we need to create situations that can occupy their attention for the day.

The Scotland District has the potential for that sort of development and the potential to be able to provide the facilities that can keep persons actively happy in an atmosphere that is congenial to good living and to a good way of spending a day on the island of Barbados.

Now, Sir, I have not heard it in this Chamber as yet, but in the other Honourable Chamber, there have been some criticisms of a proposed project for housing along the East Coast in the Cattle Wash area but I am to point out, Sir, that whatever development takes place in the Scotland District you cannot eliminate housing. There has to be a certain amount of control for housing. As I understand it, Sir, the proposed scheme is for an amount of four houses per acre over some twenty acres and I am to point out that the land talked about is in juxtaposition to a development owned by the former Mackie Symmonds. There was no hue and cry over Mackie Symmonds having this development, but there is a social problem there in that the then Mackie Symmonds was the owner of a bank and the present owner of the land is known mainly probably for growing pigs and therefore persons in our society have a weakness for wanting to classify, if you may call it that, Sir, concessions that varying persons at various levels of our society may have.

10.15 a.m

One has to reflect that the Government of Barbados somewhere in the 1950's built that East Coast Road. No Government with any intelligence would build a road costing the sort of money that road had cost, merely to open a road where you look on the left and you see the sea, and on the right you see hills. Would they build a road only to make it convenient for the residents of Cattlewash to get in from their homes from the St. Andrew side? It is my contention when the then Government of Barbados constructed that East Coast Road, it was meant that a certain type of development or controlled development was intended to be carried on in that area.

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

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: If I am to make a comparison the Members of the Barbados Labour Party in the Other Place have been talking a lot about the environment in recent times. I am to remind this Honourable Chamber that the Barbados Labour Party was the administration who held the reigns of Government during the time when all those lovely mahogany trees on Maxwell Road were unceremoniously destroyed. They are now the chiefs of all virtue as far as the environment is concerned.

Sir, the environment did not begin yesterday. It is true that people now are more aware of the environment. Obviously, I, like all Honourable Senators on this side, support the view that care has to be given to how developments in this country go on in an effort for us to retain an environment which we as citizens of this country are all proud of. Do not let us because of political divide try to cut down each other without thinking and giving due consideration to what may have happened.

Furthermore, Sir, it is important that we do not encourage in this country situations where persons involved in politics because they know they speak under protection in the various Chambers take it on themselves to vilify and question the professional integrity of persons who are in charge of important institutions in this country. I refer, Sir, to certain comments made about the Governor of the Central Bank. I refer too to comments made on the Chief Town Planner and how he carries out his professional responsibility. I do not believe we should question the integrity of such persons when there is no evidence that their integrity should be questioned.

Also, Sir, when the Honourable Minister of Trade spoke to this Chamber, he mentioned that in the Scotland District, in the Chalky Mount area, the Industrial Development Corporation was looking towards the further development of the clay industry in that area. As all of us in here know, that is an old industry in that area. The Government now seeks to expand on the activities of that particular enterprise in the Scotland District.

Another area of concern in the Scotland District is that of the removal of sand. There are two mines in that district where sand is mined from, one is an inland mine as such, the other is one which is alongside the sea. Many years ago sand was drawn from all the beaches in this island wantonly. It was found this was causing an encroachment of the sea in several areas. Erosion had stepped in. The then Government thought it necessary for a decision to be taken that we should confine the withdrawal of sand for construction purposes to a limited area. St. Andrew in that Walkers area was identified for the purpose.

I recall, however, Sir, when that decision was taken, the overseas expert who did the analysis of the reserves, said at that time there were 25 years reserve of sand. Twenty years from then until now would take us probably until about 1995. When that analysis was taken, it was not then envisioned that the construction industry in Barbados would have reached the heights and escalated to the heights it has during the last five to ten years. What has happened is the sand reserve which was necessary to take us through for that 25-year period would obviously now be shortened because of the increase of its usage.

I feel Government has a responsibility to watch what is going on there. Other than that, you will get a serious wind blown situation in the Scotland District which will cause us another problem. Also too, if that sand is there on that eastern side where there are high rushing waves one would not want a situation created where persons who are living in the Scotland District are interfered with by the rushing seas if we allow the sand to be removed uncontrolled. I say this as a matter of warning that we should have another look as to our sand reserves there and to probably further control the removal of sand or to identify other areas probably in the same area where sand could be removed without causing a problem.

Now, Sir, let me move to another aspect of these Estimates. Before doing that, I think there are two other matters I would want to speak on under Head 25, Ministry of Agriculture. One is that of the ADC. I believe that Government should take a close look at the operations of the ADC. The ADC has a substantial amount of land under its control. It is my considered opinion that the land under the ADC's control is not now properly utilised. I believe that the Government should identify a clear policy for the ADC.

10.25 a.m.

Contained in the Landell Mills Report is a suggestion that there should be the formation in Barbados of a land holding company where lands that are not now used or that are under-utilized or that are not properly used and therefore not as productive as they should be should be vested in a land holding company in order to increase the efficiency of such lands. It is my view that additional lands which the ADC now holds may form the base of such a land holding company. I should like Government to have a look at that suggestion since that suggestion may very well be the beginning of part of Government's thrust towards improving agricultural production in this country.

The Minister was absolutely clear yesterday that he has as one of his goals to see and to make sure within a relatively short framework that all agricultural land in this country whether peasant owned or otherwise be again brought back into production because there are a number of non-sugar crops that can be easily grown and the Minister has promised that he will have a programme put in place to

make sure that the Government is successful in achieving the goal of returning lands, as I have mentioned before, into full production.

I cannot leave Head 25, Sir, without saying a word on cotton. I have a very special feeling for that cotton crop. I did hear Senator Barker in his presentation yesterday make a comparison between the productivity of a local grower of cotton, that is an individual, as opposed to the sort of production which the ADC would have had on ADC lands and I think he did mention the comparison of something like 1 200 lbs per acre as opposed to 400 lbs per acre produced by the ADC.

Sir, the BS&T is the company I believe to which he referred who planted I believe something like 15 acres of land in Parish Hill, St. Lucy. The figures quoted by the Honourable Senator are absolutely correct. I know that they will produce some 1 200 lbs to 1 400 lbs per acre. But, Sir, the experts on cotton have said that cotton should be planted on small acreage. They believe that acreages of 15 acres to 30 acres is an adequate amount from the point of view of proper husbandry and that the approach of the ADC where probably some 500 acres was under cotton is very difficult to keep it in proper husbandry. Hence I believe, Sir, that that would sort of explain the difference in the production of the comparison which the Honourable Senator told us yesterday.

Since the BS&T has carried out what could be considered a pilot project one will hope that as a responsible organization where the chief of the BS&T agricultural section is also now the chief of the BSIL he will use his two influential offices to persuade other members of the BSIL and other plantation owners and large holders to chip in with the Government in its effort to produce cotton and to make cotton a national crop, in which case the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation will not then have to look at planting large acreages but the cotton industry would then be able to depend on a number of growers to produce the national goal in cotton production and so assist our export efforts.

One other matter which I should like to draw to the attention of this Honourable Senate is the question of the Pine Livestock Station which has been closed for some time. All I would really like to say about that is that I have wondered as to the wisdom of its closure. I recall at some time that there were some very excellent dairy animals up there and at least from the outside, it had seemed as though it was a profitable operation going on there. Now I no longer see the cows there. The place is all closed. It used to be used also as a quarantine station for race horses when they came to the island and now there is some difficulty in that respect.

Sir, I move on from Head 25 and I move on to Head 40, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce. I believe

we will hear a lot more about that from the Honourable Minister of Trade. I would hope that I do not say many things that will cut across what the Minister would want to say to this Senate. I however want to say, Sir, that as a follow-up to what I said in my opening remarks that it should be the goal of the Government to make sure that it increases its export potential in all areas, that the question of manufactured goods obviously comes to my attention. There has been for a long time an ongoing argument as to what is beneficial to the country, whether import substitution is more beneficial than export. In my view, Sir, Government's emphasis has to be on export. As I said earlier, I believe that the Budgetary Proposals which will be presented on April 2 will show clearly that Government understands that it is important that we improve our foreign exchange situation and therefore every effort has to be given to improving our export possibilities.

A problem that we have had in our country in relation to export has been that of markets, it has been that of being unable to identify products, it has been that of a whole lot of problems in relation to a number of small manufacturers who may have the skill to manufacture but who may not have the management skill. Government has not so far been able to pass on to them the word that it may very well be that they as small manufacturers could come together under one umbrella as such where management will not be the problem because then they would hire proper managerial skills and where they would use their manufacturing skills in an effort to produce the sort of products which have good export potential.

It is my understanding that in spite of the failure some years ago of Barbados to launch a proper furniture order in North America through furniture becoming defective in the shipment due obviously to change of temperatures, stuff put into a container and the glue obviously yielding before the products could reach their destination, that that for a long time has put a halt to any serious export of wooden furniture. When I say wood, I mean not only pine furniture but our treasured Barbadian mahogany.

There is a substantial case made out for agro industry. The markets for agro industry are good. Also too there are good markets for data-based technology. We need to follow on these areas.
10.35 a.m.

In the area of agro industry, Barbados already has a food processing plant which I am sure will be a successful operation and I believe that the presence of this food processing plant will lead to the building of other food processing plants, because indeed it is my belief that there will be so many items to be handled that we will find it extremely difficult for the now one plant which we have at Fairy Valley to carry out the sort of operation necessary to supply the export market.

There is also, Sir (and this again takes us back to the Scotland District) a great possibility that the clays of the Scotland District could be used for the production of high quality dinner ware. We may need some expert advice in this area but since we have the raw material there, whether it be the clays of Chalky Mount and the other materials which we have there that can be used advantageously, it is necessary, Sir, I think, that the Government should have some expert advice in these areas, because without doubt in the areas of pottery and ceramics, in the area of dinner ware aforementioned we could very well develop a very strong export market which could assist our balance of payments situation considerably.

Let us look, Sir, at the presence of what was the brick factory at Greenland. The Barbados Development Bank some years ago made a substantial loan, somewhere in the vicinity of \$5 million available to a gentleman called Fred Elks. That gentleman, Sir, was not even able to produce, not even what we called in the olden days a monkey, made from the clay. A local entrepreneur has gone in there and is already into the production of roofing tiles and tiles for patios and areas of that nature which means, Sir, that unwittingly we invested a large sum of money, I am not blaming anybody for it, Sir, because I know in business you have to take chances. Some of them will succeed and that is why, Sir, if I may make one small reflection on the failure of CARSICOT one wonders if the persons who were criticising the failures of CARSICOT understand that all business entrepreneurs know that there are going to be times when you are going to invest in projects which are going to fail. The Government invested in CARSICOT and it has failed; it is no sense crying over that. What we have to do is to use that as a learning experience and move on. That is why I do not want to harp, Sir, on the failure of Mr. Elks and his plant in St. Andrew. It is a business experience that has failed, one can question, Sir, where the money went or where it did not go. But let us move on, Sir. Let us now give the necessary encouragement to the local entrepreneur who has taken up the challenge of making the local reserves which we have there in clay work towards assisting the export potential of this country.

I believe, Sir, in the area of furniture we have to give this area special attention. We just cannot build any kind of furniture or build furniture because it is used in Barbados and think that this is what people in North America or people even in some of our Caribbean Islands will accept. We have to do this on a market by market approach.

There are some parts of the world, maybe North America, Europe, where the market there might be crying out for a high-priced, high value, quality, product. In other words you need to do this on a sort of a lot of hard work; you need to have your best entrepreneurs all coming together and also too, Sir, we may have to consider shipping furniture in a break down form. That is, not to do the gluing process here, but to ship broken down furniture

where the gluing and putting together process will be at the other end. If the potential is good, we may be able to send Barbadian artisans from here to wherever to complete the project at that end, in order that we do not have the problem of gluing here and suffering the same problem that we had earlier on with the one that we had shipped. In other words we must learn by our bad experiences and try to convert them into good experiences.

There may also be the possibility, Sir, of producing garden furniture in knock down form where we can ship to several parts of the world. What we need to do is come up with designs that are acceptable, designs which are different to the designs which those persons are accustomed to. Designs which create more comfort in the garden chair and I am sure, Sir, that the Ministry of Trade and Industry through its IDC and EPC will be looking at all those areas in their effort at improving the export possibilities of this country.

We cannot give up on export. Export is the capacity to earn foreign exchange; we cannot over-emphasise in this Chamber or any where else the need for Barbados to earn foreign exchange. It is no sense making all the comparisons that the foreign reserves were \$350 million then, and now it is \$120 million or whatever it is, and you go on bemoaning and bemoaning. We have got to look positively at what are the solutions of improving the foreign reserves situation. And the Minister who once worked in the Ministry of Finance ... I am not giving him any lessons because he is the person to give me the lessons, but I know, Sir, that he has taken his knowledge from the Ministry of Finance, where he understands the particular need of the country, into the Ministry of Trade where he is now the overall boss and he is going to take that and make it useful to our country.

In agro-industry, if I can go back to that a little bit, where the possibilities are great, we need to pay attention to areas such as our packaging and our labelling. I have found, Sir, here goods that are manufactured and sold in our local supermarkets, the quality of the product may be unquestioned, but when you look at it on the Supermarket shelves you may not even want to look and see what the label says because the labelling is not attractive.

10.45 a.m.

We have got to understand that packaging and labeling is fundamental in the success of marketing. We must pay particular attention in these areas not only on what is in the bottle or in the package but how we present it. If we are going to succeed in getting the sort of support for our products in the overseas market, then we have got to pay attention to the areas which I mentioned before.

I believe, Sir, too that there is going to have to be a certain amount of rationalization between the agro-industry plant and the planters of varying products which the agro-

industry plant will be dealing with. The reason for that is that we could easily have a situation of over-production or under-production and this is what we want to avoid. It would, therefore, be necessary to have a liaison between the planter and the manufacturer.

Those, Sir, are the areas if we want to have a successful agro-industry plant that we must pay attention to as we further try to develop the various possibilities which we have for export trade. I believe, Sir, that we should also look at that matter. It was raised yesterday by the Honourable Leader of the Senate when he made his Ministerial presentation of the food production for local consumption. But I believe added to this, Sir, that since CARICOM is a reality and since we expect the CARICOM situation to improve we must show our CARICOM brothers that we have a deep interest in what they are doing. Quite recently I had the opportunity to eat a plant grown in St. Lucia. I think they call it Dashene and another one called Yellow Yam and also in Jamaica they have the Jamaican ackee. I am wondering, Sir, if it would not be a good idea as part of our CARICOM thrust to look at marketing our products in the other CARICOM countries and conversely having them to market ours. It is regrettable, Sir, that in our supermarkets that you can still find items such as pears grown in North America somewhere, peaches, and that sort of thing. I feel that in looking at our import bill and food production that all of those things should in my opinion be put on a negative list. I do not see really the need for them with the mangoes and sugar apples that we have. But I believe, Sir, as part of the constraints that the population of Barbados will obviously have to face in the coming year or probably a little longer that we may very well have to look at putting a lot of these goods on licence.

I do not believe, Sir, that Barbadians can continue to have made available to them fifty brands of corned beef and twenty brands of this and that sort of thing. I believe, Sir, that the time has come in order to reduce our import bill that some emphasis and control will have to be used by Government in the areas which I have just mentioned. This has nothing to do with your standard of living. If Barbadians want to continue to have a proper standard of living, Barbadians must understand that some sacrifices have to be made at sometime if you want to have the good down the road. Every now and again, Sir, there is this talk about devaluation. Government has made a very clear statement on devaluation. It does not see the need to devalue. It does not see what Barbados has to gain by devaluation. I saw a call in this morning's paper for devaluation by some businessman, not a successful one unfortunately. But it is my considered opinion and it is obviously the considered opinion of the Government of Barbados that we want to protect the resilience of our dollar. We know that if the resilience of our dollar has to be protected that we must export more, that we must control our imports; and that we will have to do a little belt tightening. It is not the intention of Government to cause

any layoffs in the Public Service. It is not the intention of the Government to reduce the Social Services. Those of us who can afford or who cannot even afford it have to accept that measures have to be taken to control what could be looked on as indiscriminate spending.

Yesterday, Senator Walcott drew to the attention of this Chamber that there were some 55,000 vehicles on the roads. Sir, based on our population, that is exorbitant. I hope, Sir, that any decisions taken by Government in relation to our vehicles will not cause any particular hue and cry and will be seen as another measure to control the money which we spend on our imports.

With those few words, Sir, I would like to support the Appropriation Bill. Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN: Mr. President, I should like to look at Head 43 – Tourism and Sports. While we have a very large allocation under this Head (in fact, it is one of the largest after Education and Health) we have got to think of the objective. Even in these very difficult times we must realize that it is most important that we earn as much foreign exchange as possible. During the past year the total estimated expenditure of visitors was in the region of \$980 million estimated and there was a further sum of \$17 931 000 which we earned in Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax. That is a very large figure, but we have got to continue to increase this and, even though this revenue may have fallen slightly in the past year, we have got to think of measures whereby we can improve on this.

Before justifying the expenditure, I should like to think of the performance of the industry during the past year. We had over 430 000 arrivals and, while there was a decline of about 6.3 per cent from 1989, it was a very creditable performance.
10.55 a.m.

The USA is still our major market and we have to find a number of other markets – I am going to say a bit more about that – but at the same time we must not do this at the expense of the USA. We have to spend more of our time on the west coast in promotions. We have seen already that we get quite a good number of visitors from California and also from the Mid-West and we should therefore concentrate to a great extent more on promotions in those areas. There was, nevertheless, a slight decline in visitor arrivals from the USA for many reasons, many of which are now history. We know about the recession, we know about the Gulf War and many others, and they were advised to stay at home to a great extent, but let us look also at Canada.

Canada provides us with our second largest number of visitors. During the past year they have been lured by Santo Domingo, Jamaica, Cuba and Mexico mainly because of their weaker currencies, but Barbados can do a lot to attract the Canadians nevertheless. We must continue to develop

new sources of prospective visitors. That is why I think we should spend more of our dollars in promotion in Europe, because we had an increase of 31.7% in our visitor arrivals from Europe during 1990. I think we should spend more of it, specifically in Scandinavia, because they have been very receptive to our promotion, and also in Italy. Neighbouring Caribbean countries have been doing quite well in Italy. We have had an increase in visitor arrivals from Italy, Switzerland and Germany and it is at this time too that I think that many of the European visitors would be thinking of turning to new destinations such as ours.

The cruise ship passengers have increased, Mr. President, but while they continue to increase we have to bear in mind that our objective is mainly to get them to become long stay visitors and also to attract them into spending more of their money here, because usually when these cruise ships arrive here they have touched at about three or four other ports and we have to have enough of an incentive in Barbados to make them want to stay here. We also have to do a lot of promotion on the actual cruise ships before they come into port. I think that is vitally important. Not only do we have to have the usual breakfast in Miami or New York or wherever, but we must do the promotion on-board ship so that they would be attracted to get off and also to take part in whatever the activities are on the island.

We have to have some innovative ideas. I remember many years ago when Mr. Peter Morgan was Chairman of the then Barbados Tourist Board, what was considered a large sum of money then was spent in exploration of Harrison's Cave and it was severely criticised. When I took over from him and we spent even more money, that was criticised too, but I am sure that those critics are silenced today when they realise the vast sums of money which we are earning as a result of the development of Harrison's Cave. Some ideas could be, for example, the development of a health spa. I remember when I was a boy we used to go down to Boiling Spring in St. Andrew. There must be ways of developing health spas here. We have the sort of climate which would be conducive to that sort of thing and we could have our springs here. Europeans are accustomed to going to their health spas and to health springs in other parts of the world and we could really develop a health spa of note in Barbados. I am not saying necessarily at what was formerly called Boiling Spring, but at some such place or even a similar watering hole which would be very attractive. That type of clientele is accustomed to health spas and they would be likely to be very responsive to it.

Also, with our high standard of health care, if we were to develop a health spa and if we were to publicise enough the high standard of health care which we have locally, we would be likely to get a number of long stay visitors who would be coming here for health purposes.

I am thinking also at this time the members of AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons, which

incidentally has a membership of 25 million past 50. I was invited myself last year to attend a conference and I was really flabbergasted when I went and saw the potential of this very great group. It is indeed a very, very large group. They have the means of travelling, they have more disposable income and I should very much like to see our Board of Tourism get into a whole number of projects with the AARP, because I think that they would be likely to do a lot more to visit Barbados if they knew more about it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are not by any means promoting them in here, though.

SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN: No, Sir, I can make this a document of the House.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, I don't want it to be a document of the House. I don't want your speech in here to be used as a promotional speech for anything outside Parliament. This is a debating Assembly, we are not here to promote commercials.

SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I should like to see us develop many other attractions which would cause more visitors to come to Barbados. I was thinking, for example, of a mystery tour which would be of interest to people who visit Barbados. A country which is so rich in its colonial past, as Barbados is, must have a few great houses with some very interesting ghost stories and if they are far flung we should be able to entertain people for an hour an evening on what is called the mystery tour, with somebody with a very vivid imagination making it a worthwhile evening. Then also I think of Farley Hill and I wonder if we could not have a son *et lumiere*, that is, a light and sound spectacle, at Farley Hill. These are very popular in other parts of the world and could form another major tourist attraction.
11.05 a.m.

Mr. President, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." I see also the Sherbourne Centre being used as a tremendous means of having a whole number of visitors come here. We have to have some convention tourists and if we can have a sufficiently large hall and all the amenities which would attract sufficiently large conventions, it would be very helpful to our tourism product.

Sir, I have a vision of a number of these functions being held at the Sherbourne Centre. I know that at the moment we are using our five luxury coaches in conjunction with BARTIC Tours and I do think that we can see them disgorging lots of visitors. I have myself seen that I have attended conferences and we have had to be taken by luxury coaches to the centres where the actual functions took place. Nevertheless, I am thinking more in terms for developing an international music festival which could be held at the Sherbourne Centre and if this is well publicised and well planned, it would attract quite a lot of visitors.

When we think of Oberammergau, many years ago, when they started, they started small, and they were able to develop the Passion Play into something which is known the world over. Why can we not develop a special music festival or something of the sort which would be very well known? If we had a centre such as this, I can visualise us utilising it for such a purpose.

I can even see, Mr. President, that some of the youngsters who may be today around the street corners and who may be considered to be wayward youths being used to perform acrobatics or whatever at this centre and also using their skills in music. Perhaps at the end of the presentation, there may be a lady who may come up, not a lady associated with this Government Party, but a lady who may even say to the Prime Minister then present that he had a tremendous idea in having built such a centre, because it could be used to such good effect. I know from my own experience last year, Mr. President, I tried to book the Dover Convention Centre and found in October that all the weekend dates were taken completely. I do think that if we were to develop the Sherbourne Centre when it is completed, we should certainly be able to have a very attractive function indeed.

I should like to turn my attention, Mr. President, to Head 29, the Attorney General. Perhaps I should couple this with Head 36 and tell you why I say that. We know that there has been published this booklet which is now a document of the House, "Against Drug Abuse: A National Approach." We must compliment the Attorney General's office in the establishment of the Committee which is looking into this matter of drug abuse. However, on behalf of a number of other interested persons in the community, I should like to state that there is another organisation which is also working very hard to try to rehabilitate a number of the persons who try to take drugs and I am thinking of the Salvation Army. We are raising lots of money. We have raised about \$300,000 and we plan to erect a building to rehabilitate men. Unfortunately, our work is severely hindered by the fact that whatever we do means that the same persons have to go back into the community overnight and we cannot have any....

Mr. PRESIDENT: I thought it was the Salvation Army that you said was raising the money. I just want your statement to be correct. You said that the Salvation Army and now you are saying: "we".

SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN: I am a member of that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, you are speaking as a Senator from here. We who? The Senate is not in it.

Senator M. deL. JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. President. The Salvation Army is raising the funds and the Salvation Army is in fact making every effort to raise enough money to rehabilitate these persons. Therefore, we are hoping that

it will be possible. We are aware of the difficulties at this time but we are hoping that it will be possible for Government to....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Give the Salvation Army the credit.

SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN: The Salvation Army, sorry. The Salvation Army is hoping that it will be possible to give the Salvation Army some funds to assist them in the establishment of this adult rehabilitation centre. Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. Don't thank me. It is a debate.

SENATOR M. deL. JORDAN: I coupled it with Head 36 because I understand that there will be some rehabilitation of these drug addicts at the St. Joseph Hospital. Nevertheless it is felt that there are so many persons and a whole number of persons in the city who would require this sort of attention and treatment, who would not necessarily be willing to go as far as St. Peter for that kind of treatment.

Mr. President, I should like to turn my attention to Head 13, the Office of the Supervisor of Insurance, which is under the Prime Minister's portfolio and I think of LOB, ICB, BMLA, MANULIFE and a number of other insurance companies which are great mobilisers of funds in this country. The Supervisor's job is becoming increasingly important as he makes recommendations with respect to the regulation of these insurance companies. I think the ICB is doing a very good job. We have just had their annual report laid in this Chamber and while there are to be congratulated, the Supervisor of Insurance must also be very greatly congratulated on the job which he is doing because he has been able to avoid any of the catastrophes which have, we understand, taken place in some other Caribbean islands and therefore, we are looking forward to an even greater participation of his office in the many talks which we understand are taking place and are about to take place in the industry in the near future.

Mr. President, I support this Appropriation Bill.
11.15 a.m.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: In contributing to the Estimates of 1991/92, I would first like to look at Head 13, Prime Minister's Office, and refer to the area that deals with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation because there was a lot of comment and debate on CBC especially in the other Chamber. Furthermore, the issue of CBC came up in this Chamber yesterday. I am looking at that area specifically to say that the \$2 million that caused some concern under the Head of the Prime Minister for CBC seemed not to give to the Opposition of this country the impression that the money is well spent. That \$2 million is designed for local programming. Local programmes cost a lot of money to produce. Advertisers in this country tend

not to spend money on local programmes. They may only do a bit particularly at Christmas time.

Mr. President, the issue of CBC even goes further than that. I will refer to the \$2 million a little later. CBC was in a deficit position under the Barbados Labour Party because of the way they introduced STV. There were a number of reasons. I would just mention one or two because I know the CBC issue will occur again and again in this Honourable Chamber.

Firstly, the wrong technology was introduced for STV and secondly, the high cost of that technology. Furthermore, it was introduced at a time when the Corporation was losing money. The Barbados Labour Party had to get a loan of approximately \$14.5 million to assist in that bad decision that was made. Because of this wrong technology, when the Democratic Labour Party took over the administration of this country we had to put in a lot of hard work to reduce that deficit.

We have been doing that pretty favourably because if we look back to around the 1988/89 period there was a deficit at CBC of \$5 million. By 1990 it was reduced to \$3 million. Now we are at \$1.5 million. We are hoping that deficit will be cleared up entirely by 1992. Furthermore, I am not too sure that people in this country recognise the kind of work that goes into CBC. At CBC there was an operating profit of over \$1 million last year. It is expected that will be higher this year of about \$2.5 million.

It is not a matter of just trying to see how much money you can get out of the Government or how much money the Government can allocate to something that is dying. I want to make it specifically clear that the Barbados Labour Party put the CBC in the problems that we in the Democratic Labour Party found it in. To a large extent they contributed to it. It was difficult to get out of that situation at that point. I want to stress that for the mere fact everyone is crying out in this country for local programming the CBC has been introducing local programming. You will find that is costly. I am going to reiterate CBC has been producing more local programmes in this country than ever before and also reducing the deficit that the Democratic Labour Party inherited and then now bringing the Corporation towards profitability. This is evidenced by the fact that the deficit is being reduced every year. I just thought I would bring to bear those issues on the CBC. I am sure we will have time to deal with the CBC in more detail as time goes on.

To further contribute to the debate let me just leave the CBC and refer to an issue that came up yesterday when Senator Cole was speaking. He referred to the Severance Payment Act. He was very concerned that the Severance Payment Act needed to be revised in a particular area he stated because he was relating to the whole question of the transfer of workers from one position to another. He was concerned that job descriptions need to be broadened so

that workers can take up different positions in a company when new technology is introduced.

That brought to my mind a number of things because in talking to workers and other people I recognise that the Severance Payment Act seems to be either not understood or misunderstood by a number of people in this particular area. We have to understand this Act is a complex one. There are many areas in the Act that can be looked at any time.

11.25 a.m.

I want to say that the Act provides for alternate posts within an organization or a company but the worker must have similar status and of course the same remuneration. I am not so sure that workers and employers alike understand that this can happen. You see in terms of the introduction of technology that is not maybe the biggest problem because in Barbados I recognize that when new technology is introduced there is this feeling that workers must be laid off and workers must be dismissed. In some developed countries, you will find that that is the time that businesses think that you should employ more workers and the idea is better productivity. But that does not seem to happen in Barbados.

And furthermore, on that question of technology, I find that workers at this point in time – and this is a very good thing – do not understand being treated as though they are being left out of what is happening. Managers and owners in this country tend to think that they are not to involve the workers or the workers' representatives in the changes that are being made in businesses. This is saying to me that they do not understand even to some extent the concept of workers participation and that workers at this time must be involved in what is going on.

So that you introduce new technology or you are going to; nobody says anything to the worker. But one sudden morning you turn up and you say, "Go there. Go the other place," and expect that workers will want to do this. Workers must have the confidence of employers and must feel that they are a part of what is going on in the particular company. We have to look at that very carefully and understand that the days of the master and servant are over. I am not going to deal with that too long because it is going to lead me into a major part...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have not said anything to you. Are you talking to yourself? Who interfered with you?

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: I was just going through my head that I will pass on.

Mr. President, if you want me to go into the area of workers participation, I can do that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. I hear you talking as if you are in another world not in the Senate any more. Nobody interfered with you. That is why I was a little bit surprised to know what had happened.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: But, Mr. President, I am going to look at Head 25 and look at some areas also under Head 37 in housing when I deal with another area. My thrust will be looking at the whole concept of rural development because I find that Barbados is plagued with a very serious problem of rural urban drift and that we have to do something to arrest this situation. I feel very strongly that enough is not done in this area. Many of us know the reason in, if not all the countries in the world, for rural exodus, low incomes in rural areas in terms of agriculture, the attraction in the town and also people have a desire to change their trades, even sometimes if their place or origin has very good development prospects. But these are some of the ills of the rural exodus. We therefore have to ensure in this country and the Minister of Agriculture yesterday spoke at length about the thrust that the Government is taking in terms of ensuring that agriculture touches a broad section of this country. I am saying that we have to ensure in the rural areas that we provide the correct setting to arrest that rural exodus. So that job opportunities must be provided in the rural areas.

There are a number of other things that we need to do. We need to upgrade the transportation in the rural areas. Housing needs to be upgraded also, and water and electricity. What I am saying is that in order for people to remain in the rural areas they must have a pride in the place of their birth. In Barbados it is also very important because you would realize that in Bridgetown and Christ Church these places are bursting at the seams. We have to look for openings in the rural areas to introduce employment. Senator Clarke yesterday also spoke of bringing industries into the rural areas. I thought that that was a very good point to help to arrest the rural exodus.

So that although we can say that Government's heart is in the right place we have to look at a very serious situation. I am suggesting that we need to look at land reform in this country and we need to set up, maybe an advisory commission so that research, planning and information can be had on the correct and overall way of distributing the areas that the Minister talked about yesterday in terms of waste land, in terms of land that is available for use in agriculture, if we look at that area and also then in housing.

But the Minister also mentioned that the media must be used more efficiently. I am saying that if we are going to have a system of land reform to ensure that the rural area is properly utilized then we need to have public talks. We need to have talks throughout this country in terms of informing the rural public of the benefits that can be derived and the correct way that this can be done. I used the

word inform, I did not say educate because sometimes people get concerned when you hear educate and people in Barbados think that we have a very high rate of education. When I say inform the citizens, I am not talking about what people talk about, the poor. There is a lot of talk about the poor although the poor do not want to be talked down to as sometimes some people tend to think. But I am saying that this must involve the plantocracy. It must involve, if we feel like calling the so-called private sector, the free enterprise. I am saying that all of us in this country must be involved in this thrust. It cannot be something for let us say the people out there who do not think that they have the means of production and that one side feels now that you are robbing them of something or confiscating something from them and the other side thinking that they are gaining something or at least they have now got their just desserts after 350 years. That is not the idea. The idea is to have the system instituted that people can feel a part of what is going on and to be able to contribute to it. I am saying this because I recognize that in this country the young is not inclined to go into agriculture because in the first place they do not see themselves as being coerced, overseen by some manager on a horse or with his hand behind his back standing over them directing them each day. Neither do their parents want them to be a part of that exercise because the parents know what they have had to go through.

11.35 a.m.

I am saying when I pass through the country side, when I am there and I see all of.... And I have nothing against Guyanese or whoever come to the island to get employment. However, when I see all of these people from other countries, working hard and our people are standing there not having worked and want to find work, because they are asking in other areas for the work, I am wondering how are we going to get people involved in agriculture to feel a pride of producing. To feel the earth under their hands and feel good when they see something they have planted, grow, if we do not go into a system of land reform that will make people understand – all of us in this country, not anybody standing out there and believing that they are not a part of it. All of us in this country coming to bear with the situation and understand that it is necessary not to have this Massa feeling. I mentioned again the master and servant attitude in this country because the young will not subscribe to that kind of behaviour and I believe strongly that those are some of the reasons why not even the old nowadays, or the older ones, want to be a part of what is going on in the whole agricultural setting.

So, therefore, we have to find a system that will motivate and generate interest in agriculture once more, and we have to look for ways and means. That is why I talked about the advisory commission because there must be ways and means where we can get this done. I have seen in Israel... And, Mr. President, you know that this exists in Israel where people have gone into a desert and made agriculture work. You must understand that in Israel, when

they see rain they are happy because they get their water from the sea of Galilee. So when you see people working ... But it is the whole concept of what it means to the people; it is not that you are just working, just to eat, it means something more of having a feeling of, "this is the land of my birth; this is where I belong; this is what I want to produce out of this; and I am a part of it". And, if you see that kind of thing existing, then one can understand the kind of picture that I am trying to draw here.

I am saying that same model (if that is what you want to call Israel) that for a developing country they like to think they are a case study, where cooperatives exist we have to introduce that system on a larger scale, not in terms of larger lots of land and someone mentioned the Spring Hall Land Lease Project. However, people must be able to manage it, but I am saying that is not all. There is something that is missing because you cannot have people just go in and say, "Take this land", and they have no understanding of what is going on and no feeling, no motivation, no good reason for feeling that they are part of what is happening and just give land. So that when the hard times come they become fed up and they can't continue with what is happening.

The whole concept of getting someone just on television or on the media saying how hard agriculture is and how hard they had to work to produce it... Every body has to work hard in this country. We have a concept in this country that people who work with their brains, who work in offices, who work otherwise, do not work hard. Those are the kinds of things that we have to get out of the system. I am saying, that we have to do something very serious about this matter in order to stop this rural exodus.

Furthermore, housing must be looked at in the rural areas in a very serious way to ensure that people remain in their areas. There must be housing projects to ensure that people remain there and that there is proper housing. I am concerned a bit also about the housing in Barbados, because I am saying that we will have to start, what I call "going up", because we will not be able to spread out too much longer. That could be another issue and I am saying that in Barbados the whole concept of apartments will not have the same effect, and that the ownership of apartments, because there is a concept that if certain people do not have that type of housing, what people call the normal poor – the middle class as Senator Barker referred to as he was yesterday – will have to want to live in apartments that are theirs to show people that this can be done. I am saying it is one of the areas we have to look seriously at if we are to go into housing that is going to keep our rural people in place.

There are a host of other things under agriculture which we are looking into. We are looking into agro-processing; and I brought up in this Honourable Chamber already the whole concept of training people in the rural areas. I said at the time that I thought Speightstown is a city

centre where an agro-processing plant can be established or organised, so that we can play a vital role in processing the vegetables that we grow in the rural areas, and so have people concentrating in their areas.

There are other areas where children in those areas, at school (because a lot of these things have to be started at school) can go into skills training so that when they leave school they will be skilled in craft; they will be skilled in how to contribute to areas of that matter.

Going further into the whole question of the rural development, if we look again at Speightstown, it is so close, it is there, it is so general. We have a fishing complex that needs renovating and upgrading, where we can just have things there happening. Yesterday I heard the Minister mention areas in Eagle Hall and other areas where they are going to have fish markets upgraded and renovated.

Speightstown is one of those areas that must be looked at if we are going to look at our rural areas carefully. Speightstown has a lot more potential for the progress of this country because a jetty can be built in Speightstown to bring tourists from Bridgetown and from around to come to Speightstown and bring that as a city area. Also, not only for tourists, Speightstown has been used over the years before (remember it was Little Bristol) for trading between Bridgetown and Speightstown.

So, I am saying the potential is there but what we have to do is to be ready to get these things together. When I say, we, I do not mean only the Government of Barbados at this present time; I am talking about the Opposition; I am talking about the Private Sector; I am talking about people that can contribute to these things, because you cannot leave everything to the Government. I am suggesting these things to see that we all live here and I don't know – I am not going anywhere to live. I am saying that we need to make sure that this economy is vital and that it be developed.

You look at the Six Mens area, and that can be added as a whole complement to the same Speightstown area in terms of people coming from Bridgetown and into the various areas and that are suffering with a problem of beach erosion at the moment. It is an area that has potential but it needs to be developed and beautified.

11.45 a.m.

Mr. President, while I am talking about this, I want to give praise to the NCC (National Conservation Commission) for the kind of work which it has done in the years. Not only has it done areas like the parks and the marine reserves, but also it has raised a consciousness in this country towards our environment. Even the young people are trying to beautify little areas around them even to ask people to contribute mold and things like that to build their little gardens. It is very comforting when you see

the young who want to do that and you feel as though as a Government you are contributing to what the young want to get involved in. I want to have on record my sincere thanks to the NCC.

Furthermore, that leaves me to say that we have to treasure our environment and ensure that it is protected. I am not an environment freak as such. But I am saying that the areas that are recognized other than beautification that we need to protect we should do that. When I see the whole question of the plastic bottles not being properly dumped, we need to have a serious way of recycling them. Also, the dumping of car bodies is another very serious thing in St. Philip. You will find in Foul Bay that there is some reason that people feel that they should dump car bodies in that area. It must be looked at very seriously because there is a feeling that those car bodies can be utilized and can make money for Barbados. I think that we need to look at that very carefully to see how we can utilize that. We have to send them overseas and bring them back. But there is a suggestion that that can be done.

In terms of our environment and in terms of preserving our environment, we need to have coordination between the various Ministries as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour to know when certain things are being dumped.

I have another concern when I hear the talk about roofs being taken down with asbestos and I am wondering where they are dumping asbestos and if there is recognition of the dangers that asbestos can bring to the community even more when it is not in the roof. Because the experts have suggested that sometimes it is better to patch an asbestos roof than to pull it down in terms of your complete environment.

I think that when we are looking at how do we assist in developing Barbados that we need to look at some of the areas that we can assist in. It brings me to just another area when I talk about coordination and maybe we need to look at it very seriously as a Government. I look at it under Head 16 on Page 11 and I see the area of Organisational Management. I realize, Mr. President, that productivity is one of the major challenges facing this country today not only in the private sector but also and particularly in the public sector. Some people feel that there is a general malaise in the public sector that you do not have to be as productive as in the private sector. If we look at the extent to which grievances and industrial relations matters are handled in the public sector, we can understand sometimes maybe what I am talking about here that the bureaucratic system which exists seem to be archaic. So that we need to modernize these areas to ensure that matters are dealt with expeditiously. We have cases with half-pay leave where people are not paid sometimes for two and three years. It is not only not good for the individual but it is not good for the morale of the Service itself. What is happening is

although there is an area for organisation and management that has a mandate to look at in the Public Service, this body seem not to have the authority to go into Departments and analyse the Departments themselves. Therefore, they have to be summoned by the Heads of certain Departments.

I am saying that there is a need for a reform in the Public Service in the area to deal with industrial relations because the Labour Department do not deal with that area although it has the trained personnel to do that. That deals more with grievances from the private sector and statutory bodies. One wonders if coordination within the other Ministry that deals with this area of the Public Service is important and that the Labour Department is not necessary, or otherwise specific training for the people in that area or a complete reform of that archaic system should be made.

Mr. President, with those few words, I would like to give my...

Mr. PRESIDENT: They were not few. If they were few to you, they were not few to me.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: ...support to the Appropriation Bill. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Mr. President. Sir, we are here debating the Estimates for the year 1991-92. But a lot of extraneous matters seem to have come in nevertheless.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We are dealing with the Estimates you know.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I intend to deal with the Estimates, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no. You usually get that.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir. Nevertheless, Sir, if we look and start at the point of origin which is the figures, Sir, that are before us this coming year and we look also at the figures from last year, Sir, we can already see a position occurring on the basis of last year where Government's revenue, Sir, fell for the first time since 1959. This year despite that fact we see Government coming back, Sir, to the Parliament of this country asking for the approval of a sum of money which is in excess of its expenditure for last year despite the fact that we have already seen in motion a trend for the fall in revenue, Sir.

Sir, as a result, we see that there is a deficit proposed for this year for \$370 million. In these Estimates, we have seen the identification of the finance of \$56 million of that \$370 million leaving \$314 million to be raised, Sir. I have no doubt, Sir, that by Tuesday afternoon we will know in no uncertain terms how it will be raised. Nevertheless, Sir, it makes one wonder how this Government can in the

circumstances continue to raise, Sir, its expenditure in view of the fact, Sir, that on its own admission now, although they did not admit it before January, that the economy is in serious trouble, Sir. It is in trouble, and indeed this was reflected by the lack of growth last year and by the fall in the current revenue which came in to Government.

11.55 a.m.

One of the things we heard discussed in the last two days was the whole question of the amount of revenue coming from direct and indirect taxation. I believe that Senator Barker started off by making the point that where one relied excessively on indirect taxation, not only was it a burden upon the majority of people in this country who are not earning excessively, because of the fact that although they have been exempted from the direct taxation measures – up until 1986 it was \$12,000, then it became \$15,000 – they then found that because of the excessive increase in indirect taxation that same \$150 or \$200 when the week came instead now of being able to buy goods and services at a particular price, they then had to buy at a higher price because of the imposition of those indirect taxes.

When the World Bank describes indirect taxation in its report as the most regressive form of taxation, that is the kind of thinking that is going into it. That is the kind of thinking that informs them, because all of a sudden those very same people whom as a Government you try to protect and make their lives easier are now facing a situation where their money buys far less because of the imposition of these indirect taxes.

I believe, Sir, as Senator Barker said yesterday, that the proportion of direct taxation on income and profits to this Government's total revenue was in the vicinity of 27%. Senator Alleyne got up and chastised Senator Barker and said that it was a factual error. The whole point is, if one looks....

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, on a point of order. The record will show that what I said was about direct taxation, I was not talking about income and taxation on profits. The facts will show, as I pointed out, that in 1989 direct taxation as a proportion of tax revenue was some 38%. I went on to point out that in the projection for this year it will rise by some 3%. That is the point I made, so I don't want Senator Moutley to mislead the Chamber.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I have no intention of misleading this House, except that I will also say that the record will reflect that Senator Barker referred specifically to tax on income and profits, and therefore when Senator Alleyne accused Senator Barker of misleading the House in terms of factual errors, that was not in fact so. The figures are clear, they show revenue accruing from tax on income and profits as \$295.2 million,

total revenue being \$977.57 million, which with the use of a calculator works out to just about 27%.

Those are a lot of figures, Sir, but the point in essence that is being made is that one of the main reasons for Government's shortfall in current revenue last year had to do with the fact that having relied excessively on income from indirect taxation, the moment the economy started to recede and the import bill started to drop, and indeed aided along by the credit squeeze which would have been in place from October 1989, to dampen the same demand for imports in this country, your income from indirect taxation must of necessity drop. That is the basic point of difference.

The Barbados Labour Party, while in office, relied on indirect taxation, but we ensured that whenever we imposed indirect taxation the system balanced back out by removing those at the bottom of the threshold in terms of direct taxation, so that while they may have been paying taxes in indirect taxation we ensured that they no longer had to pay the kind of taxes on direct taxation. Hence the systematic move from 1976 of the removal of people on the income tax roll who used to pay \$25 a week to where it was in 1986 of \$12,000. The \$15,000 was gravy for a lot of people out there.

I do not want to get bogged down on that, because at the end of the day I believe that the whole Estimates process cannot be divorced from the people who it should benefit, that is, people in general in this country. The Estimates is the wherewithal through which Government is able to determine its programme to benefit the people of this country, and it is important that in all of these debates we do not forget people. It is important that we do not forget the responsibilities we have to the developmental process of this country, not in terms of short term management, but in terms of the long term developmental process in this country.

I would submit that, having gone through these Estimates, and indeed having listened to the debate so far, one is at a loss to understand how Government intends to ensure that long term developmental process in the line which it has taken. I would almost venture to say that the solutions which Government is seeking, as can be reflected through the figures in these Estimates, are almost akin, in terms of their longevity, to the high received by a paro off an illegal drug, because as soon as you go up you are coming back down. I submit that it is time that Government in its approach looks at the long term solution. They have five years to do it, Sir, they don't have to look at a political solution next year or the year after, unless they are coming sooner than we all think. The point is that the responsibility is greater on them to ensure that the solutions which are being sought are long term solutions.

Sir, I was a little heartened by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture's presentation yesterday, but while

being heartened at it, I am a little bit at a loss to see how he is going to accomplish all of that, given the figures supplied in the Estimates for agriculture, and indeed given the cuts that have come in it. I know that he said that while cuts have come for food research there has been an increase in production, but nevertheless the production is still below 1986, and when you go so low the only way you must go is up, but I hope that he will ensure that the developmental work in agriculture, the technical work, continues. Unless that is done, Sir, any solution is only a short term solution, because we need to ensure as we do in trade, as we do in industry, as we do in tourism that the kind of product that we are selling and earning from in Barbados is a durable product. The only way we are going to be able to do that is with continual research and development to ensure that there is no stagflation or stagnation.

12.05 p.m.

In respect of the people aspect of these estimates – yes, we have seen an increase in Government expenditure. Having seen that increase in Government expenditure, Sir, we look through the estimates and what do you see, Sir? You see cuts in training. The National Training Board, a cut of \$1.5 million. Yet we hear daily in this country about those young people who are unable to get work, those young people who have no skills, those young people who are responsible for the breakdown of law and order in this country, Sir. Yet this Government finds it possible to still cut back on training at a time when these social problems are arising in our country.

What I fear is that the day (as is becoming to happen now) that your economic problems are caused by social factors... There are no straight economic solutions for that and no amount of economists in a room can begin to solve that. Those are problems that can only be solved by dealing with it systematically in a society and inevitably it will be a long-term process. When you look, not only at the cuts in training at the National Training Board, but you look also within the Ministry of Education and you will see that there is a 41.6 per cent cut in training for teachers and other personnel within the Ministry of Education, you look, Sir, and you begin to wonder: "Does this Government not understand that the greatest resource that this country has is its human resource and unless we are able to keep abreast of the international community in terms of the development of that human potential, in terms of the training of that human potential, in terms of the marketability of that human potential, we are going to lose the battle of competitiveness?" Indeed, Sir, you really have to wonder, because not only is it the National Training Board and the 41.6 per cent cut in the Ministry of Education for ongoing training, Sir, I believe you can find that going from page 61, you see a cut for the Barbados Community College, an institution that deals once again with teenagers, who are pursuing or wanting to pursue an education to equip them for this world. You also see a cut and I believe if you look at page 61, you will see a cut under Head 34 sub-

programme 04 for other institutions, Sir. I find it difficult to understand how the Honourable Senator Walkes who is associated with the Union can sit back and see a cut of \$2.6 million to institutions such as the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College, the Extramural Department, the Barbados Astronomical Society, the Girls' Industrial Union, the NUPW, BIMAP, the Barbados Employers' Confederation, the same Community College again and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic that we know has trained so many people in this country to get work and has saved them from being involved in situations which would probably lead to the ruination of their own lives. Yet, Sir, we hear all this talk in rebuttal about worker participation and what should be done about worker, despite the fact that this Government in these estimates has taken a cut of \$2.6 million.

Sir, we know the work of the institutions such as BIMAP and the Workers' Union Labour College and the NUPW and the Community College and what are we seeing here now? That because of the lack of foresight and the lack of management of this Government in terms of the management of the economy over the last few years where spending was allowed to be riotous and where because of their fiscal policy and their monetary policy, or lack thereof, they ended up with a situation where there was a shortfall in revenue of \$60 million; that they have now decided that because of that they must cut at institutions which preserve the fabric of this society in terms of development of the human potential of this country. Sir, it really hurts the heart, because at the end of the day we are dealing with people. We are dealing with young people like myself and younger than myself who feel that they must have a stake in this country like all of us who have had the benefits so far. All of us in here have children or grandchildren or nieces or nephews or great nieces or great nephews and I am sure, Sir, that as proud Barbadians we would want them to enjoy the same benefits which we had. I submit to you, Sir, that when we begin to cut back on training, the only thing that saves us from the rest of the other Caribbean countries in terms of the fall that Guyana and Jamaica and even Trinidad went through is our resilience in terms of our human potential, the resilience of the Barbadian people, and we have at all costs to ensure that we maximise that human potential.

Let us look, Sir, even at the University of the West Indies. The estimates show a grant of \$22.003 million and it also shows that that was the actual expenditure in 1989-90. It shows that that was the revised estimates in 1990-91 although we know that a supplemental came to this House of Parliament in the last session for \$5 million. Then it shows the same figure again. So, in effect, Sir, you are depriving people like Senator Alleyne from the benefit of ensuring that he has the ability to maximise that human potential when you stop ensuring that the University gets the kind of funding that it deserves to develop the young

people of this region, Sir... And Senator Barker. I am standing opposite Senator Alleyne.

Nevertheless, Sir, without trying to get light about it, because I feel very strongly about it and I honestly feel that we have reached the stage in our existence where the three main productive sectors of old, the Agriculture, the Tourism, the Manufacturing are giving us trouble and we need to deal with the problems with them. We can't deal with them by cutting the IDC's grant by \$9 million as was done in these estimates as well. While conceding that we need to deal with them, in the same way that we developed a new sector in the offshore sector which accrues to Government over \$100 million in revenue, we need to ensure that all other industries, whether the information sector, the data-based industries, whatever, receive the full effort and support of this Government and you cannot do that by cutting back on training.

There is a lot of talk about productivity in this country. We cannot increase productivity if we are intent on cutting back training in the manner in which this Government has cut back training in these estimates. Sir, I saw last week in the Daily Gleaner from Jamaica that the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union invested a large sum in a training course to increase the productivity of its members. That is a trade union. That is not a Government with that kind of responsibility. When I see this Government cut back by \$2.6 million the amount of funds that would go to training institutions such as BIMAP, the Labour College and NUPW and that the Honourable Senator Walkes who in here laughs and giggles about it, but would not refer to it, Sir, in here comments on this Appropriation Bill, you begin to wonder, Sir, how much people care about the development of this country.

Let us go on, Sir, to the question of health, because even if you have the training and you don't have health, you wouldn't live to benefit from the training. Despite the fact, Sir, that we accept the principle of Government's provision of basic medical services to those pensioners and to those under the age of sixteen, despite the fact, Sir, of the great amount of investment and work and time that has gone into the development of our primary health care system, Sir, through the systematic construction of polyclinics in communities all across the country, not to mention the work of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We have a situation where this Government is cutting back the grant to the Drug Service of this country. The cut back is in supplies and materials, not the overall cut to the Drug Service. That cut back, once again, is \$2.6 million. Two point six seems to be the magic number this morning. Those old people who were already having difficulty in obtaining prescription drugs for their ailments, the arthritis, the high blood pressure, diabetes, those people who were already having difficulty in the last year or two are now going to find themselves even under more severe pressure.

12.15 p.m.

Sir, it hurts me because we know the Drug Service is a major investment on the part of Government. We as a people have accepted that as our responsibility to ourselves as a people when so much work was done to initialise the implementation and the acceptance of the Drug Service and the amount of resources that have so far been spent on it because prior to that we had a situation in Barbados where tablets like Whizz and Phensic were a cure for everything in this country. It was used for everything down to contraception, Sir. We ensured that the Drug Service would move us from that type of level, that the ailments people suffered from were met with proper and adequate treatment and drugs and they could afford to buy them. What do we see in here today? A cut of \$2.6 million in the Drug Service. That is not all.

All of us know the importance of the environment today, Sir. Apart from the fact that this Government is yet to concretise its commitment to the environment by virtue of the fact it allows matters pertaining to the environment to be split in a substantial way between the Ministry of Labour and the Environment and the Ministry of Health is an indication of that lack of commitment. We do not have to go any further. We see that the Environmental Health Unit, the Environmental Engineering Unit and the Sanitation Service Authority all still come under the province of the Ministry of Health and not the Ministry of the Environment as one would have expected if you were really serious about the environment in this country today. That was an aside in terms of principle. The point is that the Environmental Health Unit and the Sanitation Service Authority too have come under the axe of Government in terms of money being allocated to them.

I stop to make all these points and I will continue on other aspects of Government's expenditures on its cuts. I do not want us to lose sight of the fact that all these are essential services that relate to people primarily, that relate to how people are trained, whether people are able to get some prescription for some drug which will help them feel better that is going to stop people from having environmental problems affecting them whether it is garbage, whether it is other environmental health problems be it noise, pollution, whatever, these all relate to people. If you allow, Sir, as I am submitting, the focus on people to be forgotten in the developmental procession, I say that it is a stop gap and the solutions that seem to be wrought from stop gaps are no longer in life than the high that I referred to that a paro enjoys.

Let us look at welfare. This is where my heart really starts to hurt, Sir – the National Assistance Board, the provision for the elderly. There has been a \$1.1 million cut in the provision for welfare in this country. There has been a \$2.1 million cut in the provision for the National Assistance Board in this country. There has been a cut of \$600 000 for the provision of the elderly who are least able to help themselves, people who have sweated for years in

terms of their labour, time and investment into making this country the kind of place they want to live in. Yet, all of a sudden, Sir, the State feels those are the easiest areas to cut.

Sir, it hurts my heart when over the last few months, since Christmas, I saw a man in Jackson who lived in a house in Barbados in 1991 without windows or doors, a man whose case I reported to the National Assistance Board, who up until the end of February still had done nothing about it. Thanks to the auspices of a charitable institution in this country which is non-governmental which, however, is religious and, therefore, understands the basic christian values of life, that man is now in a house that he does not have to worry about being exposed to the elements, a man who suffers from arthritis and in a house without doors or windows. The rain, the wind, the noise, everything blew through it like if it was an empty house. Yet, we can see a cut in the welfare services of this country. We can see a cut in the National Assistance Board which has the responsibility of dealing with situations like those and a cut for the provision of the elderly. Where is this Government's soul and conscience? Not only that. Where is the ability to understand that Barbados' long-term developmental problems can only be solved by maximising the human resources of this country?

Sir, cut-backs. There have already been cuts built into these Estimates. We know that although we expect more to come. We have already seen a cut-back in the temporary personnel under the Ministry of the Civil Service, a cut-back of \$1.25 million already indicating this Government's position that they do not have any money. Therefore, do not even look for temporary vacancies which are occasioned by people going on vacation, people falling sick, all kinds of reasons. Those temporary vacancies which were previously provided for are not now going to be provided for in these Estimates. You can find it on page 11, Sir. This is in a year where the Prime Minister can easily tell us and in a statement last week said with no compunction that the Government is going to spend \$504 000 in recurrent expenditure on Ilaro Court.

12.25 p.m.

Yes we made noise for him to go in Ilaro Court but because you are going in Ilaro Court does not mean that you have to spend that kind of money bearing in mind you have cutbacks. You are cutting back \$1.25 million in terms of money that would have been spent to employ people in this country who would have loved the work, who needed the work to support their own. These are things that disturb me and perturb me greatly when reviewing these Estimates. These are things that require the utmost consideration because they are symptomatic of a lack of overall developmental policy in this country. I refer to them specifically and we know the benefits or the detriments that may result therefrom. But overall, Sir, it evinces a lack of developmental policy for this country.

We are in an age where information and technology is moving so rapidly and there is so much revenue in it that if only we were to be at the tip of the iceberg, it would solve a lot of the foreign exchange problems in this country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think there would be any point making that point about Ilaro Court because Ilaro Court is really Government property.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: So there is really no point in making that point. It is just like if I go and spend some money on my hat or on my clothing. It is my own. Ilaro Court is the property of Government.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am indeed obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think that that is much of a point to make.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, as I said it evinces a lack of overall developmental policy because if we look at the area of information and technology and the major raw material in that, apart from the computer, is people, people who have the ability to understand and who have the ability to produce. This is why I harp on the whole concept of training and education in this country and the cuts that have taken place in it.

Sir, on the issue of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, we have heard a lot as to whether people feel it should be privatised or not privatised. The whole concept of having a state entity that is taking \$6 million a year from Government – Government is subsidising it to ensure that it can continue to run until the next year – is a drain on the public purse. It is a drain at the time when we are seeing the kind of cuts that I have just referred to in training, in health, in education and indeed in housing which I did not refer to just now. The whole principle, and this was a principle which the Democratic Labour Party expounded in 1986 in its Manifesto when it said that it was its policy to turn unprofitable state corporations into private hands, for reasons they seemed to have forgotten, that is what they went out the length and breadth of this country preaching in 1986.

But nevertheless, we as a country should be mature enough to understand that we do not need to have a television station lock and stock under the arm of Government for Government to fulfil its developmental role in the media. It is fundamental that the provisions of the broadcast licences can reserve unto any Government the right to have a certain percentage of time so that Government can fulfil its developmental role through that media. So that all of that can still be achieved without

having to put the \$6 million and \$7 million and \$8 million as we see in this year's Estimates into CBC. Further this is at a time when almost all the Caribbean countries are beginning to understand the need to understand the concept of needing to free up the broadcast media in their countries.

I attended a CARICOM Ministers of Information Conference last week in Jamaica and unfortunately, Sir, there was no official representation from Barbados at it. I am talking of the technical side because obviously I would not have been able to attend the final day of the Ministers. But there was no official representation at either point. What clearly came out of that Conference was the understanding of the need to free up the broadcast media and also the understanding that that media in its own right, through use of telecommunications and satellite and the computer was in effect a lucrative industry for foreign reserves for this region. We have seen that Jamaica has issued licences for another television station. Trinidad is now about to do the same thing. Jamaica is now about to divest its shares in radio Jamaica RJR, but yet we in Barbados seem to feel that if we let go of CBC at all that the Government would be in trouble. Maybe that is the truth.

I hope that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture's statement yesterday in terms of his philosophy in terms of how the Information Bureau within his own Ministry should work, that as a propaganda unit, I hope that that is not the reflection and the philosophy of the Minister of Information who is the Prime Minister, in respect of CBC. But then one is left to wonder when we see the Government Information Officer operating almost as the personal press aide of the Prime Minister. I want us to acknowledge as a people that we are mature enough and we do not need to suppress people and withhold information from people because we fear the decision that they will make if they have the power of knowledge. Sir, the Barbados Workers' Union is a perfect example of the dissemination of information to workers. The history of that union now in its 50th year shows that although workers receive the benefit of information in the course of these last 50 years that our industrial record in this country is one of the proudest in the world. It is testimony to the fact that just because you give a man information, the power of information does not mean that you cannot still relate to him. It does not mean that all of a sudden he does not want to hear anything about you. It does not work that way. The sooner we grow up and understand that and remove the burden of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation from around our necks like a pole, Sir, is the sooner we would be able to put back money in the National Assistance Board, put back money in Welfare, put back money in training of people in this country.

Senator Walkes made some comments about the profitability of CBC and that last year it earned \$1.5 million in operating expenses and next year it would be \$2.5

million. What I would like to say is this, my talking to you about operating expenses is like my telling you that I am making a profit without taking into account that I have to pay rent or mortgage for the house that I am living in. You cannot separate the two because at the end of the day the same revenue has to pay for it. What is significant is that this Government understands that in the preparation of these Estimates because for the first time they have ensured that current and capital expenditure are formatted in the same block of information because they well understand as Senator Clarke pointed out in his presentation yesterday that you could not look at one without looking at the other. You still had to pay for it. You could not just close your eyes and it would disappear.

So that when Senator Walkes talks only in terms of operating profit, we are at a loss. But what I would like to say is that I do not accept her figures because the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has not had audited accounts for some time. What I would say is that the difference between that and the National Insurance Scheme which I will come on to in a little while is that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is a statutory corporation and therefore the Board has the power to take whatever action it wants to take in respect of the employees of that Corporation for failure to perform their functions. With the National Insurance Scheme as we all well know, the Director of that Scheme was a Civil Servant. It was not a statutory board and therefore that kind of censure in the event of finding information could not have been taken. What I want also to say is this. An impression was also left that the Barbados Labour Party left the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in a state of financial turmoil. That is very far from the truth, Sir. If we look at the reports of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation we will see that it is only in the last two years of the Barbados Labour Party Government, 1984 to 1985 and 1985 to 1986 when a loss was sustained, Sir. In 1984 to 1985 it was a hundred and something odd thousand dollars. In 1985 to 1986 it was \$417,000; that is what that Corporation is losing when the month comes now, Sir, not when the year comes.

12.35 p.m.

The reason for that loss, Sir, if we be fair is that in 1984 the Barbados Labour Party Government took a decision to open up radio in this country and in taking that decision to open up the radio waves, Sir, of necessity the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation's share in the advertising revenue for radio fell and those losses reflected the fall in that share of revenue when we took the decision to open up radio, Sir.

We knew it would happen, Sir, but it was a choice of giving people the choice on the radio waves or ensuring CBC's profitability to the exclusion of providing better and greater information for the people of this country. We felt that CBC would bounce back, as indeed it would have and should with the implementation of STV.

Much was said, Sir, in respect STV's, the phrase I believed used was the wrong technology. Once again, Sir, the Honourable Senator Walkes is on the Board of CBC and if we be fair, Sir, we will know, Sir, that STV was on schedule to be completed by the end of 1986. We would also know, Sir, that at the time that the CBC Board took the decision to implement STV, that the technical and accounting skills were present on the Board of CBC and that the accountants in the Ministry of Finance gave it the most rigorous testing, Sir, before Government accepted the proposal to implement STV, Sir.

If we go on, Sir, what happened was that when the people who were to do the work on the transmitter at Sturges came down in May and who had clearly told the Board of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation that it could only do the work in conditions that were dry and not windy, Sir, hence the month of May, they were told by this Government, Sir, that they were not ready for them and to come back and they were delayed because this Government did not know what it wanted to do with STV. When they came back in November of the same year, Sir, we all know what November is like, Sir, it is rainy, it is wet, it is windy and therefore they could not do the work they had to do at Sturges, Sir. So that we saw then a series of delays being occasioned at Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation with respect to STV, because of the fact that the experts could not finish the work in time having been made to come back later in the year.

You know what is significant, Sir, the fact that in all of this talk about wrong technology, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation's Board in the last five years has not done anything to change the technology and indeed, Sir, has understood, thanks to the Gulf War, finally, that the whole concept of STV, the technology related to STV was correct, can work and can make money for the Corporation. The Gulf War, Sir, a lot of word of mouth went around with that and all of sudden a lot of applications started to go in, including mine, Sir.

Nevertheless, Sir, another comment was made that \$2 million was being used from these estimates for local programming. Sir, the core of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has to do with programming and so for Senator Walkes to come in here and make that statement is an admission that CBC cannot be making money, because if it needs a government subsidy to carry out its core operations, Sir, it cannot be making the money it says it is making, and Sir, we have no evidence of it because we have had no audited accounts. It is like the National Cultural Foundation, Sir, which has not had audited accounts since 1986. And which too, in these estimates has also received a cut because obviously cultural development of this country is not a priority, the cultural attitude and development. And which is even worse Sir, there is no mention whatsoever of the three words National Cultural Foundation in these estimates, despite the fact that every other government

agency and a lot of other non-governmental agencies, Sir, are mentioned. We can look in the index, we can look at every page. I am not saying that they are not getting any money because I know better than that and I know that under the promotion of general cultural development that they will come in, but when even the Library Service is mentioned that is not a major statutory corporation. The Museum, which is not even Government is mentioned there, but it is an indication of the priority which this Government, Sir, attached to culture in our development, Sir. This is despite the fact that same statutory corporation is responsible for a major festival which is responsible for drawing over 40 000 people to our shores in the last two weeks of July at a time when we need to sustain summer tourism. I say that and I leave that there, Sir, and I hope as Senator Alleyne said yesterday, a word to the wise is enough.

Let us deal, Sir, with the National Insurance Scheme. Sir, we heard a lot in here yesterday on the National Insurance Scheme. From this report, Sir, I know that Senator Alleyne laid it and made it to be available as a document of the House. Unfortunately, I am yet to see it, but references were made Sir, to a \$600 million which was unaccountable for during the period of the Barbados Labour Party administration. It is ironic that \$600 million...

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, Sir, I said it was improperly accounted for.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I did not say it disappeared. I said that was not accountable, Sir, that is my recollection, if I am wrong, I am indeed sorry, Sir. But, nevertheless, reference is made to that \$600 million. \$600 million ironically happens to be the value of the pension funds, Sir. Ironically pensioners still receive money. Pensioners are still receiving their funds and were doing so under the Barbados Labour Party. But you see it hurts me, Sir, because if Senator Alleyne wanted to be really fair, Sir, he would tell us that had nothing at all to do with the politicians, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are not suggesting that he was not fair?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No Sir, I would never suggest that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But you said, if he wanted to be fair. What do you mean by that?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, if we had heard the whole picture, Sir...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well I am hearing now, I want to know what do you mean by that. I can't sit and hear you say that if he wanted to be fair.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I withdraw that and I say, if he had told us the whole story, Sir, I am obliged to you Sir. If we had heard the whole story, Sir, we would have heard how the report which came about as a result of a civil service management audit, in the very strongest of language, Sir, said that it was the Director of National Insurance, at the time, one Mr. Gittens, Sir, who was responsible for a series, Sir, call it maladministration, and that it had nothing at all to do with politicians as Senator Alleyne found out when he assumed the office of Chairman of that Board.

12.45 p.m.

Sir, to get in here and leave the implication as we see in the newspaper this morning that the Barbados Labour Party was responsible for that, Sir, is unfair.

Sir, we know, as I just pointed out, unlike the CBC or NCF which are statutory corporations when they do not lay their audited accounts and have them prepared, at least the Board can do something about that. But for Senator Alleyne to say, Sir, what he has said in respect to that \$600 million is really a reflection on the Board. I know, Sir, that the kind of people that sit on the Board of the National Insurance would never allow the kind of things that Senator Alleyne referred to including himself, Sir, would never allow it. The General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union, Sir, would never allow it. Therefore, we should let the public of Barbados know the whole story and I ask Senator Alleyne now to release that report to the whole public of Barbados and let them know, Sir, that it had nothing to do with the politicians. The politicians even in so far, Sir, it was not a statutory corporation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, I do not wish you to be over anxious and call names on these institutions that are likely to lead to problems. I would say do not call names of Boards when you are making reference to these Boards.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You would know that names should not be called.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that, Sir, but I only made the point to explain that Senator Alleyne really should have told us the whole story and not leave the impression that it was the Barbados Labour Party who was responsible for...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not only the Barbados Labour Party but some other names were called. I do not want to sit in the Chair and hear names of any of the members of the Board called.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that, Sir, and I will refrain from doing so. Nevertheless, Sir, that was not the only problem of the National Insurance Scheme. Senator Alleyne can tell you how he tendered his resignation, Sir, when the Minister changed and they were no longer under the Ministry. I believe it was Wes Hall at the time who went to Mr. Barrow, Sir. But he can also tell us that he did not resign when it changed again and, therefore, it was obviously not a normal courtesy that was being done when he resigned when the Ministry moved the first time and did not do so the second time. Sir, he feared what might happen and who might be there.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I believe that Senator Mottley is trying to impute certain motives to Senator Alleyne and this really cannot be fair.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, the point is this. There were a whole set of other things and I do not wish to lay political blame necessarily to any particular body, Sir, but let us be fair about this. Let us hear, Sir, about the number of cheques that were found and were not cashed for the National Insurance Scheme and that when they were discovered it was already too late to cash them, Sir. Let us hear, Sir, about the fact that because of the short term investment policy of the present National Insurance Scheme, Sir, that a commercial bank in Bridgetown has received extensive loans from the National Insurance Scheme and if those funds were withdrawn, Sir, that that bank would be in serious trouble, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, I have been a member of the National Insurance Board longer than any member that is alive today from its inception and some of the things that you are saying today is news to me. I am not saying that it might not be true but I have never heard this at a Board meeting. I have never attended a Board meeting where these things were discussed. So I just want to say that I have been a member from its inception and, therefore, I do not know about these things.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I would hate to be the purveyor of bad news and, therefore, in the interest of not further prejudicing the operations of that Department, Sir, I will leave it at that. But I hope too, Sir, that a word to the wise is enough in respect to what I have said, Sir.

In respect, Sir, of one other thing to do with the National Insurance Scheme is the whole question of the new building that is being built and the whole question, Sir, of the tenders for materials in relation to that building. Sir, a company was granted a tender in respect of certain specifications. But what disturbs me is not so much that the company was granted the tender but it was the procedure; that having advertised according to one set of specifications and tenders were submitted, Sir, the Barbados National

Standards Institute became involved and another set of specifications became involved. What disturbs me also is that the tender was awarded on the basis of that without, Sir, readvertising on the basis of the new specifications by the BNSI.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: On a point of order, Sir. Senator Mottley is misinforming this Chamber in the most outlandish way today. This point was made in the Lower House and I would have thought that it would not be repeated here because it does a disservice to this Chamber. The fact of the matter is that the National Insurance Board has a Building Subcommittee. It is not the Chairman. There are a number of persons. Specifications were sent out and were never changed at anytime. I have desisted, Mr. President, from making the document a public document because I do not want to destroy any firm in Barbados. I will just say, Mr. President, the facts are there for everybody to see. Nobody in the National Insurance Board including the Chairman has anything to hide. We made a decision on the basis of value for money, Mr. President. We have to look at the interest of this generation and future generations. It is slanderous to say the least. You are slandering the entire Board by coming in here and making a statement suggesting that there was any wrongdoing on the part of the Board. It is wrong and it is misleading, Mr. President, for Senator Mottley to come to this House and say that anybody on the Board at anytime ever changed any specifications and I challenge Senator Mottley to come outside of the House and say that.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, whatever the reason is, I would like Senator Alleyne to produce those documents and let us see. I am the first to admit that I am wrong. But I want to see, Sir, those documents because, Sir, he is trying to deny it without substantiating it. What I am saying is, Sir, let him show us the document and prove to us that there were not two different sets of specifications and, indeed, that the architect had not recommended that the cheaper set be used and indeed, Sir, that the second set became operable after the tenders had gone in, Sir.
12.55 p.m.

All I am objecting to, Sir, is the fact that there should have been a re-tendering.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I hate to rise again. I do not like to waste the Senate's time, but it is the most reprehensible moment I have seen in this Senate. Senator Mottley should know better. She is misleading this Chamber. I have said that at no time did the Board change the specifications. Senator Mottley must know that the only people on the National Insurance Board who can make the National Insurance Board, given the law of Barbados, spend National Insurance funds, is the Board itself, no architect, no quantity surveyor. Once you are not on the Board you cannot make that decision and the only person who is competent to override that decision,

according to the law of Barbados, is the Minister. Senator Mottley must know she is misinforming this Chamber when she continues to say that we changed specifications. It is wrong and it is a lie, and I ask that those remarks be withdrawn.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, now that the Honourable Senator has finished, I ask him, I plead with him, I beg him on behalf of the public of Barbados to release the document. I have not cast any aspersions on the Board of the National Insurance Scheme and I have no intention of doing so.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, I am a member of the National Insurance Board. You are not going to get those documents here. You know that, too. Your profession would teach you that. You cannot get those documents here. If you want to go to court and get them, go to court, but you know you cannot get them here. All the staffside lawyers that we have in Barbados will start using their little courts as means of getting information out of people by accusing them of things. We have a lot of staffside lawyers outside. I will suggest that you withdraw those statements.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I go on.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Don't go on without withdrawing the statement where you made that kind of accusation, because I will have to have it expunged from the record if you want to go on.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I will withdraw but I am not sure what I am going to withdraw.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The statement that Senator.....

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I don't think I ever said that Senator Alleyne was responsible for anything. I spoke about a tendering process.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That the Board changed the specifications.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I never said the Board changed them, I said the Barbados National Standards Institution was responsible for a change in its specifications.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, listen to me. You made a statement in here. This is not a little standpipe meeting, I am the Chairman and the President. I warned you, I told you to withdraw those remarks that you made about this matter, because it not only reflects on Senator Alleyne, who is the Chairman of the Board, but it reflects on a Statutory Board.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I will withdraw it, Sir, as you so desire, because I have no intention of casting imputations at any Board member.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Nevertheless, Sir, one of the other things that disturbs me is that we have read, and there is provision in these Estimates for a sum of money towards the construction of a new Ministry of Education at the old Queen's College site.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I cannot allow this situation to continue. The Honourable Senator has spoken for more than an hour now, and although the Clerks have not drawn it to our attention, when I enquired about it, it was ten minutes to 1.00 and I was told that she had five minutes more. It is now past one o'clock. I therefore beg to move that this sitting be suspended for one hour.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, if I have the right to reply to the interjection made by the Honourable Senator, I believe that at ten to 12.00 I was on the phone outside, but I will abide by your ruling.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I believe I have the best time here. Mine says two minutes past 1.00 and this is as good as Big Ben.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that, Sir. Mine says three minutes, so that means I am near to Big Ben. I will abide by the Chair's ruling on the question of time, but I see that Senator Lewis obviously does not want me to talk any more. That is all right, I can talk again.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. President, in supporting the estimates for 1991-92, I would like to make some observations but I would like to make those observations based more on a qualitative analysis rather than a quantitative analysis. But in doing so, I would like to make the observations that I find it rather strange that Senators Mottley and Barker while starting by criticising the amount of expenditure being spent this year, then go into an analysis of criticising the cuts that have been made

under certain Heads. I find that quite a conflict of argument, because if at one time they are saying that the Government is expending too much money, then on the other hand, they are criticising cuts in what they consider to be critical areas and are not giving a suggestion as to what they think should be alternative cuts, they are therefore admitting that there should be increased expenditure. I find that that is rather a *non sequitur* in the argument.

I think that at this level, we need to identify what are our major problems facing Barbados and I would like to say that when we look at the economic situation in Barbados, we cannot see Barbados as an entity unto itself but as a unit operating in a world economic scheme, part of that economic scheme operating in the western world. If we look at the economies of the western world, we would see the economies of the western world are under tremendous strain. The major economy affecting us in the Caribbean, which is the economy of the United States is in the throes of very deep recession and the major cities in the United States including the Federal Government of the United States are not only saying to the people of those economies to hold strain, they are actually cutting back employment. The State of New York, the Governor of New York, are estimated to cut the workforce by over a million people. So, we have to look at it in that light and realise that we are no island unto ourselves; that we operate within the system and that the system is under pressure.

When we analyse Barbados in terms of where we are now and where we plan to go in terms of economic development, Barbados is classified as a developing country, but it is a unique developing country. If we were to look at some of the vital statistics that operate in Barbados we would understand why we in the economy of Barbados have to look at unusual measures of stimulating and trying to put in place systems that would strengthen our weaknesses. I think that we can identify our major weakness in Barbados at this time as the weakness in the foreign exchange position. Therefore in trying to address the situation of the weakness of the foreign exchange position, all measures should be taken to try to strengthen our foreign exchange position. This therefore means that we have to look at earning more foreign exchange. That is the first thing.

The second thing we have to do is to look at our expending too much foreign exchange and if one were to look at what happens in developing countries we would notice that one of the major problems in developing countries is wastage. At times we can correct that wastage by applying scientific techniques. I will come back to that later.

I have been fortunate, Mr. President, in having to look, over the past couple years, at a study on trade between the African Caribbean Pacific countries and because of that, I have had to look at various economic blocs within the

African Caribbean and Pacific countries, because we recognise in the African Caribbean and Pacific grouping along with the European Parliament, the Lome Convention, that the year 1992 heralds a very significant economic milestone for developing countries. It is the year in which the European Community is supposed to come into being as an economic unit and all indications are that this economic unit will be a very inward looking unit and that we in the developing world, whereas prior to 1992, we would have been looking at our former colonial masters and their countries as avenues for trade, that access to trade and exports will not be as easy after 1992 as they were before and therefore, we need to look at alternative measures. There are some important areas, therefore, we need to look at. What alternatives do we have?

Mr. President, before I go on, let me just say that I have been following the debates on the estimates in the other House and there were certain statements and questions made with respect to myself as an individual, although I do not any longer sit in that House. One question was asked about my following the same ACP/EEC Meeting and whether or not I should make a report. Let me say in this Honourable Chamber, Mr. President, that I have already laid the first document before the last election in the Lower House, the report that I did on the Intra-ACP Trade and, with your permission, Mr. President, the follow-up document which is entitled The Working Group on Intra-ACP Trade Draft Report and my name is signed as the rapporteur, I make this document a document of this Honourable Chamber. I would also like to make a report of the mission of information to the Sudan on December 14 – 21, 1990, a report that was put out by Mr. Leo Tindemanns, who was a former Prime Minister of Belgium, myself and Mr. Michael McGowan, the Vice President of the Human Rights Violations for the European Parliament. I also want to make this a document of the House because this was called for in the other House and I want to be sure that these documents are made available so that people can see that on these missions we do work.

Getting back to the whole area of trade, I think that it is important that we in Barbados look at improving our foreign exchange position and I think in doing so we need to look at some alternative steps that we can take. We need to look, for example, at trading with the African continent. There is a lot of technology of which we can avail ourselves coming out of that continent. We are talking about a vast continent whose climate, whose developmental pattern in some areas are like ours, whose technologies are akin to ourselves, and one of the things that are recommended in the paper is that we look at trade, not in terms of sugar and rice and potatoes, coffee and tea, which is the domain of the multinational corporations, but we look at it in another light.

If we go back looking at the history of Barbados, we would see that from the turn of the century, Barbados has

been a country that exported people, manpower and brain power. That happened in Panama, it happened in Cuba. It happened to the United States. It happened to England. It happened to Canada. I am saying that Barbados is in a fortunate position as a Third World country where we have the brain power, the manpower to export and that brain power and manpower also is a base for Barbados becoming a service industry for developing countries, not only in the Caribbean, but in another plane.

There was also another question asked about advice that I had given to Government on the St. Joseph Hospital and the St. Joseph Hospital has come up also in this debate and I intend to say something about St. Joseph Hospital, because I think people who speak on health and are not fully appraised of their facts can sometimes mislead themselves and mislead other people as well. I will get back to that later.

As I was saying, I think that we need to look at the possibilities that exist for Barbados in terms of pursuing trade and earning foreign exchange in non-traditional areas and non-traditional markets. There are areas that are untapped that we need to look at. If, for example, we were to look at the solar water-heating industry in Barbados, an industry that saves foreign exchange in terms of providing fuel for heating.

2.15 p.m.

If we were to seriously look at the possibility of exporting such units or exporting the technology whether we have to put that technology under patent or not into the African continent where there is no such system existing at present, the amount of foreign exchange that can be earned would be tremendous. As a matter of fact, I think the only way we will be able to penetrate a small market in Africa, let us say Nigeria, just one country, a country of 25 million, of course you would be only targeting not the whole population. But if you look at the tourist industry there or Gambia and you targeted that as an area, we would need to have all of our entrepreneurial in the solar industry working full-time as a complete unit to provide part of that.

There are areas out there that we need to look at and analyse. The traditional areas of looking to Europe and North America we have to rethink. I am not saying we must forget them. We have to understand there is a new economic order developing in this world where areas are becoming economic blocs. These economic blocs are becoming more and more difficult to penetrate. Not only that. When we talk about economic advancement and joint ventures involving developed and developing countries, the net effect of that is the people who come from the developed areas in joint ventures with the developing areas within a short space of time they own the outfit outright because you cannot match them with technology. There is little transfer of technology. If the whole outfit becomes a success you are then in a position where they can take over

because of their financial and technological dominance. We need therefore to look at joint ventures between developing countries, countries whose level of development are about the same.

Barbados is a country where we have a lot of trained young people. It can be a service centre for most of the developed world. I can foresee where we in Barbados can provide teaching and technical expertise. Our universities and our polytechnics should be used as centres of learning. When I say centres of learning I mean where foreign exchange will come in with students coming from other Third World countries rather than having to go to Europe and North America and pay the expensive fees that have to be paid at those universities. We in Barbados have to look at these sorts of areas developing the skills we have, our good educational and infrastructural base as a centre for attracting foreign exchange in that kind of way.

I was very pleased to hear the statements made by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and the plans he has for agriculture in this country. As I said, we in the developing world, we in Barbados, have a lot to learn from other developing countries. I recall only a couple of weeks ago being at Lake Victoria in Uganda. Most people would not consider that in the African countries massive land-locked countries, fishing industries and export of preserved fish, smoked fish would be a thriving industry.

In Lake Victoria the Nile perch being smoked and shipped to North America and Europe, is a very vibrant industry. There one also saw Italians using the skin of the Nile perch to explore the possibility of using that for leather in the making of shoes. These are technologies that must be appropriate to a small island that is surrounded by water. Therefore, when the Minister of Agriculture talks about improving our fishing industry to the point where we go into places like Guyana and can bring back fish for canning, we must also remember within that fishing industry we do not only have to look at canning. We can look at smoking of the fish, the by-products of the fish which are the bone to produce bone meal for our dog food or cat food thereby cutting down on the imports of dog and cat food from the developed countries. We can produce those ourselves and save foreign exchange. These are some very important areas.

I know that during this debate some comment was made quite advertently about the money that was owed to us by Guyana and the collapse of the Multilateral Clearing Facility. I would like to say something about that. In the Caribbean we must not have too short memories. The work tends to go in cycles. I remember as a boy when we were going into Federation the Jamaicans took the attitude that the Jamaica dollar was so powerful they would probably have to carry the whole Caribbean. Out of that grew a reluctance for us to go together as a federated unit.

We have seen the whole cycle where the Trinidad dollar has been devalued. The Guyana dollar has been devalued. I think Guyana has the infrastructural base to develop again. It is part of our unit in CARICOM. We are part of that trading bloc. We will be as strong as our trading units. Those of you who have the opportunity to read this Paper will see there is a recommendation made that will be very applicable to what happened in Guyana because it is an exercise that has repeated itself throughout the developing countries.

The IMF and the World Bank... Let me say parenthetically that these institutions were formed in 1945 after the Second World War. Their aims and objectives were to strengthen the economies of their Member States. Their Member States did not include developing countries. When you find that the recommendations of the IMF and the World Bank for restructuring economies of Third World countries have caused great devastation in those countries you have to look at the aims and objectives of the Bretton Woods Institution. They did not have as an objective improving the economies of Third World countries.

One of the things we have observed in this Paper and we are asking the European Parliament and the international institutions to look at is when we have trading blocs like CARICOM or ECOWAS in Western Africa, or the Pacific Forum in the Pacific, when we are dealing with any particular country within a trading bloc and the recommendation of structural adjustment is made, that consultation be made with all the members of the trading bloc.

2.25 p.m.

We have said this because of precisely what has happened to the Multilateral Clearing Facility, that if you devalue the dollar within a particular member of a trading bloc, then you offset the economy not only of that particular country but of the whole region. Therefore it causes financial chaos not for an individual country but for a whole trading area. Let us take for example two neighbouring African countries. If you devalue the dollar in let us say Uganda that is producing rice and Zaire is also producing rice then the rice in Uganda becomes cheaper than the rice in Zaire. It is cheaper for the people of Zaire to leave their own rice and go to Uganda and buy rice because it is cheaper than the rice that they themselves produce. We are saying that this does not make economic sense.

When these recommendations are made let us sit down and discuss them, the economic and sociological impact that these things have within a region. I say that to say that I think that we need to look seriously at reviving, you might not want to call it that, the Multilateral Clearing Facility in the Caribbean. Because in PTA which is the trading bloc for South and Southern Africa, they also have a financial clearing house. That financial clearing house has been very, very successful. Therefore because our

Multilateral Clearing Facility has collapsed because of bad management, bad advice or what have you, I do not think that we should write it off. I think that as a trading community we need to seriously look at it again and probably restructure it along better lines with better management because I think that in the final analysis it will redound to the benefit of us as a region in CARICOM.

Let me remind, Mr. President, that CARICOM started somewhere I think in 1975. It is one of the oldest trading blocs existing. It was one that was held out as a model for other trading blocs. We should not forget that. We should not allow one shortcoming to stop us from putting alternative measures in place, especially when we know that the system that collapsed and caused the problem, a similar system is operating to the success of another area.

I want to say something about the St. Joseph Hospital because I read in the newspapers that a statement was made by a Member of the Other House saying that I had given wrong advice to the Government of Barbados about the reopening of St. Joseph Hospital. Let me say that when the St. Joseph Hospital was about to be closed the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners said they did not think that it was a wise step to close the Hospital. That was not my position. That was the position of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners.

Now there were a lot of interesting things happening in Barbados at about the time that the St. Joseph Hospital was closed, a lot of things that a lot of people apparently did not know. At about the time that the St. Joseph Hospital was closed there was an insurance scheme coming into Barbados by the name of Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Blue Cross and Blue Shield was in negotiations with Government at the time and Blue Cross and Blue Shield was offering the Government something like \$250 per day for a private bed not only to cover residents of Barbados but their people who they had insured in the Eastern Caribbean because they considered Barbados to be the area in the Eastern Caribbean that had the highest level, the best level of health care. What they were saying is that anybody who got sick in St. Vincent, in St. Lucia, in Dominica that if they could not be taken care of in their own home that Blue Cross and Blue Shield would use Barbados as the first choice hospital before they would consider sending them to New York or wherever. What that meant was that we had an opportunity then to build up, if you want to call it, an offshore medical centre, an excellent facility that would have a good reputation because Blue Cross and Blue Shield recognize that in the English speaking Caribbean Barbados had the best pool of medically trained people. Therefore it was ideal for that kind of facility.

When the observation is made that the Ministry of Health recommends that there be a mix of 80% private and 20% private there is a reason for it. It has to do with philosophy and thinking because our health services should

also be, if it is a service that we are going to provide not only to Barbadians but to people in the Eastern Caribbean and possibly further afield, it can be an area where we can earn proper foreign exchange. Because that is where our major problem is in the economy. If we have health services that we can make available to earn the foreign exchange and we see ourselves as a service industry, just as we sell our beaches, we sell our beds and we have health services that we can sell, I think this is the line down which we can go. But that is part of the background to what went on at the St. Joseph Hospital. That is part of the philosophy of how we think the health services should be administered with respect to the total economy of the country.

But we also say that there must be public beds in that hospital that should be set aside for the people of the area. Furthermore, I think it is common knowledge to everybody that the St. Joseph Hospital would also be housing the first true rehabilitation centre for our young people who became addicted to drugs. I think that is part of the concept that we have to understand.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that within the whole process of what we in Barbados need to do – I think it was Senator Walkes who talked about the involvement of people in the workplace – and I think it is very, very important that we in Barbados with the kind of people that we have look at newer models in the workplace. There is a very interesting concept. One of the reasons why the Japanese are considered to be so productive in their area is because they have a system which they call kaizen. What it in short does is to involve all the people in the workplace into making contributions to the improvement of work at the workplace. Every worker from the sweeper of the floor to the manager is expected to give inputs as to how his or her workplace can be improved. Whenever the advice that is given is considered to be constructive and can be implemented, incentives are given.

I think that these are some of the meaningful things that we must do because it is important that anybody who works in a workplace feels that he or she is part of an organization and that he or she can make a worthwhile contribution to the development of that organization. Any person who is working in an organization and feel that they are wanted and that their suggestions can be taken and implemented can only be of a greater benefit to that organization. I think these are some of the qualitative aspects that we must look at. It is easy to look and see where \$2 million was cut off there and \$3 million was cut off here. But I think that we have got to go beyond that stage and we have to look at... we have to analyze and we have to put systems in place in order to try and improve our total situation. As I said before, Barbados is a unique sort of developing country. It is a developing country where, for example, you will find that there are over 300 000 radios for a population of 250 000, that there are 65 000 motor cars for a population of 250 000, there are 90 000

telephones for a population of 250 000. What I am saying is that those statistics are statistics of a developed country. Not even Japan, the country that makes radios has a ratio of one radio per person but Barbados has more than one per person. When we talk in terms of a developing country, we have to understand that we are dealing with a unique situation.

2.35 p.m.

When you are dealing with a unique situation you have to look for unique measures to answer the problem of that community. So, we cannot simply sit down and look at figures as they are set down on paper; we are too inventive a people to occupy our minds with \$1 million here and \$1 million there.

Barbadian people are thinking people and we must reflect that thinking in how we cut our costs, in how we implement new schemes for the development of our people and I am saying that despite the fact that during this time of international economic recession there will have to be, there must be the cutting of \$2 million here and a \$2 million there which to me is only a temporary measure. An estimate is only a financial statement that relates to a period of time. It is nothing that is cast in stone and goes to eternity. It is a temporary measure, and that is what we must see it as and we can talk and play figures which is a glorious little political game, but we have to go beyond that; we have to be realistic; we have to understand that when times are hard, we have to face hard times. The times out there are hard, but we cannot pretend in Barbados they are easy; that would be foolhardy. There are certain things you have to cut back on, but we do hope that during this time of hardship that we put our heads together as a united country and just as we have been able to brave the difficulties before that we will be able to come out on top of this whenever that session slides back.

Mr. President, with those words I give my support to the estimates for 1991/92. I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, this evening it gives me pleasure and sometimes mixed feelings, a little bit of pain sometimes when we are dealing with situations like these. However, Sir, as the Honourable Senator Dr. Simmons said that there are times (I am not saying exactly what he said) but, in essence, there are times when we have got to use our initiative and move ahead without even looking at what resources we have available.

Many were the times when our grandparents with six and seven children had to move ahead without looking at the dead husband; he could not be brought back to life and so in the Estimates we have to look at what we have and we have to utilise it to its fullest.

Sir, with your permission I should like to look at a few Heads and to make a few points that are of significant

interest to me and I believe to a number of Barbadians. First I should like to look at Head 34 under Education and I should like to commend the Government for restarting the Adult Education Programme.

There was a time when there was no training and as the old people say, if there is nothing being done there is nothing to criticise. At that point nothing was being done, all the classes had come to a halt. These were the same Barbadians they were talking about that needed training; there was no training in existence for them; neither was there any training for teachers. That had come to a halt as well. So I want to congratulate this Government for bringing back these particular aspects of education, back on stream, where many of the young persons who have left school and have not got the required amount of qualifications to get the kind of job they are aspiring to can continue their education. I think this is very commendable, because when it stopped it meant we had a gap of about 10 years. Ten years is a long time; you can be dealing with a lapse literacy situation in 10 years, and therefore it took this Government to bring this thing back on stream.

One of the things that I am however concerned about in the school system that worries me a bit is Christian education or worship of some kind. I know the argument is always advanced that we have people from different religious groups and different denominations, but there is a book developed by the Caribbean Council of Churches called "Fashion me a People" which deals with the spiritual upliftment of people generally and I think that could be utilized in the schools for Christian education and morning worship. We need to bring this back in the schools as a must so that on mornings we can have that start with discipline and with Christ beginning our mornings in the school.

The other aspect under this Head is the whole question of grammar. I am a bit upset about what people call now the green verbs that you hear even utilised in the electronic media. I think it is time we get back to the good old grammar in the schools. It is very essential; syntax seems to be something of the past. Often I receive letters from people; there are no punctuation marks. I know that if I had done that to Senator Straughn when she was teaching me I would probably receive a few lashes because she might put a red mark to a full stop and remind me that there was a full stop. You see mixed paragraphs; you see something written the whole length – no paragraphing at all; you can't understand; everything is jumbled and I think that if we don't get back to grammar people are just going to begin to think, because I go to University that is all. I have no worry about Syntax, grammar or anything and therefore you are falling down in communicating with people at a higher level. People do not understand when you apply for a job what you are saying, and they throw it in the waste basket and some people do not realise that this is why they have not impressed the employer and therefore the employer

does not return a letter to them because he sees right away you can't be a good secretary if you do not know the English Language because the typewriter does not speak, neither does the typewriter teach you English, neither is it going to write the correct word or put in the correct punctuation mark for you. I yearn to see this going on again.

I am happy to see that the School of Continuing Education has taken up the challenge of literacy because there are many people who were afraid to come forward. You know they felt a little shame that they could not write their names. It is true that there is not a vast majority because we are basically a literate society, but however, we do have such people and I think that a good effort is being made to correct that. We have made significant strides in that area in a very short period and I love that because I don't like to hear anybody say that any Barbadians are illiterate people. I am so proud of my country and I think that the Extra Mural Department which is now called the School of Continuing Education who receives subventions from the Government must be complimented for taking that kind of initiative in introducing these kinds of programmes.

I should also like to turn my attention to a problem which I think is worrying many schools and that is the problem of security of their buildings.
2.45 p.m.

I think this can be very harassing and upsetting to the staff as well as to the Board of Management and to the parents when people are coming on the grounds of schools and making nuisances of themselves or breaking the properties and so on. I am not saying that more security is necessarily the answer. But I am saying where you do not have any and where it is not good enough, I think that we need to secure those buildings because they did not come overnight. It is the taxpayers' money and, therefore, we have to be concerned with those aspects of the building.

Also, I think that some more of the schools will have to utilize their building in the evenings. I commend those schools that are utilizing their building in the various villages for classes. But I do not think that it is good enough for us to spend all of this money on a school and just close it up especially on a weekend. Because there could be many community activities which could go on there. I have known from experience at a particular school where there were no classes and the moment classes started the vandalism went down, because there was always activity in that particular building. Even a church service was being held there on a Sunday. I think that we need to utilize the school buildings a little more.

We have a great advantage in Barbados as against a lot of the other Caribbean islands. They do not have these kinds of wonderful buildings that we have to hold classes and to hold concerts and things of that sort. Our

Government is really very free in letting people use these buildings through the various Boards and so on. Many of the schools are being utilized but I would like to see many more being utilized for the benefit of helping the people of Barbados to extend their various skills.

Mr. President, I should also like to make another point under Education and that point is the cultural aspect NIFCA where the Ministry of Education is involved. I have been seeing some programmes which are very, very good at least once a week. It is bringing home to us the importance of our local talent from a very tender age. This is indeed very commendable. I hope that some of the business people who are watching these programmes will sponsor them so that they can be seen more often because we know that it takes a lot of money to operate a television. You have to have staff there and pay them overtime and things like that. I would like to see more of those programmes. We have been absolutely delighted in our homes to watch those school children. If they are attesting to what our future will be in this country, then we have a very great future ahead of us. So let me commend the Government for making this kind of step and the particular agency who is doing something there. But I would like to see more agencies and business people take an interest and sponsor those programmes.

Mr. President, I should now like to pass on to a very favourite one of mine which is agriculture. I do not want to say as much as the Minister. I just want to strengthen a few and to give my thoughts on a few things that I think could be done to help us in Barbados. In Barbados and the wider Caribbean, we are an agricultural community whether we like it or not. Whether it is bananas, sugar, or spices, it is agriculture. Now we have depended on agriculture for many, many years and we are still dependent on agriculture regardless of whatever we say because food comes first. We have to eat whether we are a lawyer, doctor, or whoever.

I should like to say that in terms of the development of the Scotland District that I have some real dreams about the beauty of that area and I will continue to repeat those because I feel that it is going to come to pass. It may not be for the benefit of this generation but surely we have to be futuristic in our thinking. I have said already that I would like to see from Pico Teneriffe right through extending to St. Joseph taking in all of the Scotland area.

I heard the Minister say that we are looking at forestation with a tropical flavour. I welcome that because I mention here that we import a lot of mauby bark and I would like to see that as one of the trees grown in that particular area where we could have our own mauby bark. We know that it is going to take some time for those trees to develop but at the same time we are looking to the future and we are not looking in the past. We are moving on. So I would like to see the Ministry get hold of some Colubrina Elliptica or the Black Bead which is another variety and plant them in that area.

I would also like to see woods, as I said, like Cordia which is very attractive and lends a lot to the environment; the Lang Lang tree from which you can get essential oils and perfumes; again the Bay Leaf which you can grind and put in the same bottle that you are importing now and cut down on the imported variety and use our own local Bay Leaf for making essential oils again and using it dried or as a powder to put in cakes and pastries and things of that sort. I would like to see Aloe Vera in that area. Aloe Vera is now bringing a lot of money and one of our neighbours, Dominica, is doing very well with Aloe Vera. It is true that we are exporting some through the Barbados Marketing Corporation but we are not exporting nearly enough that we can really make the significant amount of foreign exchange. These are areas that are not very popular. You do not have to do much with these areas. Some of them have natural water sources and these kinds of plants like Aloe Vera do not take a lot of water anyhow. They can be grown in almost dry areas and they develop very well. You are looking at economic crops which will bring us some money.

For the handicraft industry we have to look at things like Wild Cane, Cane Lily, and Pandanus and all of those various trees, bushes, and shrubs that we are now importing to give us that kind of material that we want to make our handicrafts. It is a hurtful experience to pick up handicrafts, think that you are sending them to somebody, and then when you turn to the back you see made in Japan or Taiwan. I want to see them made in Barbados and coming from the same soils that we have in the Scotland area. Of course, we have the clay already and we can go into further development from clay in that area. I have seen some very good samples of work from people in that area who know about their pottery. We have some youngsters at the Community College who are doing very well but more can be done in that area. We can develop a real fascinating pottery industry where we do not have to import these figurines that are very expensively sold and we can cut down on foreign exchange through agriculture.

Mr. President, the Extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Development Corporation, as I heard from the Minister yesterday, will be strengthened. I should like to congratulate the Government for that. Because when one goes into farming, especially the young people, they need guidance. They need people to come out and teach them what to do, people who have been specially trained in the area of agronomy, pathology, and you can go on and on.
2.55 p.m.

The Extension Department will identify the various problems and then get the various technocrats to come and assist the farmers. The only thing I think we need a little more than what we are proposing is a lot more extension officers, because we have a large population of small farmers who depend on farming for their livelihood. They

have no other means of gaining any kind of revenue other than rearing pigs or rearing sheep or keeping their little vegetable gardens. That has to support the family. Sometimes they are dying to know what to do and then there is no extension officer because you can't expect one or two men to traverse the entire country. I think in that area, we could look ahead to getting more extension officers.

I think what is more, Barbadians must realise that we all have a contribution to make. We have a lot of technical people whom we have trained, who are now working for themselves and I would like to see a group of voluntary technicians in the area of agriculture who have benefited from our taxpayers money, not only going up there at the university and lecturing but coming out in the villages. If they want to see agriculture go forward, then they can help people on a voluntary basis.

I was very pleased the other night when I heard a pig farmer saying that another pig farmer had encouraged him and now he is making money. We want that type of inspiration coming from the people who have the technology, who received it from our taxpayers' money and therefore owe the country something. It is not to ask the country all the time, what are you going to do for me; remember that there are other people in this country who have made significant sacrifices in the area of agriculture. There are the women in the field who have made significant sacrifices. There are the men in the field. There are people for whom the Workers' Union have fought out there to get better shelters for them and indeed, we are beginning to see some mobile latrines. I think we need to see more. We need to see changing facilities and I know that the Barbados Workers' Union has been working hard on these areas. I know, also, that I, myself, and a number of other people in this community, in organisations, have been pushing for these things.

In the area of safe food, I think that is a necessity and I am happy that the Government is going to be doing a lot more in this area. I have seen some films recently where several items have been banned from the United States and they are here in this Barbados. They are so harmful to our health, but all because our people do not know, they go and take them off the shelf. Therefore, I am happy that we will have the laboratory facilities to test these various foods to find out if they contain lead, zinc, mercury or whatever is harmful to eat and which destroys health. Also there has been a big report on the baby foods. Some of the contents are giving children big livers and they are dying quite early. Therefore, we have to watch out for all these things as we are supposed to be a developing country. I cannot be more than happy to hear that that time has come when we will be looking at all these areas.

I know that under the area of diversification, The Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation is looking

at many of the exotic crops. I welcome this, especially in the area of carambola because I have seen from my own experience, carambola just being cut up and packaged and being sold at exotic prices on the American and Canadian market and so on. It is pretty easy to grow a carambola, what we call Five Fingers. You can make a drink with it. It can be used in salads. It makes an excellent flavour for salads and it can also be cut up nicely and packaged so that you can sell it and people just eat it like that once it is ripe. ADC is looking at some of these exotic crops so that we will be able to continue to spread the gospel of agriculture in terms of dollars and cents by earning much needed foreign exchange.

The Barbados Marketing Corporation has been doing its bit and we have been exporting things like ackees, papaws, dunks, golden apples, soursop, the same aloe vera – a lot of things that people don't realise. By using the radio and letting people know that they are free to call the Barbados Marketing Corporation's Export Promotion Unit and get their golden apples sold has relieved many of the elderly people in this community of their fruit at an early time before some of those people who want to help themselves to it come and help themselves, and they are getting money for them. They are paid right away as soon as they carry the crop and it is exported. Before the crop goes, you have your money in your hand. Many of these old people have told me that they were happy about this because some of them have even sold their chili plums. They sold all those little things. When you think of somebody selling ackees and the BMC is making the arrangement for them to be picked. You do not have to get them picked; you do not have to pay anyone to pick them. Professional pickers come and use nets so that the fruit wouldn't be bounced and they pick them for you and they are packaged and they are cleaned and they are exported to people in Canada, America, England and Germany who are enjoying the things that probably don't look important to you. They are very nutritious in that they contain a lot of vitamin C.

Asides.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Continuing on the area of food processing, Mr. President, I am very happy to see that we are making a move forward with the new agro-processing unit which we have. We are making a move forward because we have involved the general public. The man in the street has taken out shares. Some people have taken 100 shares, but the fact is that we have total participation of the people in Barbados in that agro-processing unit, which means that even if a fellow has one hundred dollars in it and you have one thousand, he is still a shareholder and he is going to see to it that it works, because he is involved and his little money that he can afford is involved.

I must congratulate the Government through the ADC for this because it is a step in the right direction. It shows you how the public, the Government, the private sector, all agencies collaborating together can bring success to Barbados and also save us from a lot of the foreign exchange that we are spending in all of these canned and packaged foods. The days are coming in this country when we will no longer see the Pine Hill Dairy having to import guava pulp and cherry pulp. We are known to grow beautiful cherries and our cherries are the richest source of Vitamin C in the world. I must emphasise that because this was not said by me but is proven by all the scientists – the acerola C, the Barbados cherry. Therefore, everybody should make an effort to at least grow a cherry tree. In that Scotland area which is a traditional area known for fruit trees along with the beautification of the environment we can have food as well.
3.05 p.m.

We can have the guavas, cherries, carambola and all these exotic crops growing in that same Scotland area. We can also have the herbs, the lemon grass, khus khus grass that can make hangers. We can also put it in things to scent them. We can make pot pourri out of all the various sweet smelling bushes and herbs in that area. Therefore, doing this, we will improve the condition of the lives of many people in the rural areas because we will come to the point where we will be employing more people from those given areas, St. Andrew and St. Joseph. People will be able to get to their work much more easily than if they have to come down to Bridgetown. In this way we would be building up our rural development thrust. That is very important. Of course, you know the scenic beauty; I do not have to tell you, of that whole East Coast of Barbados and the Scotland area.

Mr. President, I should now like to say a few words under the area of Foreign Affairs. I would like to see and I know many people would like to see agricultural attaches placed at some of these very significant areas like in Brussels where they can do business with the EEC; also like places in the United Nations. The reason is clear. The Foreign Affairs people there can be utilised along with the agricultural attache who would also be a member of the Foreign Affairs diplomatic team. That person would be dealing specifically with getting foreign exchange for us through the exportation of our agricultural products, also trying to get some funding in agriculture. All those things come under an agricultural attache. I would like to see that done very soon because where you hear about all these cuts, we could fill in. If we get funding for training, equipment and raw materials, we will be able to go very far without worrying too much about whether we had a cut or not because there would be a fill in the gap.

Also, Mr. President, I should like to see at the United Nations a permanent display of Barbados' handicraft and other items of food products that can be packaged or

canned. It is very striking to me when I walk through the UN to see, at least, one Caribbean country, Jamaica having their things on display. If we want to attract the attention of people I think Barbados has to do that too. We have to look for every area where people can be attracted to our various goods, the things our people are producing with their hands to gain foreign exchange for this country. We can do it. It is said we are an innovative people. We are a learned people. We are supposed to have a lot of commonsense. Therefore, we can use it in that particular area to help develop ourselves.

I should like to turn just briefly to one area in Health that seems not to be what I would like to see, that is, we have the opening of the polyclinics on a Saturday morning. I sincerely hope we will also have the opening of the drug stores. It does not make sense opening the polyclinic and not the drug store. That is an area I would like to see the drug people get involved in. They should work on a Saturday too because when the people get their prescriptions they have to go somewhere else to get their drugs rather than in their given village or area where the polyclinic is situated.

I have heard the Minister of Health say there will come a time when the polyclinics will be open late in the evening. I welcome this because sometimes children get sick in the evening, elderly people get ill and they might be far away from the hospital. Two or three ambulances cannot get to everyone. If the polyclinic is in your area, a doctor is there, the facilities are there, then I think that is going to help a lot. It is true we will have to work a shift system.

I hope I do not hear anybody screaming and saying the Government is spending too much money when that is done. It is highly desirable. I know of many people who have taken ill and suffered because they could not get the ambulance on time. It is true they get fake calls. That is another area where I would like to appeal to Barbadians to stop the foolishness of calling the ambulance unnecessarily. When you call an ambulance, you are calling it for an emergency. They have been reporting they have been getting a lot of crank calls. When they get there no one is ill. The people did not call them. You may really be affecting the life of somebody else who was really critically ill and wanting to get to the hospital. That is my point on the Ministry of Health.

Sir, under the Ministry of Community Services, I am happy and I should like to congratulate the Government for appointing the advisory committee under the Bureau of Women's Affairs. I would like to see more staff in that Department. I think they need staff where they can work on the various areas in that particular section. Money can be obtained from funding agencies. The committee will use all its various diplomatic moves, knowing good sensible women, to get the \$100 000 from these various funding agencies. There is plenty money out there to be had but you

only have to know the right sources to go for it and you can find it. I certainly can tell you that from experience, Mr. President.

In the area of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, there is one thing I would like to see here. I do not know if this is done. What I know is done is when people are coming here to set up industries, they are supposed to sign a document saying that they will adhere to the laws of this country and the Constitution. Ofttimes I wonder if they only say that or write it and that is all. I feel there should be some binding clause or something they would have to write.

I feel IDC should look at these seriously so that these people do not in any way, even if it is known or unknown, even if it is done openly or secretly, they must not discourage the people from joining the unions. It is the right of the worker to join the trade union of his or her choice. There must be no undertones. I think anybody caught doing this should be severely reprimanded by being sent out of the country immediately.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I am speaking now in my capacity as Minister of Trade since we are actively recruiting businesses to Barbados. Under the Constitution of Barbados people are free to join the association of their choice. This is a matter of the Constitution. I do not want to make this an issue here.
3.15 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. President, but you recall I said I understand they have to sign an Agreement saying that they will abide by the Constitution of this country. I never in any way said that they did not have to sign the Agreement. You can sign Agreements but then if you put what you agree to in action is another thing.

I am saying that if people are found to be not carrying out the Agreements and when it comes to unionizing of the workers and threats and things like that I feel that if that is known that we should do something about that. That is all I am saying. You welcome people; you are encouraging people here. But at the same time our people have got to be protected.

I think what is desirable too is that these people should know that they have to provide proper lunch facilities for the workers. In many cases the majority of the workers are women. I think the health people need to police those places properly and see that the health standards are carried out. It is appalling. I remember we had a week called, "Meet The Woman In Industry" and it was appalling when we went to some of those places. There was no sick bay for the workers, no lunch facilities. I do not want to see that happening in my country to my people. You have to give people. You have to give my people the same standards as

you are giving to anybody else anywhere else where you are investing your money because without the people you cannot really invest. You cannot get any production to make your money if you do not have people functioning. That is very, very important.

I should also like to see these factories providing day care facilities for the workers. I think that is very necessary. Many of the people get to work late. Many of them are absent because they cannot get anybody to keep the children. That is a big problem. A lot of absenteeism, a lot of lateness. I think one company has started it. I think the Minister would be able to fill us in on that. But I would like to see as many companies as possible doing this, even if they have to be assisted in some way by the corporation in getting the shell put up, that they would put in the necessary facilities for day care because it is their workers and if the workers have a problem, they are going to bring it to work. So there is no point thinking that a worker is going to have a problem and that they are all unhappy and uncomfortable and that they can produce. We keep talking about production but we must give people the physical features and the necessary encouragement in order that they may produce and produce well to the benefit of the country.

I should also like to see some play parks in these areas where the children who come to wait for their parents in the evening can play and have a little recreation. After all, the Government is doing its part. Almost in every area now you can see the Government setting up a little park for the children in the villages. I think that these industrialists owe it to our workers to set up similar facilities so that the children can feel happy while they wait for their parents. I would also like to see them provide transportation, even if the workers have to pay a small fee towards that. You know a little more than what they would normally pay. It would be better to have the transportation coming to the area, especially when they have to work at night, and taking them right home to their doors because at night if you are going to drop them in the middle of some road, it means they still have to walk by canes and something like that and you know the situations of rape and so on in this country. If we want to cut down that we have to do things to assist people from even the temptation. There would be no women walking on lonely roads. They will be driven to their doors from these various industrial estates.

Mr. President, under the area of consumer affairs, I should like to say that I am happy about the new Advisory Committee which has looked at the Laws. I believe we will soon hear something about these laws that they have looked at to update the laws so that our consumers will get a better deal as far as laws are concerned. We hear of the Sale of Goods Act. We hear of the Hire Purchase Act. But in truth and in fact how many rights does the consumer have under those aspects of legislation. I sincerely hope that since this move has been made that we will soon be getting all the necessary information. It would be disseminated to the

public because one of the things we have to do is to let the public be aware, through the news media. The news media has a serious responsibility too to the public to let them know what is going on, to find out from Ministries what is going and to be able to help this country go forward.

Mr. President, it has been a pleasure of mine to look at these Estimates. Where we have to cut costs we have to use initiatives. Sometimes it is a question of somebody catching a cold and we having pneumonia. When other countries in the developed area cannot assist us, when funding agencies are drying up certain funding, we in Barbados and I am saying this to everyone, we have got to use our resources which primarily are the resources of our people. All those people who have been educated through this Government, from the universities, they must come back to the villages and help the people. Do not forget where you came from. You have to remember, whether it is villages, hamlets, whether it is heights or terraces or roads or gulleys, you have got to come back to your area and help the people. Government cannot do it all. We are the people of this country. If we are proud of it, we are going to love it. We are not going to scandal it abroad nor at home and we are going to do the best we can to uplift Barbados.

Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure in supporting this Bill.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, the references which we have heard this afternoon to cuts in expenditure by the two Honourable Senators representing the Opposition and which have been ably answered by Senator Simmons reminds me of a paradox which reads like this: "We are never more in danger than when we feel ourselves more secure nor in reality more secure than when we seem to be most in danger." Both sides of that paradox were revealed today in the deliberations by the two Honourable Senators just referred to. It seems that we are now being chastised for making a very conscious attempt to keep expenditure at a very manageable level in order that we can carry on the work of this country. This expenditure-conscious approach started way back in the last financial year and despite an election year and which the Minister of Finance had been able to keep at a very good level. We do not hear about any extreme expenditure in order to go in for any rapid looking for votes. We did not plug the Estimates last year even though elections were in the offing with any extreme forms of expenditure. We have gone through the election and the result is now history.

It is a continuing exercise in belt tightening and making sure that we bring a conscious effort to bear on the whole idea of Government in these hard times which are now being experienced all over the world. The Opposition has been chastising us for the last three or four years about the inordinately high expenditure occasioned by Government departments. The Minister of Finance very conscious of his responsibility has used everything in his

power to keep expenditure at a very good level without endangering those essential services which are so necessary for the continuation of Government in this modern world.
3.25 p.m.

As the Minister of Trade has said that he has assured the country that no civil servants will lose their jobs, no people will be turned off, but we intend to manage this country on the amount of money which is available provided that civil servants try very hard to cut out wastage in any form.

In that regard, Sir, we know that when we talk about wastage we would not like to see, Sir, the kind of wastage and disregard for accounting procedures which was occasioned in this country when we heard about the thing called Carifesta and which to this day the Auditor General has never been able to get answers from the Ministry responsible at that time for that extravaganza to the extent of \$42 million which has not been answered for up to this day and we heard about people who never slept for a whole two weeks.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Senator, Sir, is misleading the House when he refers to a sum of \$42 million in respect of CARIFESTA. I believe that he knows that if he checks his figures, it is not even half of forty two.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, to be more exact, it is in the region of \$40 million. You are now surprised at the magnitude of the debt that they expended at that time? It was a phenomenal amount and the Auditor General has written and written several times and we have never got answers for that extravaganza. So, culture is now recovering under the Democratic Labour Party from the kind of extravaganza and the wastage that went on under a previous administration. So, we have always been very conscious of doing things in the right manner.

That kind of approach was very lacking in the administration of 1976/86 and that is why, in the case of the tenders for the buildings, National Insurance tenders, the auditors when they come on will be able to tell us whether in actual fact anything amiss has happened, and you need not infer it at this stage by certain information which seem to come into the hands of the Opposition. We do not operate, Sir, with that kind of gun boat kind of approach to the accounting system.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order, I certainly hope that he is not referring to Senators over here, with a gun boat approach, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, don't take them as applicable to Members of the Senate. He is making an open statement.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: That is right, Sir. Very much so. So, we welcome, Sir, the cuts in certain Heads of Expenditure for very simple reasons, and if you were to examine the Estimates in detail, you will see that even when cuts appear in the Estimates, the cuts are not in respect of certain items which actually appear in the Estimates; it is a kind of overall global cut. What they fear, will never happen, because the services will be available to the people of this country in the same measure as has been in the past financial year, and the Opposition need not have any fear that services will be reduced in any way in the area where it is most needed.

We have given concessions, Sir, throughout the economy, especially in agriculture and even though our revenue has fallen as a result of certain concessions given by government in the agricultural sector and also in trade, we believe that what we will gain in the long run would more than compensate for that fall in revenue. There were times when the previous administration never cared for the training of the civil servants and ...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, in relation to the training of civil servants and the allegation that the previous administration never cared for them, the Honourable Senator is misleading the House, Sir. If he were to look, Sir, at the Training Board Report for 1980 to 1985, the Training Report for 1976 to 1977, 1977 to 1978, 1978 to 1979, 1979 to 1980 he will see that a total of over 6,514 people were trained, Sir, by the Barbados Labour Party Government in the period of those ten years, Sir. So, it would be incorrect to say that they never cared about training.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, Sir, if we were to put it another way, there was a distinct shortage of nurses in that period. There was a distinct shortage of teachers coming out of Erdiston Training College in that period. There was a distinct shortage of male nurses at the Mental Hospital, in so much Sir,....

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Not now, because we have done a lot, Sir, since we came into power in 1986 to restore the balance. We have had to implement a crash programme for nurses and, Sir, they went so far down the line at that time, Sir, that the Minister of Education who stopped the training of teachers at that time and who even went further to even stop the training of school teachers ...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order, Sir, I don't think that the Honourable Senator, Sir, is fair when he is misleading the House by saying that the Minister of Education at the time stopped the training of teachers. Sir, that is not a correct statement, Sir, and he is misleading the House when he says so.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: There was nobody coming out of Erdiston, Sir, at that time. Erdiston training was curtailed then, Sir, not stopped. The curtailment of the training at Erdiston was very predominant in that period, put it that way, Sir, and it even went further to put a whole school out of commission when they fired a Headmaster.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think we will pursue a sort of argument on language because Members are not very precise in the language that they use and saying that they stopped, typical bajan 'stop', I am going to 'stop' here man, it has nothing to do with stopping or starting, but it is only the vulgarism of language. So that, I do not want to become rigid in a sense, but we won't stop too long on those things. I appreciate what Senator Mottley has said and therefore we will go on. We are not really having an exercise now in language.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, Sir, there was a temporary curtailment in training at Erdiston and which reached its full effect when that same administration in that same period almost put a whole school out of commission by the sacking of a Headmaster and which eventually amounted to bigger expenditure being occasioned by our Government in order to meet a bill which proved to be very extravagant to the extreme because of the attitude displayed by that administration, Sir, to a Headmaster and his school. So, that was the general run of things in those days, Sir.

We have had to come back to this Chamber several times in the last five years to get things ratified by Parliament which were done in a kind of lackadaisical approach by that administration. There were several industrial incentives under the Act which were not perfected and which had to be redone in this Chamber which were done by the previous administration.

So, this administration, Sir, is very conscious of the Financial and Audit Control Act which runs all the transactions which go on in the Civil Service and to a lesser extent in the Statutory Boards. We would not countenance any allegations by that side of any short fall in our approach to giving proper accountability for the people's money in this country.

3.35 p.m.

We have heard a lot of references about cuts. Sir, you will discover that in these Estimates that Agriculture is a very vital sector in these days. You will see from the Estimates that the provision for Agriculture has been increased by almost 47 per cent because the Government realize that we must emphasize our approach and if there is an area which needs to be strengthened and to be strengthened with a meaning it is agriculture not only to

feed ourselves but also to generate sufficient crops that might be able along with sugar to gain some foreign exchange.

It is very easy to talk, as they have talked in here, about under utilized land and land not being put into production. Sir, in order to accomplish those things which we are trying to do, we need a very up to date tractor cultivation scheme. They tell us that we are spending too much money. How do you expect us to carry out certain programmes? The results from agriculture do not come overnight. They have to be planned over a long time. We have no control over the weather nor the drought. But what we can do is to plan wisely. The first approach in order to be able to put lands into cultivation again is to have a good sound motor tractor cultivation scheme in order to plough those lands. In this respect, the private sector in the name of the plantation owners who have equipment which are almost over-capitalized equipmentwise, Sir, and they should be able to make their tractors available to help to plough those lands so that we can get more lands into cultivation. Having ploughed those lands, Sir, that is not the end of the story. You need proper Extension Services in order to carry on the research which has been done in this country on various crops. Now Sir, research is one of those big areas. Barbados is a very small country with limited resources and we cannot even go into research that is needed in this country. What we have been trying to do in recent years is a thing called adapted research, where we see what has happened in other countries and we try to adapt to the findings of the other countries to our conditions. If that goes well, then we can give it to the farmers by way of information through the Extension Services. But these things take time, Sir, and they take money. So the limited research which we have been doing in a very small way and which we hope to continue to do as we go along is a very big cut in our purse. But we believe that if farmers are able to get that kind of assistance and having got the kind of assistance in the types of crops planted, then in order for the farmer to make a successful approach to his agriculture we must also be able to give him agricultural credit because in most cases he is not able to buy the seeds and fertilizer in order to keep those crops growing and also the kind of pesticides to control those crops.

In this respect, the Government has done more than its share of the technical assistance which is needed for a successful agriculture. You hear the Honourable Senators from the Opposition bemoaning the fact that a particular cotton grower has been able to get very good yields from his plant in direct contrast to what has been happening on the estate of ADC. But what they failed to tell the public is from that crop which has been produced by the single farmer the only person who can take credit for that successful cultivation of that cotton crop would be the same Technical Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture who spend day after day telling them when to plant, when to

manure, and how to harvest. So it is no credit to the farmer himself. It is the credit to the Ministry of Agriculture. This is what is called "hidden services" and hidden commitment in money terms.

Again, we have heard in this country that we make it a record yield to bring in the cultivation of bananas. I can tell this Honourable Chamber that those record yields which have been occasioned on certain plantations that the credit is solely because of the Ministry of Agriculture's staff. It has nothing at all to do with the plantation owners. It is unfortunate, Sir, that that kind of technical assistance was not made available and which we have to do it in this coming year in New Castle, St. John which has been the fore-runner of planting bananas in this country for all the years. It is unfortunate that we did not put those people in that area to uplift those yields for the credit of the whole country where it is most needed and not on the bigger plantations who now boast about their big yields in banana production.

But this is our Government and this party has been very conscious of the private sector and its role in the whole scheme of the economy. That is why you can boast about the private sector growing cotton better than the ADC lands where we should have been helping them, but we were helping the private sector. Yet you will accuse us of being anti-private sector. We have always been assisting the private sector where we can and agriculture is one such area that the evidence comes out in no uncertain terms and we have been spending money in that direction. We will continue to provide that kind of assistance to the private sector that this country will prosper.

We have given a sugar support price to the sugar industry over the years. It might be in abeyance for this year but sums of money have been expended year after year to support cane sugar. When sugar was at its best in those years and when the sugar plantations had access to the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank and borrowed money in those years 1961-76, we never insisted on repayment except when they had a good year. There was a thing called "lock up" in those years in the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank where when they did not have a successful year the money will go for the following year until they had a successful crop.

Sir, now since being on that point, in order to get the sugar farmers motivated at this time and to get agriculture moving as it should, we have got to institute a form of agricultural credit to the small farmer that when the crop does not realize its full potential that he should not be called upon to repay any money in that particular year.
3.45 p.m.

Suppose for argument's sake, that he was given five years to repay a debt, the debt should be increased by every

year that there has been bad crops so that if there were five bad crops, it would take ten years to pay back the money. If he is called upon to make that repayment when he has not been able to get a successful crop, that is his only means of subsistence at the time and he has to school his children like the other people in other professions. He will be able to make his name eventually. That is the kind of supervised credit that we need to do in this country, because it is all right to talk about production but the constraints to successful production in the fields are real. Tropical agriculture is one of those heart-breaking areas where in the tropics the rain comes down and falls hard. It beats the ground. You hear about driving rain. You can have a crop of tomatoes start to blossom at that very time, Sir. You have spent the last ten weeks coming to that point in time – lovely tomato vines, blossoms out pretty, starting to bud and then the rains come down and knock off everything. Then, you have to pull up again and start afresh.

Nobody insures the agricultural farmer against these kinds of problems of production, which are not of his own choosing. There is no insurance company which insures that farmer against those problems. You have the cabbage looking good, ready to eat; then the pests come along and one set of pests can wipe out your whole acre of cabbage overnight. Who insures them against that kind of thing? So, you can only talk about production in agriculture when you have actually produced and can say I have produced a thousand pounds of carrots or cabbage that I have sold. However, you cannot say that I have a thousand pounds of cabbage to come, because in between lip and cup, there is many a slip. Many farmers have been ruined because of pests, rain or what have you. So, it can only come to a successful production policy when you have actually produced, when you can say we have produced X pounds of carrots this year, we have produced X pounds of cabbage, X pounds of tomatoes. You cannot say so before you have reaped them and you have got them into the market. All that time, people have worked hard. They have ploughed. They have tended to those crops over three months and at the end, they have reaped nothing.

Then, we have the other threat, which is man-made – praedial larceny which is now becoming an even bigger crop threat. So, the Ministry of Agriculture, by our policy, and making money available in those areas we are trying to stem the tide. We are trying to grow and to be self-sufficient and we have been able to grow carrots in Barbados better than anybody in the Caribbean. We have perfected the art of growing carrots in this country. If we can get the kind of assistance in the next couple of years, we should be able to be self-sufficient in vegetable production, even though it may be seasonable. We have also reached a very high production limit in the livestock area, chicken especially, and there again we have to control the diseases in chicken production because that also could wipe you out. We have been trying to widen our approach with goat's milk production at the Pine and that has come a

long way and we have produced a lot of milk at the Pine. We are expanding the goats at the Pine Livestock Station and we intend to keep goat's milk production at a very high level, and all is being used. We don't have sufficient goat's milk to sell, Sir.

In the Scotland District, Sir (and this is where the Ministry of Transport and Public Works have been working alongside)... We intend to work alongside the Ministry of Agriculture in the coming years in order to make the Scotland District an area that people could enjoy and at the same time for orchard production. We inherited three thousand acres of land in the Scotland District because of Joes River Estates at the time and we have had to do things from a social standpoint and that is why today, Sir, we are saddled with those estates in the Scotland area, because those were the times when Joes River was shut down, the estates were going and the Government had to come in as a last resort in order to rescue the people. We have always been a people-oriented Government and we came to the people's rescue and we had to hold the tab. We have done a lot of research by way of tree production. We established cherry tree orchards down there. We established mango and I understand that they have come up with a new variety of guava which is bigger in size and sweeter in taste – a seedless guava. So, we intend to carry on that kind of research, Sir.

Asides.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: We have increased agriculture provision by 47 per cent. That is the point I am making; you talk about cuts where cuts don't matter. We have been emphasising the programmes where we want to put money in that will be useful to the whole country and not worry about a few cuts here and there. In any case you all were worried about cuts for the last five years and now the cuts are coming, you can't take the cuts. However, we don't cut for cuts' sake. We have been cutting in the areas where we know we can cut and we have been emphasising and we have been increasing provisions in areas where we know it will be useful to stimulate the economy.

We are conscious of the Scotland District area, even from the Ministry of Transportation and Works point of view. We have had a study done by Errol Clarke Associates, the Engineering firm and they have come up with a comprehensive plan for the whole area which would cost in the region of about \$200 million. We intend to do a piecemeal approach at first by a network of the major roads to be put in that area and we have started at Horse Hill. We intend as the years go by in the next two or three years to continue the construction of the old East Coast road right through to St. John up to the airport and other roads that we would connect to make a network of major roads in the whole Scotland District area to open up the whole area, not only to agriculture but also to tourism and to provide the kind of beautification necessary that we could see that the

development is taking place in this country. We have to take our time about the whole idea of development. These are hard times and no matter which Party was in power, you would have to take these kinds of decisions at this very time, because this was a long way in coming because the last Administration never cared about how the funds were spent and we have had a continuing problem since 1986 of trying to keep this country in a certain kind of balance and we are only continuing that kind of restriction which will be good for Barbados in the long run.

We are also, Sir, on the road development plan, have resurfaced several roads so far and that aspect of road resurfacing is continuing. In the next financial year we are continuing the extension from Eagle Hall to Bank Hall Cross Road as part of the second phase of that resurfacing programme.
3.55 p.m.

We are trying as we go along. If you were to cast your mind back, you will remember that previous to 1986 the roads of this country were in a very bad state of disrepair which occasioned several calypsos pointing out to the politicians' attention the state of the roads at that time. We have had to take those roads piecemeal and try to put a surface on them. We have to resurface some of them.

It appeared to me that it was the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party at that time once they had built a new highway, called it the ABC Highway, which I believe was more designed for the accommodation of tanks in case the people got to a point where they could not bear that Government any longer, but thanks to the elections, they were completely routed. I think the ABC Highway was more designed, not only to show that Barbados had a new highway, but in so doing they forgot to do all the other highways and by-paths in this country to the...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator is really misleading the House when he says the Government at the time neglected to do all the other highways at the expense of the ABC Highway. Over 160 tenantry roads were done between 1981 and 1986. He would know that from his involvement in the Ministry of Public Works at the moment.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: I shall come to tenantry roads when I am finished. I have not reached tenantry roads yet. All those arterial highways were ignored. The calypsonians could talk about our roads and the potholes were drawn to the attention of the politicians at that time very forcibly during Crop Over. While all these people were talking about the potholes in the roads in Barbados, the Party embarked on one major highway, the ABC Highway which I felt was more designed for the accommodation of tanks than to anything else because times were bad and people were paying...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Barbados Labour Party did not build the ABC Highway. It was just after 1986.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: That had nothing to do with us. The Barbados Labour Party had secured everything in connection with the Highway. That was not our project, Sir. We have inherited a whole series of roads. We have started gradually since 1986 to..

Mr. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, you are tired. You seem not to be debating. It is not a picnic though. It is still the Senate. You must get back to the debate. I am not a rigid Chairman. I feel the levity you enjoy from poking fun in between the debates is something that enlightens the proceedings but you must get serious at times. I am a serious man. I will take serious action if you become too frivolous.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, if we were to look at the amount of roads that were done since we took office in 1986 and which we continued to do because they are still a lot of roads out there that need repair which we cannot handle all one time. We have tried to resurface some. We are putting on barbergreen tops on some. We have a long list of roads when the whole plan has been quantified, it would take us about \$80 million to get the roads in Barbados to the state they should be. That was a long series of neglect by the past Government that we have to do all those roads now since 1986. We continue to spend money year by year and we are nowhere near completing the amount of roads that are in need of repair in this country.

I am glad the Honourable Senator said they did tenantry roads. This brings me back to the iniquitous levies which were levied on the people of this country at that time which did not appear anywhere in the Consolidated Fund. They were put somewhere in some committee that when the Minister of Transport and Works wanted money to spend, he did not have to come to Parliament to go into that little kitty bag.

The Barbados Labour Party started doing roads as they liked. They ostensibly talked about doing the Bridge Road at the time, which we knew about. We never knew about the other things which were done with those funds. We had to make it a campaign pledge to the people of this country that when we were returned to power, we would put those funds where they belonged. That is what our Government did. There were more funds out there running about from the levies that nobody knew about, running around the House of Assembly but could not find the House of Assembly at the time but they were being expended. That is a fact. We put those funds in the Consolidated Fund. When we want to touch money we have to come to Parliament, have those funds voted and let the House debate the issue in order to get money to carry out the services of this country. It was not so in your time. In saying you were

providing these tenantry roads for people; it was from the levies.

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: You not only had the levies. It was at that period of time we inherited from you all those roads which were permitted to be subdivided at that time by the Town Planner. The roads were built of a very ridiculous nature. After the people moved into the area, Government was given the roads. We had that as another liability on our hands. All those roads in the developments were no good which you approved at the time. Ostensibly saying they were developing the country they were not spending the money where it should be spent. They were not doing the roads that should be done.

We are going to do all the roads in this country. We are going to do them systematically year after year until everybody has good roads. We are going to try and bring the roads to the people in the tenancies. We will give them water, light and the other services. That is a continuing programme in the Ministry of Public Works.

Sir, if I may advert to buildings again. We cannot even live down the criticisms by the various occupants of the Government buildings which have been allowed to run to ruin under the previous administration. The Police have been crying out for the buildings. They never did a Police Station for the whole 10 years.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator really is misleading the House again. Oistins Police Station which is even below where the Senator lives was done during the tenure of the Barbados Labour Party Administration far less any other one.
4.05 p.m.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: You built a new station. You built a new road, the ABC Highway but you did not deal with the old ones. We are being now plagued with requests and even people showing the press that this station is so bad, they want accommodation. We have got accommodation coming from left, right and centre. In the schools of Barbados, this person is talking about the schools not being any good. The Civil Servants complaining that they want a new building. The Fire Service talking about they want a building. The Prisons complaining that they want a building. Wherever you go where Government has people and has buildings, we have got requests coming in left, right and centre because of the continual neglect by that administration not to repair buildings or do anything at all about Government property.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, again. The Honourable Senator is misleading the House when he talks about the Barbados Labour Party not repairing any Government property. The information is there, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Those are only debate exaggerations. All of you in the debate make these kinds of exaggerations but the President does not in any way take on those things as asking you to withdraw them because he realizes that those are the sort of flairs that go in the debates.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am obliged to you, Sir, except that I take it in the spirit in which it may be given. What I am afraid of, Sir, is that when it is reported, it may not be taken in that spirit.

Mr. PRESIDENT: When it is reported you can bring it back to the Chamber and draw it to the attention of the Chamber that this is what is reported because the debates are always chargeable to the Chamber. Do not let those things give you any headache. We have been going a long time so I realize you may be a bit tired. I am not going to be hard on you all.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, since we took office we have had to renovate, as further proof to my point, the Treasury Building. We did Parliament Building. We did Government House, Careenage House, Police Headquarters, the St. Cecilia Barracks. Sir, we intend to undertake in the coming year a new Supreme Court Complex by way of the new building thrust. We are doing some work at Marine House because it is now very unstable. We are going to do some building up there. We have to do something about the market at Fairchild Street because we hope to extend the bus stand and we have to make provision at Cheapside to accommodate the people who now ply their trade at the Fairchild Street Market. We need to do something at Cheapside very quickly, Sir.

On the markets we have a commitment to deal with the Vendors' Mall and we intend to get that Swan Street Mall going some time. We also have to look for at least three sites for the vendors too along the new ABC Highway to provide the kind of outlet for vendors and to provide the adequate toilet facilities and so forth and so on.

We are beautifying the Square in front of Parliament and when that is finished you would have a nice garden to look upon when you look from the Parliament Buildings onto the Square.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Parliament?

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Trafalgar Square. Parliament Square.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I guess you all could beautify the steps. I do not know how the ladies get up these steps. They are giving me trouble to get up. I do not know how these ladies could get up these steps in their fancy dresses and shoe heels and all of this, long dresses. I do not know how

they can traverse those steps. You all should really get something better than that, things to hop over.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: As soon as that small area where we are trying to enhance the environment...

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is the environment too. That is when you are coming in.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: We would raise that with the Committee that is looking after the renovation of the Parliament Buildings. We are still working on the West Wing, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: To escort a lady is very embarrassing.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: That could be included in that exercise. Also, by way of the environment, the other projects are the restoration of Jubilee Gardens after the redevelopment of Princess Alice Omnibus Terminal. We have a Waterfront Development Project.

Sir, there was a time when we introduced a Sales Tax in this country and which met with the fury of the Opposition at the time. That Sales Tax brought in a few dollars when compared to the amount of money which was brought into the Treasury by way of indirect taxation by the Barbados Labour Party. They accused us in here today about indirect taxation but they are the originators of indirect taxation in this country. When they abolished the Sales Tax which the Democratic Labour Party introduced on the sales - the 5% Sales Tax - they curved up consumption taxes and they were getting it at source. They abolished the price control mechanism in this country at that time and the merchants went wild. The merchants were able to charge....

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Because Government had already got their duties at source. Therefore it was a very sensible move. It was very well contemplated at the time that having got the money at source, there was no need for anything called price control mechanisms to be in place to embarrass the merchants when they wanted to sell their things at particular prices. We had even at that time before we went out of power in 1976, we had reduced corned beef to a common level in this country. All brands of corned beef and things like that came to a common denominator... I think they were stabilized at something like sixty something cents for corned beef. In less than 5 months they skyrocketed to about one dollar and eighty something cents because everybody was charging their own price for the particular products. There were no controls here at the time.

The kind of revenue drop that has been alluded to today saying that there are less imports, that is not an

indication that because the revenue has not come forward from Customs and Excise that there is any drop in any imports in this country. The imports might even have increased. But the method of collection might have been at fault or there might be more delinquency in bringing to account duties that should be payable to the Government. One such way that you can escape duties is to put things in bond through Customs. That is an age long device at Customs. You put the goods in bond; some people do not come back for them and you have to sell them by auction. You pay down an amount of money to deposit on bond and then you do not come and clear them out of the Customs. You do not have the documents. Eventually they might still be at auction and you come back and buy your own goods at much reduced prices at that time. I have not heard about the Minister of Finance in the last couple of years talking about restricting imports in this country. If you go into the supermarkets of Barbados you see all brands of everything under the sun.

4.15 p.m.

There are more brands in Barbados' Supermarkets than in any other supermarkets that I have seen all over the world. We have so many brands of the same things, Sir. To my mind, Sir, I believe, Sir, if I were a Minister of Finance I would cut out all of those things. I would not cut expenditure alone; I would cut out a lot of these different brands, but we have been going along in this country, merry and you all should be complimenting the Government on its achievement despite cutting out the freedoms and latitude which people in Barbados enjoy up to this day.

You all should be complimenting the Government for having achieved some form of stability, financial-wise in order to carry on the work of this Government in these times when other countries have been without this and without that and we still enjoy a standard of living in this country despite what has been going on all around us in the other neighbouring Caribbean countries and in the wider world, in the United States of America where the Senator Simmons has so well described about the recession in America and America refused to balance its budget for the last five or six years. We are depending on the American economy and they refuse to balance their budget, Sir. The gap is always widening, Sir, and every year it gets wider and wider under the Reagan economics, Reaganomics, and now it has got worse under Bush and we are very much dependent on that economy, Sir, for our survival. If they don't balance their budget, I don't see how we can get one balanced down here under these strenuous conditions. You must have a deficit and the people are in no way inconvenienced because of financial measures.

Building has continued to thrive in Barbados and we have been able to produce, Sir. So I do not understand the kind of talk that we have cut expenditure, we have cut this,

and yet, Sir, nobody has been given any kind of dismissal or has been laid off; no lay offs have taken place in the economy.

Sir, at that time when the Labour Party was making big money from indirect taxation they were keeping down all of those jobs in the civil service and refused to appoint people for ten years. Nobody received appointments for ten years in the civil service and people were held back for ten years from a first appointment. We, only last year appointed about 800 people and they were working, the least is eight years. And that was a Labour Party ploy to keep people, who were not part of the established staff... They could be sent home at a moment's notice and that is the way they kept people, but we have released people from that bondage. Sir, we have appointed 800 at one time; we are continuing to appoint people when vacancies occur and they have no fear; civil servants have no fear from this administration by way of their jobs.

Sir, we welcome these Estimates and we would hope that the Opposition would come around to our way of thinking and that they would see the light which is about to unfold in this country and that agriculture is going to bear fruit in this coming year and, in all, Sir, things are looking up. Even though we have to place restrictions in certain areas it is for the good of Barbadians.

Before I close, Sir, I must say I was very much impressed with the contribution made by Senator Straughn on the disabled. That is an area where people don't seem to study very much, but it is a very vital area and it needs a lot of recognition in this country. I would like to see that the policy of the Town Planner under the Ministry of Housing should pay more attention to the disabled in that architects when they are designing buildings should take into consideration the fact that ramps should be built in every building. Stores should be made to provide ramps and things like that to accommodate the disabled.

Also the special education that the Honourable Senator talked about is a very wonderful thing and the human element is very important to the production of services and for my own sake, Sir. It is people who matter and all the economics which we practise should be practised for the good of the people and more so from a social stand point than from any kind of benefit derived from economic factors which tend sometimes to stifle the results which people should get. We are more concerned about the people and the kind of attention they get and we must look backwards sometimes and forget money considerations, as long as people get what they want.

We will still continue to provide the free transportation for old people on the buses which was stopped by the Barbados Labour Party and we will continue to look after our aged. We are going to put more emphasis on the disabled and on the special children in the coming

year and we hope that by and by Barbados will be a better Barbados for everybody including the young, old and disabled. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. President, the Estimates of the Barbados Government is coming at a time when the whole world, almost, is in recession; economies are crumbling. We have to look at these Estimates with that back drop, and we have to be thankful that throughout the years the Barbados Government has been able to preserve a sort of stability that makes us in some instances the envy of some of the bigger nations.

Mr. President, I have had the great fortune of visiting other countries and I can assure you that I am extremely proud of the way the Barbados Government is being prudent in their management of the people's money. This is a time when the Opposition and the whole country is able to scrutinise what we have been doing with the money and to come up with criticisms, suggestions, wise and otherwise and we are here to explain some of those matters, explain some of the ways in which this Government is spending the money.

I would like to turn to Head 16 which deals with the Civil Service. Mr. President, no Government can function efficiently without an efficient civil service. The policies and programmes of the Government will go to naught if the Civil Service does not carry out those policies and programmes. The civil service in turn has to have a climate of freedom from fear, has to have the resources and it has to have the proper ministerial direction in order to carry out their functions. It is a two way street; the public service and the Government.

We have in our public service, Mr. President, some of the most astute minds that can be found anywhere, but unless the climate is right for them to function they cannot do their job properly. There has to be a lot of understanding between the public service and the Government. The conditions of work and terms of service have to be enhanced in order to get the desired result which is the functioning of the whole island. Mr. President, the civil service looks after us from birth until death. We cannot make a move without having some background of the civil service concerned.

In 1986 a Democratic Labour Party Government promised... Because they realised the great significance of the public service they gave a series of promises. There were eight points,

- (1) to initiate processes to allow the public service to utilise fully their capabilities and their expertise,

- (2) to make sure that merit was rewarded, that people then would be amply rewarded for their services,
- (3) We said that we would focus on professionalism,
- (4) we would facilitate upgrading,
- (5) we would minimize the grievances,
- (6) we would enhance the capabilities of the Public Service Commission,
- (7) we would foster mutual respect and communication between the political directorate and the management personnel in the Service.

4.25 p.m.

I think there is one that I have left out. But there were eight points that the Government promised that they would do in order to enhance the image and performance of the Public Service.

Mr. President, the public of Barbados is getting value for the estimated \$9 831 566 which has been estimated to be the cost of the work of the Civil Service for 1991 to 1992. I say that they are getting good value for their money because over the past few years there have been significant milestones in the Civil Service of Barbados. First, there was a reinstitution and an expansion of Study Leave. I know some Members of the Opposition would have you believe that everything was rosy and everything was going well, but facts are stubborn things the old people say. The fact is that Study Leave, if not stopped entirely, was curtailed to a great extent. Mr. President, you cannot have an efficient Civil Service without adequate training and one of the first things that this Government did was to reinstitute the training and expansion of Study Leave.

I would like to give you an idea at what is happening here now. Priority areas have been identified and people are allowed to go on training, of course, having regard to the relevance to the Service as to whether they themselves are suitably qualified, how long they have been in service, and how their performance has been. These will all be taken into account. But over 83 persons during 1990-91 were granted Study Leave - 41 in the General Service and 42 teachers. These areas include the Health Services, Education Services, and all of the services that we provide in Barbados. People have been sent abroad to study. Not only have we enhanced that Study Leave section, but the in-service training has been going on apace and all through the Civil Service in the upper management, middle management, supervisory, clerical and operational levels they have been looked after and a continuous stream of training has been going on sometimes at full pay and sometimes at half pay. But all of it is going towards the upgrading of the services which the civil servants of this country provide.

We have reinstituted and enforced the training of personnel in the Service. At the local level we have been

having people who themselves benefited some years coming in now to help with the in-service training. I myself have visited on two occasions some of the training courses that are going on and I am very heartened at the sort of cooperation and liveliness of the people who are taking part in these courses and the sort of questions they are asking. Something is happening. Some motivation is going on because I think the climate now being free from fear people are asking things and they are free to expand and to suggest. I was very happy having visited those classes to see what was going on there. These classes are at all levels from the telephone receptionist right up to the higher level of management.

The Civil Service has also gone ahead with an Organisation and Management Unit and that is a most important unit if we want to upgrade the Service. The Organisation and Management Division for the period 1990-91 has done a number of projects. They have set out a numeric filing system for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They have reviewed the Registry's procedures and have completed a management audit. In the Ministry of Legal Affairs, they have looked after the filing system there and in their own division they have prepared an Operations Manual which will soon be seen. It is being prepared right now. In the Ministry of the Civil Service, a study is being carried out in the paper usage which I think is extremely important and they are conducting also several in-house sessions in management. There has also been a study of markets and a report on the Central Purchasing Department and a final report on the Review of the Immigration Department.

You can see, Mr. President, that there is a lot of valuable work going on in the Ministry of the Civil Service. Of course, during this year we are hoping to carry on with the various surveys and the various filing systems which they have started. We also have done, as most of you know, a reclassification of posts. That was a very big exercise but it is not a one shot thing but, as you know, it is a continuing exercise.

We have strengthened the industrial relations climate as seen in the last two salaries revisions. Now I have a passing acquaintance with industrial relations because I lived with it. My husband was an industrial relations advisor and I know that it is not an easy thing. But before that my father was the President of the Barbados Elementary School Teachers Association and he did the negotiating there for them. So I understand that it could be heartbreak and there are lots of points in industrial relations which have to be thought out. There is a lot of diplomacy to be used. Mr. President, I am very happy to see that the industrial relations climate between the Civil Service and the unions is being strengthened. We are very happy about the last two revisions. I heard the Prime Minister in his speech the other morning at the NUPW mention that there

may come a time when there will have to be even more Co-operatives and we can see that time coming around the bend.

Mr. President, I am sure that with the sort of climate that this Government is foistering I think that the Civil Service and all Barbadians will understand when they have to come down a little from what they had been thinking of. They have to make adjustments for the good of the country.

I think, Mr. President, that what we need in Barbados is more civic education. I think Senator Leroy Inniss will agree with me where you involve the whole country in the economics and the thinking of whatever is happening. You cannot expect to ask people to understand what is happening unless you have given them the education for them to understand.

4.35 p.m.

I am hoping that this climate will produce the sort of person who will put Barbados first. I am fairly confident that with the mood in the Civil Service today we are getting there.

Another milestone was that several temporary posts were made permanent. Last year 316 posts were made permanent, but at the same time another 167 temporary posts were created. I am not sure how long we can go on doing that, but it is a fact that these temporary posts were created. Over the years from 1986 to this year I think over 1,000 persons who were temporary have now been made permanent. I think that is a great achievement, because if you have people hanging on, not knowing whether they are permanent, not knowing what is going to happen the next day, whether they will be at work or not, you cannot have a very productive work force. In fact, sometimes it serves a good purpose for certain administrations to have temporary people, because they have a greater hold over them. You cannot display too much initiative, because you have to be careful whether you are going to be working the next week or not. But we have taken the bull by the horns, we have made those persons permanent, because they deserve it. That is the only way that we are going to get a productive Civil Service, if the people feel contented and happy.

We also have had another milestone, and that is in the pensions department. Over the past three years there were three amendments to the Pensions Act and now the casual workers, the non-teaching staff of secondary schools and certain people from various Boards are also on that pension list. Mr. President, you always hear people talk about a pension. The people in Barbados are very conscious of pensions. In fact, when I was giving up a certain job everybody was asking me "What about the pension?" This is what a lot of people want to know. When people come to me for jobs they want a Government job. Why? Because at the end of it they will be sure of a pension. We have done a lot in that area to have these people feel secure. There is

nothing like job security for getting work out of people. That is one of the areas in Barbados that we have looked very carefully into – the area of production. Our people are not always motivated to produce and we have to find ways and means of helping them to get that motivation.

The Civil Service comprises 25% of our working population. Over 17,000 are in the actual Civil Service and over 8,000 are in the Statutory Boards, which is still part of the Public Service, and so you can see if we have a quarter of our work force working productively, we will be doing a great deal for our country. We will not only be doing it for them, but other workers, seeing how these Civil Servants are working, will also come along. You know, people have an idea also that you do not have to work too hard in the Civil Service, so another reason why people want Government jobs is because they cannot be fired too easily and you do not have to work too hard. That is what some people actually say. If we have a Civil Service that is vibrant, we will get the other 75% of the work force to follow suit, and that is what we want.

There is now another milestone, a new accounting manual. We have to keep up to date on things. A doctor just cannot sit down in Barbados and do his medicine and tend to his patient. You will notice that from time to time they go out and get some new information, and so we have to upgrade our various manuals and so on. There is a new accounting manual and the revision which was long waited for by a lot of Civil Servants, the General Orders. I am told that within a few weeks there will be a new copy of the General Orders, which we are eagerly looking forward for.

We have also made some strides in the area of accommodation. Accommodation has been a sore point. There have been problems, but there is an Accommodations Committee which is looking into all of those problems. Someone mentioned the Treasury Building. Yes, we have had trouble there, but I do know that the windows have been changed and they are looking into the air conditioning problem, because this Government is conscious that it has responsibility for all of its citizens and any genuine complaint is addressed in a correct manner. We cannot do everything all at once, but we are taking note and things are being done. Little by little we will be able to reach our goal, which is that every Civil Servant is in a physical setting and atmosphere that is conducive to producing.

Plans are underway for some new office buildings at Marine House. We have been having some trouble there too. I am sure that if the staff are taken into confidence, they will understand that they will have to bear a little more inconvenience in order for us to finish the new office buildings which we will have. You know that there will also be some buildings at the old QC. We will have our Ministry of Education buildings, there will be a new Supreme Court and of course repairs to police stations and so on will go on.

I heard a lot of talk about these buildings and so on, but, Mr. President, a building does not go bad overnight. When we got the Government in 1986 it was evident that a lot of the buildings had not been properly maintained, and so within a year or two there were several buildings which were almost unfit for human habitation. I myself have gone to certain police stations and certain buildings and have been appalled. As I said before, they did not get so overnight, maintenance is very important.
4.45 p.m.

Maintenance is very important and I hope that this Government will continue to pay great attention to it, because it is just like "a stitch in time, saves nine", as the old people would say.

I can give you some examples that you would hardly believe. I was working with the Ministry of Community Development in 1986 and on visiting some of the child care buildings, the mind boggled. They were in such a state of disrepair, I was a little upset because it meant that the nursery which I was looking forward to for St. Joseph constituency could not be built because we had to go then and repair all the other places before we could think of building new ones. So I know about that part.

As I said, we have been trying to make the Civil Service as comfortable as possible. We have also in that time done something about the Leave Passage Order. That is something very dear to my heart, that spouses of females will enjoy the same benefits as spouses of male officers. I think this is a great milestone, because for years I wondered why my husband could take me away on long leave but if I were in his position, I could not do it. Now, this Government which is very forward looking has seen fit to do that and I am sure a lot of women in the Civil Service are happy about that.

We know that we are sending a lot of people in the Civil Service and I would like the people of Barbados to know that that money I consider to be very well spent. As I said before, they are getting value for money. The Civil Service is our backbone, the backbone of the whole system. We cannot work without them and I am sure that things are looking up as far as the Civil Service is concerned.

I would also like to give an idea about some of the new training programmes coming on stream. Resource persons are working for a minimum salary, because people who have benefited from our scheme are getting some for as little as \$50 per session. And they also have in that same training division, service training. We also have a little training fund so that some persons who are really in need of getting help with training could get it. Mr. President, the Civil Service is on its way, so to speak.

I would like to go on to Head 34 which is Education. There are certain areas that have not been touched on.

Senator Barker mentioned about the poor conditions and these poor children at Turner's Hall School. First of all, Barbadians don't like anybody to call them poor. What has happened, is that we know we are building a new school in Turner's Hall. The contracts are going out and building will start in a month or two.

The schools suffered from a lack of maintenance. That is a fact. I have been in almost every one of the schools and there have been complaints. We had to put in facelifting and minor structural work to 92 schools, electrical repairs to 93, toilet bowls – 12, grounds – 18, sanitation services – 12, plumbing, fittings, repairs, all these things have been done by the Ministry of Education. Secondly, Turner's Hall is in this education project to be amalgamated with Hillaby.

If I were not Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, I would not understand the grandness of what is happening in education, the magnificent things that are happening in education. I was a former teacher and would be most appreciative of anything done for education. What pleases me very much is that we have placed great emphasis on early childhood education. Mr. President, in Barbados we are not able to provide nursery schools for every nook and cranny but what this Government did, was to inform all the headteachers of primary schools that so long as they have room they could take in some of the under five children. This is more than just education; this is a whole social work they are doing, because a lot of the women who bring their five and six year old children to school have another little child there. Sometimes, they cannot get work because they have nobody to care that child. So, we are providing a very good service there. We are not just giving them a nursery service.

We have to make sure that Early Childhood Education is taught at Erdiston. You hear people who use words to say it was not so, that it was not closed down. Nevertheless, to all intents and purposes, it was almost closed down. It was almost phased out. This Government has brought Erdiston back on the map. I remember there was a time when Erdiston College was turning out people who could go to Canada and work without any other certification, because the Erdiston certificate was thought to be ample qualification. We have brought back teaching of Early Childhood Education and Physical Education. I was extremely pleased to inaugurate an association of Early Childhood Education Teachers. I was very happy about that. And so, our children under five are now able to get that head start, because all the educationalists say that if a child starts in the correct way he will have a better chance.

Just last week, I was visiting my son in another part of the world out in Europe and his 2½ year old son is going to school. The Government has provided that. He will have a head start and so that is what we are doing. Not only that, the literacy rate, we know, has taken a beating in the past few years and the Ministry of Education is also paying

attention to that. We have teachers now being trained to teach children how to read and in this special area because it has been found that functional literacy is not as great as we had expected it or that Barbados has boasted of for many years.

So, Mr. President, education has been doing great things. We have had some continuing education. We have started a project of continuing education and in about four schools, I think, Foundation, Grantley Adams, Springer Memorial and St. James. People are taking the opportunity to finish their O levels. It is amazing. We really are into the age of technology, because a lot of the people register for computer science.

That brings me to computer science. I am very proud of the way that the schools in Barbados are getting into that age. I was also even more proud last October when Barbados hosted the Commonwealth Ministers of Education Meeting.
4.55 p.m.

I was detailed to take some people to various schools with computers. There were people from all over the world. We had 52 countries represented at that meeting. They were asking questions like how we were able to do this because they went into the schools and saw the children operating some of these computers. I was very proud of that.

The Ministry of Education also looks after subventions for the Barbados Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Workers. I heard Members on the other side talking about cuts. They are quarrelling about all sorts of cuts. I remember hearing so much about squandermania and now I am hearing a lot about cuts. I do not know how to work the two of them together. We know we have to be prudent in our management of the people's finances. We do have to cut. We are cutting wisely. I am confident that this Government just does not cut the money off. I am confident that a great deal of thought goes into where to cut. We are spending a lot of money in education. We are getting value for it. The whole country is getting value for the money that is spent in education.

Mr. President, I would like to turn now to Community Development, Head 38, where we are spending \$39 million to keep that Ministry afloat. That Ministry is a most important Ministry too. It deals with the welfare services for the people of Barbados. I was very heartened to learn that the Welfare Department is carrying on courses. They are helping the people who have to come to them for the little pittance for the welfare money. They are helping those women – most of them are women – to regain their self respect and self image to get into some sort of skilled labour that will take them off the list of welfare. I would be very happy to hear of any reduction in the numbers of people who go to ask for welfare. I think this is a fantastic

thing, trying to help those people who come instead of just saying "Here is your money. Go."

We are saying "You can do better than this. Come and learn a skill." They are cooperating with the IDC in getting these women trained. They will make marketable things and sell. The IDC will help them get them sold. I think this is very commendable. It is the same Civil Service whom we are talking about. Their suggestions came up about the way how we can lessen the people's dependence on welfare.

In this same Ministry we have the National Assistance Board. I do not think I heard right because I cannot imagine anyone from the Barbados Labour Party talking about the National Assistance Board. That is the first place I worked after being made a representative of the people of St. Joseph. I could not believe my eyes. The accounts are there. Anyone can see them. When the Minister and I were hoping to repair and look after old people's homes in the way we thought we would do, the money was not there. Let me give you an idea.

We got into power on May 28. The next week we went into the office. The money that had been voted from March, I do not know if I would call that squandermania. It was past squandermania. That money that was voted in March was not there in June for us to repair the poor people's houses. The lumber, cement or paint was not there either. There was nothing. That is a matter of record.

I must tell you honestly, if I were not in the office and I had heard that outside, I would have said it was an exaggeration but I was there. We then had to get a Supplementary in June to repair the old people's houses.

Let me tell you more than this. In St. Joseph I found old persons who had been on the list for four and five years getting wet in their houses. The houses were not repaired. Some other younger persons were getting houses. These old people within four years, over 80 persons, as far as I know, got their houses repaired. They not only got them repaired but the sort of supervision we had to exercise to make sure that we were just not repairing an object's house. We were repairing an old person's house who had given service to this community. In June when we went around to some of the houses, it was a pitiful sight. One could see how old boards were put there. Steps were not built properly. Nothing happened.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: It is true. I was there. I never talk about things I do not know about. We had to get an inquiry. Everybody knows about that. It is public knowledge. I do not think anybody over there should even open their mouths. They should not even say "N" furthermore "N-A-B".

The Child Care Board is also in that Ministry. It continues to do very valuable service to this Island. They were even entering into the foster care area. I think the leadership there is very commendable. Things are being done for the children of the people of this Island. I can be sure the money spent there is well spent. As I said before, the Child Care Board would love to have some more day nurseries. They first have to finish off repairing all of those day nurseries that were so badly neglected. We had to repair one of those nurseries that had been built only about four or five years before. I think it was at Ellerton. It was obvious it was very bad work done so we had to spend more and more money in order to get things on a level to go on.

Mr. President, also in that Ministry of Community Development is the Bureau of Women Affairs. I would, like other Members of my gender here, really be very happy if we could get more staff for that Ministry. At the same time, we must compliment the Government on having got a new Advisory Council on Women. This Advisory Council will advise the Minister and will seek to have more programmes for women. It will also seek to have a policy statement on women. I am sure that the Head of this National Advisory Council is very able to carry out all of the functions that we women in Barbados would like to see carried out by the Bureau of Women's Affairs.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. President, I listened with interest also to the Minister of Agriculture who really gave us a very great outline, his outline of what was happening and what was going to happen in the Ministry of Agriculture. I think everybody here must have felt a little elated because I feel that with agriculture doing very well we will well be on the road to recovery. I am thankful because I am connected with the constituency of St. Joseph which is a very beautiful constituency which has I think the most fertile soil in the island. I am looking forward to the carrying out of some of the plans that I have heard from the Minister of Agriculture.

I am very happy that they have been looking into the Scotland District. I read in the newspaper – I was not here – somebody in the Other Place talking about two Barbadoses and all sorts of strange things when that same individual was responsible for the demise of the Scotland District Board, whatever it was that was looking after the Scotland District. Nothing was done for 10 years. But all of a sudden there are two Barbadoses and they want to see things happening in the rural area and so on.

Mr. President, I am very happy that the Minister and the Government is looking after the Scotland District. It is the most beautiful district in this island. I read in the newspaper somebody else mentioning about the Scotland District as though it was a ghetto and I wondered if this person really knows the Scotland District. There is no ghetto. It is that there are problems with the soil slipping,

but we have some of the nice houses and people. I cut it out of the newspaper because I was very upset to hear them talking in those terms about the Scotland District.

The Scotland District can produce a lot of the produce that we need. I am very glad now that there is going to be a kind of consolidated approach towards the Scotland District. I know that the people who are living there will be very grateful for this initiative taken by this Government.

I also want to say that I think that Government is spending their money in a very sensible fashion. I note with satisfaction the look of this island, the beauty that is surrounding us. As I said before when I was talking about the Civil Service how when you get the Civil Service working, you get other people joining in... Have you noticed anything about the work the NCC is doing? I have noticed. I have noticed that people, ordinary people, boys and girls around the island are taking example from what the NCC is doing and all around their little homes and in any empty spot, it is catching on.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Yes. Parris Hill in St. Joseph – beautiful. Out in Claybury some youths in Claybury a few years ago came together and have the whole side of that place beautiful. The NCC has helped them now and has put two persons there to work. Now the fellows in Wilson Hill have done it. On my way home to Bush Hall, some guys have got another little spot there. It is catching on all over the island. There is nothing like motivation. The NCC workers now feel as part and parcel of what is going on. I know it too because, as I said before, I only talk about what I know about for sure. I was also with a Ministry that dealt with the NCC. The way these people react now to what they are doing is as though this is mine.

I remember having asked for permission to use the beautiful Bathsheba Gardens. I am sure all of you here must have seen Bathsheba Gardens. The workers were very apprehensive that it would spoil some of the lawns and so on. They really take care of the gardens that they have to work on and they feel a very preparatory air about this whole situation. I am very happy. I feel very happy when I pass by the Lazaretto and other places and see how Barbados is going.

Mr. President, that is how people feel when they see their money being spent wisely. I have every confidence that this Government will continue to spend its money wisely and to the benefit of all of the citizens in this country. I also have to be thankful to this Government for the past four and a half years – I must mention it now – that St. Joseph, the constituency that I had the honour to represent benefited to a great extent from the roads being cut, the Horse Hill road being cut and the other tenantry

that had begun to be fixed. Also in the provision of parks. You see, a lot of people think that it is just you are putting up another park. But we have very good motives for putting up these parks. When these parks are there, the little children can come out and interact. They come out of school in the afternoons and they go and they interact. We have also put rangers and people to look after the park to keep it tidy and so on. The children learn a lot from being in these parks.

All in all, Mr. President, I think we can congratulate this Government and I wish fully to support the Estimates as presented to us.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, in rising to wind up the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I should like to congratulate the Members of this side and the independent Senators on the substantial and sterling contribution which they made to the debate. I wish it were possible to extend those sentiments to the Opposition but I am afraid their respective contributions do not allow me the objective pleasure in so doing.

I am terribly disappointed after my initial presentation when I drew the attention of this Honourable Chamber to the composition of the Estimates. I think at that time I said that we were in a position and we were moving towards a programme of budget, we were moving away from the line by line items. To talk about expenditure cuts in the absence of programmes will make absolutely no sense whatsoever.

What we are talking about there is programmes and I would have wished from the Opposition that rather than talking about a line by line cut, you would have spoken about what programmes of substance have been cut. Furthermore I think in my initial presentation, I was at pains to point out that the budget is made up of the recurrent aspect of the budget, the non-recurring aspects and the capital part of the budget. In this presentation we have removed the non-recurring part to the capital Estimates. If there are any cuts at all on a line-by-line basis, if you build a structure now, do you build another structure again? Is this what we are talking about of cuts, even on a line-by-line basis? I would have hoped then when we talked about cuts, using the bottomline that we would have gone through them and looked to see if they were recurrent items being cut and hence programmes or there were non-recurrent items. Because if you put up a building this year certainly you would not put up another building the next year. It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever to any thinking person to talk about cuts on a line-by-line basis without referring to programmes.

5.15 p.m.

I have one apology to make to this Chamber, Sir. On page 14 of the Estimates, yesterday I made the statement that the Ministry of Agriculture had a 53 per cent increase. That is erroneous. The figure here is a wrong figure and I don't know what the actual figure is for it but I believe there is a cut; it should read 47 rather than 27. Page 14 of the Memorandum. My apologies to the Chamber and certainly it was not my intention to mislead and the figure as presented here is incorrect. However, I make bold to say that in spite of that far from reducing programmes we have added additional programmes based on the sterling presentation given by the Minister of Agriculture.

I would also like to draw attention to the preparation of the Estimates because I think for future debates it will make sense that we understand exactly what it is that we are talking about even if we are talking on a line-by-line basis. If you turn to any one head at all, take your pick of any head of expenditure, you will find that you have Estimates 1991/92, those are the draft estimates now; once they are approved they will become the approved estimates. The next column you have the Approved Estimates, those are the estimates voted and the next column you have the Revised Estimates. The Revised Estimates differ from the Approved Estimates to the extent that there have been supplementary provisions added. What this mechanism does is to allow us in case we need to introduce new programmes or to augment any programmes to seek a supplementary and thereby carry out the programme. It is not static and this is developed about fifteen months in advance of the year and as programmes come on stream we have the facility of seeking supplementary provisions to give life and effect to the programmes that we wish to initiate. And, I would hope, that Honourable Members would take the time to ask about the Estimates, their preparation, what they mean, if they do not understand.

I would like to address one other thing before I respond to some of the questions raised by individual Members, Mr. President. For anyone who has had the opportunity to study economics we understand there is something called the business cycle. There is a whole discipline in economics dealing with the business cycle. No economy in this world, none but none, has ever progressed without having peaks and valleys, and all economies will go through that. At the end of time the acid test – this is educational Senator Barker – the acid test is to apply the trend line and then you get what appears to be growth over time. So if you are looking at the history of an economy it appears to grow evenly over time when in fact the net result is peaks and valleys over time. Then you plot the trend line and you get this graph that you do not plan. So too, for an economy to encounter a three per cent negative growth rate in one year is actually nothing. I mean one year in the life of the economy is not a bad economy or bad management. This is life; this is the nature of the beast and I don't want to go into any lecture here about the multiplier and the accelerator principle and how they operate and what will

give effect to these things. The one whom I would like to teach is not here so I will pass on that.

Furthermore to decide that because there has been a reduction in funds and this has been a thought going through certain areas of the civil service ... As we come to the end of the fiscal year certain civil servants believe that they should rush out and spend every penny because we are coming to the end of the year and next year if we don't spend it therefore we will get a cut in the vote. I have always argued that if you have a programme and if you make a case for a programme when I presided over the Estimates Committee meetings, if you had a programme this is what we argued about not how much you spent last year or you didn't spend this year. Furthermore, to argue that you have not included X amount of moneys under a Capital Programme it depends, did you start it on the 1st April, do you start it in the sixth month of the year, do you start it on the ninth month of the year. It does not mean the programme will not begin or take effect. Most capital works programmes will take over a year, so in which fifteen month or eighteen month period will you actually start building. If you don't start on the 1st of April, of course you don't need that same amount of money as if you start on 1st of June or on the 1st September; you begin to stagger your expenditure and you begin to match these with your cash flow. This is all part of managing the economy rather than just let it happen like topsy where you ask for everything and spend everything if you can get your hands on it.

Furthermore, I think you should recognise the dichotomy between expenses for their own sake and investments. Those items of expenditure although incurred in a concrete and discreet period of time that will a life well over the period in which the expenditures have been incurred.

On those few comments I would like to move on to Senator Bellamy. I have no fight with profits. I don't think it is a bad word. What I did try to point out yesterday when I dealt with the whole question of privatisation that Government gets into the business of private enterprise from time to time in order to achieve not only profits from them but to achieve other objectives, either employment, either the location of industry.

Therefore, if we accept that, we cannot therefore judge the success or failure of that given enterprise based on the profit motive. We judge it against the objective for which we set it up in the first place. If we take the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation as a living example, certainly profits if they come we will welcome them, but the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is primarily an educational medium and institution and to this we add culture. The question then is not, is it making money or not, but rather, is it performing its educational function; is it developing the culture in this country? And, if the answers to those two questions are yes, are we justified in paying for

it? If you say no to it, why then do you in the same breath say that you pay for free secondary education. These are the arguments that we must deal with up front and logically.

This Government is fully committed to the Offshore Business sector and we should be doing all in our power to further this. We recognise the spill over from the off shore sector itself and also tourism and we should be developing this.

Senator Walcott your point is well taken about the private organisations, the non-profit organisations in particular and the grants. If you went through it, I have a print out here which I shall not detain us with by reading them through, but we have not cut any grants to them; we are still funding them to the best of our ability in these trying times.

We have noted your plea Senator Inniss for the provision in education for special schools and children will not go unheeded.

Senator Phillips I would like to assure you that we are moving towards more export oriented industries and not to the abandonment of the import substitute industries. On the question of clay from the Scotland District we are now in the process of negotiating the purchase of a property if we can get the valuation on it. We have been assured that this area has clay of a very good quality and one of the problems that we have had in Barbados that tended to retard the growth and development of the handicraft in the clay products industry was that people would pick clay from different parts of the island, of different consistency, you got different products and by having one common source we could at least now begin to standardise and develop quality products from this source and we are trying to acquire this property.

In my introduction to you I also touched upon the question of packaging and labelling. When I talked about BNSI and trying to get some inspectors for them so they can go out and make sure that products coming to this country will also meet the standards we set for ourselves ... The Export Promotion Corporation has also been talking to would be exporters to assist them in developing packages and labels and catalogues to help them market their products in the international markets.

I am sorry that Senator Mottley is not in her place because she was somewhat out of her depth dealing with the whole topic of the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates but I did not take it out of her. I think her partner should have directed her and she is not in her place and I will not deal with her. I think I have said what I had to say.

Mr. President, Sir, with those comments, I move that the Appropriation Bill be read a second time.
5.25 p.m.

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

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, Sir, this Bill is certified as a Money Bill and we do not go into Committee on it. Therefore, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be read a third time.

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES ORDER, 1991

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries Remuneration and Allowances Order, 1991.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks to give the life to the Order signed by the appropriate Minister responsible for Finance and it relates to the proposed change in salaries for the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and other Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. It seeks to establish a relationship between the salaries of Minister with that of the highest paid public officer and seeks to fix the Minister's salary at 3 per cent higher than the salary of a Permanent Secretary. There has been a lot of debate in the Other Place and a lot of concern expressed about the timing of these salaries. My own view is that the salaries need to be adjusted and that the Minister having now made the Order and the Other Place having discussed it the Senate needs to give its consideration to these matters. These salaries are now fixed in such a manner that the Minister's salary represents some 75 per cent of the salary payable to a Prime Minister, that of the Deputy Prime Minister is 85 per cent of the Prime Minister's salary. In the case of Parliamentary Secretaries, it is proposed to pay 70 per cent of a Minister's salary and Speaker and Leader of the Opposition are to receive 85 per cent of a Minister's salary and the Chairman of Committees is to receive 75 per cent of the Speaker's salary.

I have alluded to matters beyond this Order because there are two Orders and the other one relates to other Members of the House of Assembly and the Senate. I do not consider that at this time of the day it is necessary for me to say too much on the matter. The whole question of fixing of salaries of Members of Parliament is the subject of a commission in the past. In more recent times, it has been done by a committee appointed by the Prime Minister in his responsibility as Minister for the Civil Service. The proposals before us are the result of the recommendations of this smaller committee, the chairman of which was involved in the negotiation of salaries for members of the Public Service. We are aware that the Public Service received increases in salaries from April 1990 with a further

increase in 1991. In this instance, it is proposed that these salaries take effect from April 1991.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I just wish to make a few comments on this matter. Sir, while accepting finally the principle that these salaries should be linked to those within the Public Service and that being the stance taken by the Barbados Labour Party throughout the last 10 years that it was in Government, I am a little disappointed that the Government still found it necessary to play a little politics, Sir, with the question of these salaries and found it necessary not to introduce this matter at the time when the other salaries relating to public servants were introduced and could bring it now, Sir, after the elections which took place in January.

I believe, Sir, that it is about time in the stage of our development that this kind of politics be removed, Sir, from the question of remuneration for both parliamentarians as well as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. I would hope, Sir, that having reached this position that this now will be a constant position on the part of Government and that indeed next time that it will come with the other salaries of public servants to which it is linked and not be held back purely for the purposes of the elections and politics, Sir.

Sir, the only other point that I would wish to make at this point is that, given the previous history of the Democratic Labour Party on the whole issue of salaries, I hope that is more reason why they find it more necessary now to have a constant and principle position. In all fairness to the Prime Minister, he always maintains that parliamentarians should be properly remunerated and, therefore, did not vote against the last salaries increase of the Barbados Labour Party when the rest of his party did so. But nevertheless, Sir, bearing in mind the 5 per cent cut that this Government took in 1986 and then bearing in mind the chops and changes in terms of its policy since then, I hope now that this is a signal for a constant policy with regard to the remuneration of parliamentarians. As I said, I believe that we have reached the stage in our development where we recognize the principle that will remain constant and that will not have politics playing a part into it.

In respect, Sir...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will just try to cross you. This is a political matter. So you cannot say that it is playing politics. This is a political matter. Only the political parties can deal with it. There is no point of coming in here and pretending that this is outside of the politics. This is a very political matter. The Government in power brought over the matter and they are the only persons who could put this matter before you. Nobody else can. It cannot come from the outside. Only one person can bring this here to you and he

brought it here today. There is nobody else in Barbados that has that authority and you know it. A person in your position must know where the authority springs from. This is not an unauthorized position you are asked to take. This is an authorized position. A Bill comes down here in its proper form and, therefore, you are questioning it. How can you? You want to hold me up for ridicule. You know that you have a right to deal with this. There is no question about it. I am not going to hear anymore on that unless you are debating the substance of the matter.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I find it difficult I suppose with relation to salary of...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Madam, I cannot deal with it in relation to anything. This is a matter that is before you on principle.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am about to deal with that. I am obliged to you, Sir. Sir, I am saying that in respect of salaries dealing with public servants and parliamentarians and all the whole category, Sir, I am a bit perturbed that particularly the public servants at the bottom of the ladder, Sir, who did not fair that well in the last salaries regrading and having now in the context of all that has been said before us, Sir, of an economy that is suffering, for this to happen now, Sir, just as a blanket move would seem to be a slap in the face.
5.35 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is still a matter of salaries. Only one body could bring the thing down.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am not dealing with that, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What is it you are dealing with?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am dealing with the overall principle.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, no, I want to know what it is we are dealing with. I want guidance.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I believe the...

Mr. PRESIDENT: What is it you are dealing with? What did you rise on?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I rose on the matter of remuneration of Parliamentary Secretaries...

Mr. PRESIDENT: What is it before the Chamber?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: An Order from the Minister that requires the approval of the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes. What is that Order? I am not a playboy, I want to know what it is we are dealing with.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I would never begin to think that, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, what is it we are dealing with? I am not in any play act with you all, I am here to preside over the Senate. That is my role, to preside over the Senate, not to make sport. What is it you are asking me to do? I am not getting into anything between you and the Minister or anybody, I do not have any private conversations with the Minister. I have not seen the Minister, I do not have any consultation with the Minister on these matters. The Minister has to treat me with respect. I am not asking the Minister to come to me and brief me about anything before he brings it here. He has to put it on the Table and then is when I am going to deal with it. The Minister cannot treat me other than how he should treat the President of the Senate. Let me make that clear to you and to all the Members of the Senate. I am not here to be the Minister's boy or your boy or the boy of any of you that you can give any marching lessons or any whip to. If it is out of order and you rise on a point of order, all right, but if it is not out of order I do not see what you are raising to me.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir. I would wish to state at this point the position of the Opposition that we cannot find it possible to support the approval of this Order, not because of the principle...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are free to do that. That has nothing to do with me.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:...that the salaries should be linked to those of the public servants, but because of the timing. I wish to make it very clear that because of the timing of the bringing of this Order, three months after that brought for the public servants, it is impossible for us in all conscience to support this Order, bearing in mind that it evinces a lack of principle and a great degree of partisan politics.

Thank you, Sir.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, the Senate dividing as follows:

AYES: Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS, Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Senator A. MORRISON, Senator Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE, Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS, Senator Mrs. V. C. FRASER, Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES, Senator Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, Senator J. J. PAYNE, Senator M. deL. JORDAN, Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT, Senator W. L. INNIS, Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. SPRINGER, Senator J. G. BELLAMY and Senator J. A. F. COLE – 17

NOES: Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY and Senator T. E. BARKER – 2.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS)
ORDER, 1991

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this is the companion Resolution to the one which we just debated. In my introduction to that Resolution I mentioned that the allowances for President, Deputy President and other Senators would be included, as well as those for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairman of Committees, Leader of the Opposition and other Members.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, the sentiments on this side remain the same as for the previous Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let me have that in plain English, please.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I would like to note our dissent on the basis of the timing of this particular Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That does not say anything. How are you voting on this matter? Are you casting a vote?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, we are definitely casting a vote, we are voting against this matter.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, say so. Don't come with anything that you are not clear on.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, for just one second I crave the attention of the Senate. This matter of timing has been raised, and it is unfortunate, because it reflects a misunderstanding of the Resolution before the Senate. Politicians are not civil servants, politicians are not priests, a politician is a politician and therefore he has to be concerned with the timing. Civil servants do not have to be concerned with the timing, they are not answerable to a fickle electorate, and any politician who does not understand that timing is crucial to his survival is not fit to be a politician. That is all I wanted to say, Mr. President.

The other thing I wish to say is that it is time that we who have the privilege to come into these Chambers stop encouraging John Public to disrespect parliamentarians. Parliamentarians have to live with a level of insecurity of office that nobody else in this society has to put up with, and they have to live with a level of public abuse that no other category of worker has to put up with. Only today I

was reading in the newspaper where someone was saying that no Minister of Government should work for more than a public servant, because the Minister is the servant of the people and a servant should not work for more than his master.

5.45 p.m.

We get in here and present these arguments and don't understand that they are a lot of silly people outside. I am saying that it is time that we stop portraying these silly images of parliamentarians because we damage ourselves.

Mr. President, I fully support this Resolution, because I recognise that remuneration is relative and that in Barbados there are some people with minimal responsibilities compared with a Minister who work for twice as much as a Prime Minister. I have nothing more to say. That is as much as I want to say on this matter.

Mr. President, I fully support this Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. President, I support the Resolution. However, there is an area of concern which I think is very much in context. At this time, and when I say at this time, I mean in the history of man, so to speak, the clearest measurement and criterion of success is the acquisition of money. Going off from where Senator Barker-Welch spoke at one point about civic education, I submit, Mr. President, that by virtue of the fact that so many of our young people have not lived long enough to have a broad perspective, and despite their many and varied exposures, there are many who are ignorant of certain facts, and facts of a civic nature. Not only our young people, Mr. President, but a lot of us. At every level of our development, if we understand the things that we need to understand, our tolerance level rises and we are more accepting of certain things, especially changes. Education in its broadest form is an agent of preservation and an agent of change. Preservation, from the point of view of holding on to those things that have been tried and those things that are useful and if we even like to add those things that are of good report. Change, again, can be siphoned, and not in a context of change in decay, but in the context of change with its component adaptability – the ability to appreciate, understand innovations and use them effectively.

I submit, Mr. President, that a great deal of rationalisation and civic education as to the need for such a measure must be considered so that the signals which are being received by the mass of our population who really need civic education... We have got to accept that. A lot of people will not understand why it is, even although we talk about Barbados being such an educated society.

Yes, we dealt with the public service over time. We give the young people a lot of things over time, but yet people have got to understand why they are asked to do what they are asked to do, and as I said before, the tolerance

level and the understanding rises immediately. Young people are by far more receptive of change than older people, but I repeat, at every level we need to understand why we are doing what we are asked to do. I would appreciate, Mr. President, that this type of education be given to people so that the signals which are being received by the mass of our population, especially our young citizens do not increase the stress, the anger, the frustration and the deviant behaviour now very prevalent.

With those few remarks, I support the Resolution, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I wish at this point to make the point that while accepting the principle that parliamentarians should be remunerated for their services relatively, I have difficulty, Sir, in supporting this Resolution on the basis of its coming at a time when we have already heard today and seen cuts to the grants to agencies such as the Welfare Agency, the National Assistance Board and various other agencies, Sir, where the people who can least afford to support themselves in this country, now are being told through these estimates that there is likely to be greater difficulty in being able to keep body and soul together. I cannot, Sir, in all conscience, support a Resolution at this point in time, given the context in which it is coming, and given the situation in which it is coming, and given the fact, Sir, that this Government (and I reiterate) has taken a decision obviously that despite it being linked to public servants salaries that it still comes months after the same public servants salaries and the same public servants, Sir, who at the end of the day at the bottom of the ladder, received very little or nothing.

Only just now, Sir, when I left this Chamber, one of the public servants from an essential agency in this country complained of the fact that while those at the top in the regrading exercise and the salaries negotiations received far more than those at the bottom of the police force, those at the bottom in terms of watchmen, in terms of basic clerical officers continue to be deprived of the same benefits. I say, again, that while accepting the principle that parliamentarians should be remunerated properly because it is not an easy job and the fact that you are basically on call almost twenty-four hours a day tells you that it is not an easy job. I accept that, Sir, and I would be the first to tell you that they should be well paid, but I am asking that in the circumstances of the situation where the Government is telling us that things are hard, where the Government through its inability to provide those at the bottom of the ladder with the kind of salaries, the kind of increases in the regrading or through the regrading that they failed to do for those at the bottom, that I have great difficulty in all conscience, Sir, to stand up here and to support this Resolution on the basis of its timing, while accepting the principle of remuneration and proper remuneration for

parliamentarians. I agree with Senator Alleyne to the extent that I hope the time will come when the acrimony which is associated with this will be removed...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am taking a vote. I am not having a debate on this. This is only for a vote. This is not a debate now. The question is those who agree with it. You say you don't agree with it. I am not going to have a debate on this now. I am not a clown. This is not open for this debate now. You are not dealing with a novice. This is not for that kind of debate. It's for a vote.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I do not intend to debate only insofar as to say that I also support the call of Senator Straughn for greater civic education...

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Straughn had her say. I do not mind a new Member having a say. I am not preventing any person from having their say. If all the Members want to say something before they vote they can, but don't think you can turn it into a little rally.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I have no intention of doing that. The temptation to do that outside is far greater.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh yes, outside is all right, but it is not going to be done when I am sitting down here. Maybe when somebody else is sitting down here. You won't have a rally with me.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Nevertheless, Sir, I wish to register my objection and dissent on those grounds, Sir. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I do not normally reply to these resolutions, but I cannot let the comments of the last Senator who spoke pass. The Senator obviously does not understand and over time will learn a few things.

The history of salary negotiations over the years will show that over the past ten years, indeed, over the past five years more so, with agreements reached between the Union and the negotiators for Government that a gap between the top and the bottom of the Civil Service has narrowed substantially. If you went back fifteen years you would understand what we are talking about. So, to say that there are some malcontents who may whisper when one goes outside, that is understandable. There are always people who are disgruntled regardless to whatever they get. Nevertheless, the top of the public service and the bottom have narrowed in a way that is not found in any business activity in Barbados and I challenge anybody to dispute that.

5.55 p.m.

The other matter is this Resolution comes before us at a time when any Government, having won an election, understands that the people have given it a mandate. It is time we understand in this Chamber that the elections have passed. Apparently Honourable Members on the other side do not understand that.

With regard to the comment by Senator Straughn, it may well be there is need for a programme of civic education again for some of the people of Barbados to understand the role of Parliament, of Members of the House of Assembly, the Senate and Ministers of Government. Then there would probably be a greater appreciation of the obvious sacrifices which have to be made by the elected representatives moreso than anybody else of the people of Barbados.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to the Senate dividing as follows:-

AYES: Senators the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS, Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, A. MORRISON, Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH, Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE, A. J. N. PHILLIPS, Mrs. V. C. FRASER, Miss Y. V. WALKES, Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, J. J. PAYNE, M. deL. JORDAN, Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, Mrs. M. WALCOTT, W. L. INNIS, Rev. Canon J. L. SPRINGER, J. G. BELLAMY, J. A. F. COLE - 17.

NOES: Senators Miss M. A. MOTTLEY and T. E. BARKER - 2.

ORDER NO. 4: RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY (SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA) (AIRPORT TO WEST COAST AREA) ORDER, 1991

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, these are relatively two minor Resolutions. There are companions - Resolution No. 4 on the Order Paper and Order No. 5. What they seek to do is to identify an area for the purpose of applying the Land Development Duty against the area. The principle at stake is that once Government moves into an area and develops it, it feels invariably the value of the properties in the surrounding areas is enhanced. To this extent there will be capital gains accruing to the people once they dispose of that property once the development has taken place.

Government feels, as a measure to recapture the infrastructural cost in developing those areas that a capital gains tax should be employed. I should hasten to add it is one of the only few areas in the tax regime system in Barbados where you have a capital gains tax. In other countries and other taxing jurisdictions you tend to find that capital gains

tax is used fairly widely, that is, if you buy a property and sell it you pay a capital gains tax. Here in Barbados we do not do it only in this exceptional case where we designate an area for the purpose of the tax. The Schedule to the Resolution sets out the area so identified.

I would like to bring to the attention of this Chamber this Order has been somewhat long in coming before the Senate. A question was raised in this Chamber in the last session. We were trying to identify the area and trying to get the legal work started as early as 1988. As a Government we are committed, as far as is humanly possible, to so designate these areas before actual work commences so we can get all in the net and people do not benefit unfairly through the tardiness in getting such legislation on the books. This was started as early as 1988 and it took this time in getting here between drafting, identification of areas *et cetera*. We are committed that before we undertake in future any such work to have the areas identified in advance to avoid any speculation.

With those few comments, Mr. Deputy President, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, we on this side fully support the Government in this Resolution. We are aware, as the Minister has said, of the reasons for such a Resolution. We are happy the Minister recognises the Government was tardy in bringing this Resolution. We hope that any time in the future that Government, whichever Government it is, even before the work takes place, as the Minister has said, should designate the area as a development area. We are unhappy that we did not realise the full potential of this Land Development Duty because, as I mentioned before, some large transactions took place before the Order came. We fully support this Resolution and hope the Government would be more businesslike in the future.

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

ORDER NO. 5: RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY (RATE OF DUTY)
ORDER, 1991

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution now sets the rate of duty on the areas identified in Order No 4, the Resolution which just passed this Chamber. The rate of duty is set at 15%.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE TO GERTRUDE HALL OF LAND TOGETHER WITH A BUILDING THEREON SITUATE AT HALLS VILLAGE, ST. JAMES

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution deals with the disposal of Government property, to wit, lands on which there was formerly sited a public bath at Halls Village in the Parish of St. James. With a decision taken several years ago to discontinue the use of public baths, Government was left with a number of properties of this nature.

The lands which are being disposed of were formerly held by an estate with which the present purchaser is connected. Part of the policy decision was that where lands had been obtained from an individual and it was decided to sell them that person or persons related to them would have the benefit of the first refusal. In this instance, Mrs. Gertrude Hall who wishes to purchase the land was one of the beneficiaries of the estate of the former owner from whom the Crown acquired the land at Halls Village. 6.05 p.m.

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

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: The price for the disposal of the land is \$4 000.

I beg to move that the resolution do now pass.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF A PARCEL OF LAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT BREEDY'S LAND, CHRIST CHURCH

Order No. 7 was called – To move the passing of a resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Bredy's Land, Christ Church for housing development.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this resolution relates to the proposal by Government to acquire 5 969 square metres of land from the Estate of Eva Chase, deceased at Walls Tenantry also known as Bredy's Land in Christ Church.

The beneficiaries of the Estate wish to offer the house spots to qualified tenants but in order to do so they would be required, by law, to make certain infrastructural and some relocation should take place. They are however financially unable to carry out this Act.

In order to facilitate the existing tenants, Government proposes to acquire the land so that the existing tenants can be permitted to remain on the lands. In order therefore to carry out the infrastructural works Government proposes to acquire these lands, to improve the facilities and lay-out of the area, to facilitate its proper development and to give the existing tenants who are qualified the option to purchase the house spots which they now occupy.

I beg to move that this resolution be now passed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, that resolution disposes of Government Business for

yesterday and today. I wish to thank all Honourable Senators for the manner in which they have attended the session and persisted and sat through the debates. I also wish to express thanks to the staff of Parliament who have persisted with us during the two days and even the reporters who have been in and out.

I now wish to move that the Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

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

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(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

SENATE

Wednesday, May 15, 1991

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, May 15, 1991, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. Lewis (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator A. Morrison

Senator A. J. N. Phillips

Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. Clarke (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)

Senator Dr. F. W. Alleyne

Senator Miss Y. V. Walkes

Senator Mrs. M. Barker-Welch

Senator J. J. Payne

Senator Mrs. A. Straughn, G.C.M.

Senator Mrs. M. Walcott

Senator W. L. Inniss

Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. Springer

Senator T. E. Barker.

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, I have a Message from the Honourable Governor-General to the Honourable the Senate. The Message is as follows:—

"I shall be away from the Island from the 13th – 27th May, 1991, on a visit to the United States of America and Canada.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 29 (1)(b) of the Constitution, the Chief Justice, the Honourable Sir Denys Williams, GCM, will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during the period of my absence.

As the Honourable The Senate will not be meeting prior to my departure, it will not be possible for the usual formal message to be sent down to your Chamber. Will you therefore please bring my absence formally to the attention of The Honourable The Senate when next it meets.

I have the honour to be,
Yours faithfully,

Nita Barrow
GOVERNOR GENERAL"

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

- 1 The Economic Report, 1990.
2. The 1990 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Barbados.
3. Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A Section 32 to the following:—
 - (1) Trimac Exit Insurance Limited.
 - (2) Beaumark Insurance Company Limited.
 - (3) ABX Insurance Limited.
 - (4) Telstar Resources Insurance Limited.

- (5) London Life and Casualty Reinsurance Corporation.
- (6) DBB Insurance Company Limited.
- (7) Royal National Insurance Company Limited.
- (8) First City Insurance Company Incorporated.
- (9) Colchester Reinsurance Limited.
- (10) Cape Environment Insurance Limited.
- (11) Montbados Insurance Corporation.
- (12) Horsham Insurance Company Incorporated.
4. Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Auditor General's Department for the Financial Year 1989/90.
5. Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the Financial Year 1987.
6. Annual Reports on the Immigration and Passport Department for the Years ended 31st December, 1988 and 31st December, 1989.
7. Thirty-first Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Board of Tourism for the year 1989/90.
8. Twelfth Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement of the National Sports Council for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1990.
9. The Barbados Physical Development Plan, Amended, 1986.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I seek the approval of the Senate and move the suspension of Standing Order No. 45(2) to allow the Senate to deal with a Bill making amendment to the Student Revolving Loan Fund Act, Cap. 54A.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS the following Bill was read a first time:—

A Bill to amend the Student Revolving Loan Fund Act, Cap. 54A.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1: RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FREE HILL, BLACK ROCK, ST. MICHAEL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING THE NEW ST. STEPHEN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Resolution seeks permission for the acquisition of six parcels of land which are described in the Schedule to the Resolution.
11.25 p.m.

The purpose for which the land is being acquired is to permit construction of the new St. Stephen's Primary School. It will be recalled, Mr. President, that over the last few years the Ministry of Housing and Lands has been acquiring parcels of land in order to facilitate the plan of the Ministry of Education under the Second Education and Training Project. These parcels of land are being acquired to enable the merger of existing small schools. Under this programme the Crown therefore seeks to acquire and has in fact acquired since 1987 parcels of land in various parishes St. Michael, St. George, St. Peter, St. Thomas, St. James. In this particular instance the important commodity of land which is required to provide adequate facilities for primary schools is the subject of this Resolution.

I am reminded, Mr. President, that this is part of the education expansion under the World Bank funded programmes. We have the drawings available if Members wish to make themselves acquainted, indeed familiar with the lands which it is proposed should be acquired.

I beg to move that the resolution do now pass.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, we on this side are very glad that at long last the St. Stephen's Primary School is about to be built and we are happy for the people of Black Rock and surrounding areas.

We would want to enquire at this time if and when the school at Turner's Hall and the Hillaby Mixed is going to be built because the people in those areas are crying out for a proper modern facility to which their children can go.

Primary education is very important as it lays the foundation for the well-being of the child. We are glad that we in Barbados can boast of a pretty good primary school system thanks to successive governments.

Sir, we have now reached the stage where all of our primary schools are reasonably well looked after physically. I would now like the Ministry of Education to turn its attention to other important matters relating to primary

education. These include curriculum development, teacher training, transfer to secondary schools – which is a sore point – and the need for remedial work in our primary schools. We have invested, over the years, a lot of money in primary education and I am not totally satisfied that we are getting maximum returns for our investment. I am not happy that a child can go to school six years and when the time comes for the 11+ can hardly score marks above 10%. It is a source of tremendous concern to me. I would not like to say who is to blame because I myself from my limited experience of primary education am very impressed with the dedication and the hard work of the vast majority of primary school teachers.

There is another area of concern and it is that most of the primary school teachers are females. I think that this is a source of worry primarily because a lot of our young boys, because of peculiarities in the family structure in Barbados, come up without knowing the authority and discipline of a male person. It is very unfortunate but it is part of the social reality in our country. When they go to primary schools they find that in the main they are taught by females. I want to compliment the teachers for the work they have done. But still I would like to see a few more male teachers at these primary schools.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Where is the substance that you are dealing with? You are talking teachers. There is nothing in the Act that says that a teacher must be a male or a female. Do not let us waste time today. I am not in the mood for allowing you all to waste time. There is nothing in the Act that says what a teacher should be. A teacher could be a male or female. Let us get down. I am going to bring you all to this order so that you all must debate the matter that is before us. I am not going to permit you all to roam all over the world looking about for substance.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, we would like to advise the Government that when the school is being built – which I am told is in the very near future – special facilities be put in place for handicapped children and children with other disabilities because I do not think many of our schools have been built to accommodate these sorts of children.

Sir, with those words, I would like to support this resolution.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, Sir, there is just one query I wish to raise and it arises out of the introduction made by the Honourable Minister. I seem to recall the Minister talking about the amalgamation of smaller schools. The only query which I wish to raise for the attention of the Minister and Cabinet is the implication of bringing together these smaller schools. I notice the Minister did not indicate what numbers the Ministry has in mind, the optimal size of the school because it raises a concern for me as an educator that as numbers increase they

raise problems for management. That is the only query I wish to raise in support of this resolution. I am raising this query because I am concerned that when schools move beyond a certain number, the management problems for the school increase more than in proportion to the scale in which you are raising it and I would wish the Ministry to bear this in mind.

With those few remarks, Mr. President, I support this resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. ADA STRAUGHN: Mr. President, I rise to support what the immediate former speaker said concerning the numbers which would be put into these buildings. I agree with him wholeheartedly that it poses concern for management because too often, as I have indicated in this very Chamber before, our principals and many of our teachers become managers of buildings rather than management of people. It poses a whole personnel problem. Added to that everything becomes so absolutely impersonal. High technology has to be used for communication purposes and no form of high technology can replace the face to face talk and eye contact that helps with the inter personal relationships and go far into good human relationship skills and practices. The whole situation becomes impersonal and discipline drops.

Again, Mr. President, the catchment areas have got to be of great concern because unless all the systems work together and proper transportation is put in place we will get this talk again which is serious about the lack of punctuality among our students. This is a very, very real problem. The whole thing has got to be looked at very carefully.

In addition to what the speaker prior to the other speaker remarked about the hope that proper facilities will be made, especially from the point of view of the handicapped, again I will refer to a speech made by the Chief Education Officer when he spoke some time ago at a prize giving function and he did mention that special facilities would be in place for the handicapped. But, added to that, Mr. President, we have got to remember that these buildings house human beings and human beings in their formative years and the spread with which many of these buildings ... (and I believe that Members will probably inspect the plans) is of great importance, because a lot of teaching time is lost when teachers have to get from one class room to another and that has that strong implication for the drop of discipline.

11.35 a.m.

With these remarks, Mr. President, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution but I crave your indulgence to make mention of a few related matters

pertaining to the provision of space for schools in the country and I hope, Sir, that the land which is being provided will allow for adequate playing space for the St. Stephen's children, adequate recreational facilities. Also I hope that consideration will be given to having enough land for an agricultural plot. I think we need to get back to this and to take it quite seriously where the young are concerned.

It is not always possible when these buildings are being constructed to provide all the necessary facilities at the same time. So, Sir, I think it is absolutely necessary that there is enough space available for the future, so that when the facilities are being added the place will not become too cramped.

I note, Sir, that there has been from time to time some inconsistency where the provision of facilities on some of our school compounds are concerned. I do not know whether it varied from one administration to the other or within the same administration. But the facts are there: those schools that were built within the last twenty or so years which are relatively new schools, of them I can point to two that affected me as a parent. Firstly, the St. Bartholomew's School, which was put up in the country where there was a lot of space available and yet no playing field was provided; and secondly, a much newer school, the Roebuck Secondary School, now called the Louis Lynch School. It is unfortunate that it was constructed on one small corner of land and it is really, I think, upsetting to see the children cramped together in a small space – standing under a tree – hardly anywhere to play or to have recreation except for a small tennis court, and that is a new school. I think we ought to be reminded that Louis Lynch himself was an athlete, as the stadium stand testifies. So, I have these concerns, Sir, that there is adequate provision of space in every case, and in this case of St. Stephen's, for all these necessary facilities for the physical and the social development of the children on those compounds.

I mentioned the possibility of adding facilities as we go along, Sir, bearing in mind that we might not have spotted what was necessary at the time of construction. I refer to a case where the Westbury School was concerned, where a large building was squeezed into the little available recreational space (and that building was for school meals, Sir) making it more difficult for the children to have their recreation and also blocking the flow of air. Now, while that might have been a necessity in the case of Westbury which had been built so long ago, I do not think, Sir, that we should get caught in that situation. I do not know what the size of the school is. The plans obviously are there and will reveal this, but my plea is that there be enough land around so that either the relevant and appropriate facilities can be provided now or that they can be added.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to make a plea for the treatment of primary school teachers in at least as fair a way

as the teachers of secondary schools. For the most part secondary schools are provided with all kinds of facilities, staff rooms and so on. For the most part primary schools are without these things – lunch rooms and so on. So the provision of space must also take into account the provision of certain necessary facilities so that the teachers in schools like St. Stephen's will not feel deprived in any way. There is no reason why you should provide acres and acres and labs and labs and all kinds of rooms for, for example the new Queen's College and then to be building a primary school and not have adequate space around it. When we do this we crave the annoyance of many of the people in the society. So, my plea is for primary teachers and schools to be treated fairly in terms of adequate space, also for the possibility of adding appropriate facilities later to bring us up to date for the twenty-first century and also to allow for the physical and social development of the children on the elementary school compound. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we have heard and taken note of the several comments and concerns expressed. I will respond to one question and it has to do with another school. The question of schools and the merger of schools, Hillaby and Turner's Hall, has been receiving the attention of the Ministry of Education for some time and a decision has been taken to construct a single school at Farmers to cope with the amalgamation of these two schools. There are some very young persons attending the Turner's Hall school whom it might be very difficult to send to Farmers and therefore it is proposed to allow the existing schools at Hillaby and Turner's Hall to remain open and to be phased out rather than that they be closed at the time when the Farmers school which will replace them comes on stream.

The Ministry, I can give an assurance, is taking into consideration the question of the numbers which was raised by Senator Dr. Alleyne. The Ministry is concerned and is ensuring that the merger of schools does not provide too large a number of pupils at any single school, and indeed in the case of the St. Stephen's Schools, one of them was almost going empty. So, the question of pressure of numbers will not arise when the amalgamation takes place.

On the question of the availability of land for other facilities, the lands being acquired at Free Hill originally would have been inadequate and additional land is being acquired to ensure that the questions posed by Senator Springer will not create a problem and that there will be adequate facilities for recreational purposes as well as for the potential for agricultural usage.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MANGROVE
POND, SAINT THOMAS FOR THE
PURPOSE OF LANDFILLING
OPERATIONS**

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Mangrove Pond, Saint Thomas for the purpose of landfilling operations.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the purpose of this Resolution is to permit the Crown in its right of Government to acquire some 14.170 hectares of land at Mangrove Pond in the parish of Saint Thomas for the purpose of existing landfilling operations and for extending those landfilling operations.

The present landfill at Mangrove Pond which covers some 13 acres or 5.7618 hectares has been in existence since 1986. It has now reached the stage where there is so much pressure that it is necessary to find an alternative location. Various sites on the Island have been examined. It was determined that in terms of seepage into water resources in the Island that it appeared wiser to extend the existing landfill at Mangrove Pond. Hence, the Government has taken a decision after consultation with the owners rather than to extend the existing lease to acquire not only the lands which are presently leased but also the adjoining lands which cover an area of a further 18 acres. So that the total area to be acquired amounts to approximately 31 acres.

The land is the property of DaCosta's Limited. It is abutting and bounding on lands of Bennetts Plantation and Vauclose on a road which leads to Vauclose factory and onto Highway 2A in another direction.

I do not believe, Mr. President, given the commitment of Government to try and provide adequate facilities in relation to the private sector dumping of garbage and Government's own collections through the Sanitation Services Authority, that there can be other than support for this measure.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I have to disagree with this Resolution and I am not going to support this Resolution for one basic reason. The reason is that we know that it is a fundamental right for a person to enjoy the use of his land and nobody must do anything which is going to interfere with that right. Now this landfill at Mangrove Pond has been the subject of much controversy and it is a source of constant worry to the people living in Arch Hall and the surrounding areas.

We recognize, Sir, that almost every country in the world uses this method of disposal of solid waste. We know that historically we have used this method. All over the Island there were places where landfill operations took place. But Sir, we have a situation where the operation of 13 acres of landfill at Mangrove has caused constant and dangerous worry to the people in the surrounding areas. What we are faced with now, Sir, is a Resolution which seeks to expand the landfill and we hear nothing about Government's concern for the plight of the people in the affected areas.

Sir, I believe that Government....

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Sir, on a point of order. The Member must not get up in this Chamber and say things which are blatantly untrue. It is my understanding that the Minister of Health gave a clear and emphatic explanation and a declaration of the Ministry of Health's position in relation to landfills which seem to have received acceptance of the Other Chamber. To say that Government has not done it is not true.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, this landfill has been a constant source of worry since 1988. It was opened in September 1986 and by 1988 the people in Arch Hall were complaining about the smell that came down from on top of the hill, because this landfill is on a hill and the smell comes down and it has affected the people of Arch Hall since 1988, some three years ago. Up until now, the people have still not got relief from the nuisance that has been caused by the landfill. I do not know about Government's concern because Government's concern in my view should be to do whatever is possible to alleviate the discomfort of the people. What we are hearing now is that the Government is expanding without seeking to implement measures to alleviate the discomfort of the people. What is more, Sir, we are told that the Minister of Health has two acres of land in the same area on which it has been admitted that they have dumped raw sewerage. The result is, Sir, that on some occasions the sewerage has filtered and reached as far as areas close to the St. Thomas Church. That, Sir, is a matter of record. So I am glad that Government is concerned. Now I would like the concern to be translated into positive action to alleviate the sufferings.

As I have said, Government should be setting the example of how citizens should live one with another and for Government to set up an operation which is causing these sorts of problems is not setting a good example to the rest of the community. Sir, a man can set up a farm in a neighbourhood and he can affect the lives of the other people. He can say well if Government can do it why cannot I. If the law is to apply to the private citizen, then Government must set the tone for proper neighbourly relations.

Sir, there is a reason why I strongly sympathize with the people of Arch Hall and that is because I, Sir, have been subject to the same sort of nuisance because where I originally came from and where my family and families of other Members in this Chamber still reside....

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think the debate should be lifted higher than at the personal level. We are debating in an Assembly and not in a village. I would really like you all to raise these debates above a village debate. Something that affects me, therefore, I am going to debate it. If it does not affect me, well it does not matter. This is an Assembly of a country not a village. Let us get a little wider. Expand. I do not mind discussing the subject but get a little wider so that we can get the dimensions that you are dealing with. I get a little confused about the issues especially dealing with chickens, fowls, and these kinds of things. I have been dealing with those things from the time I was a boy. I had to go and catch chickens under the cellar and to see if they are going to lay and things like that. I had to do those things when I was a boy and I grew up with them. So I understand them very well. I know what it is. I am not an alien to these things. From the community point of view, what are the problems that the community is suffering from?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was drawing my own example of the nuisance which has been caused by a corporate neighbour setting up an operation. I am aware, Sir, that it has devalued the property of not only my family but other families in the area. I am extremely concerned that the same thing will happen in the Arch Hall and other districts.

11.55 a.m.

It is the people's right to dispose of their land, but obviously with the difficulties they are having the value of their properties will decline as the value of those of the people in Green Hill and Mahaica Gap have declined because of the operation of the Rayside Concrete Works in Green Hill. We in this Chamber must take note of this fact.

Government must have some land on which to dump solid waste. We know that. We hear the Minister saying that the cost of the alternative, that is, an incinerator, is \$60 to \$80 million. I am not sure of that figure, but I will have to accept his word. The cost of the alternative. Between \$60 million and \$80 million is not a sum to be laughed at or to be taken lightly, because it is an enormous sum. We on this side are not saying that Government should not have a landfill, but we are saying that the legitimate concerns of the residents must be taken into consideration.

I would have preferred if Government had sought to institute measures to make the present landfill more sanitary. When that is done and when they have convinced the people in Arch Hall that they have solved the problem up on the hill, and there was no alternative site to be found, then we could agree with them expanding the landfill. They

have 13 acres and because of the lack of proper management they have allowed all sorts of things to grow up in that area, because the area is secluded and as a result all types of waste are put on the site and cause all sorts of problems. All I am saying is, why expand to 31 acres when you have not proved yourself able to manage 13? Government should institute proper measures first to deal with the existing landfill.

I am told that the problem is not with the landfill itself, except that, as I mentioned before, it is built on a hill, which could cause problems, but the major problem is that the managers have not been shown to be doing what they should be doing to keep down the smells, and secondly, the indiscriminate dumping by private persons is causing problems. I know the area pretty well, because I live very close to it. You only have to man two entrances, basically, one on Highway 2A and the other one by Vacluse. If Watchmen were put there – it is going to cost money, but I believe that the health of the people of Arch Hall must be taken into consideration – although it is going to cost money to effectively police that landfill, since it is to the benefit of the people further on, it would be worth it. In my view, it would be money well spent, but I do not think that we as a Chamber should allow Government to trample on the rights of these people, whose only misfortune is that they live in that area. They are law abiding citizens, like anybody else. For them to suffer for the past three years without any alleviation of the problem, and for us now to put further problems on them, more than they are able to bear, in my view would be wrong.

I would urge Members of the Senate to vote against the Resolution at this time to tell Government to solve the problems first and when they have solved the problems then they can come with this Resolution and we will give it our support. We should not allow them to build upon the misery suffered by the people in those areas. Therefore, I am not going to vote for this Resolution and I urge Members of the Senate to join me on this occasion.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution. The last speaker confuses me a bit, because I do not understand his argument. In the first instance he seemed to me to be very much against the landfill in itself being in St. Thomas, as he was very concerned about the....

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Sir. I never said I was against the landfill being in St. Thomas, I mentioned a particular area, Mangrove Pond, where there are problems. I said that the Government must solve the problems there before expanding the landfill.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I am not going to run down that point, because I know that he made it in the first instance. I think that what happened was

that he recovered himself later on and talked about the indiscriminate dumping and also the bad management.

I can agree with him that management of the landfill is very necessary, because that in itself has nothing to do with the Minister. The Sanitation Service should properly manage an area like that. I am also saying that to my mind this problem is a problem we have to solve in this country, and never mind which area or which party you belong to, or what Government or Opposition, it is something we have to deal with together. I am sure that this present Government is as concerned as the Honourable Senator might want us to believe that he is concerned about the areas of dumping.

Let me just say that I was a bit concerned that he thought Government was not trying to find solutions and that they should wait until they had been able to manage that area before they brought this Resolution. I am wondering if the Honourable Member wants people to dump anywhere in this country. Without finding an area allocated for dumping, where would the people in this country dump their garbage? I am saying that we have to look in terms of the security of our environment, and if there is an outbreak of cholera or anything like that all of us would be in it. Also, we would suffer socially and economically and our tourism would suffer, so if we do not come up with something to alleviate the problem, what are we saying?

I understand that the Democratic Labour Party is very concerned and we are looking for areas to solve the problem. As I understand it, we are trying to address the problem of poultry, animal waste and fish remains that cause smoke and stench at the moment. In the last seven or eight years the poultry industry has skyrocketed, also fish has gone up and animal slaughter. This means that there is a vast amount of waste. A proposal has been put forward to the EEC for an abattoir, which includes a rendering plant. I want to make this specifically clear, because the speaker seemed to me to be giving the impression that the Government of the day is not trying to find any solutions.
12.05 p.m.

I want to say that we have always tried to find solutions to problems, especially a problem like this. I can't understand how it can be seen that we are just sitting on it. This rendering plant is supposed to use the animal remains, the poultry and the fish and convert it into animal feed and tallow, which would make a viable industry. If we were looking at some of the plans made by Super Poultry Farm. I remember, I think, it was last year, or in late 1989, the Super Poultry Farm in St. Lucy also made a proposal that they were very keen on getting a small rendering plant to utilise the kind of waste and to make it into animal feed. I wanted just to clear up that area and to say that I am sure that the Government is as concerned as the Opposition in

this regard and that we have to ensure that when we are trying to find new areas, we can also find solutions to the old areas that we have. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. President, considering the amount of garbage that is collected in Barbados every day, which I think is in the region of 250 tons. No doubt this is due to the very large population we have in this country and the sophisticated lifestyle that we have. Sometimes we go to the supermarket and we get one package and that package is presented in three different wrappers. Then, there are the many hotels. There is no question about it. There is a lot of waste thrown out of our homes and other establishments everywhere. So, the proper disposal of all of this waste must pose a big problem. This problem will be compounded by the fact that there is a limited land area in this country and there is a very limited choice of suitable dumping sites. However, it would seem that these situations might bring on a crisis sometime soon if nothing is done about it. This crisis might be nearby. It might be on our doorstep.

However, I feel, Mr. President, that the time has come when the public awareness of the situation should be sharpened in order that they, too, can play their part in safeguarding our environment from possible dangers. In all our concerns for the environment... Everybody keeps talking about the three R's, but we don't see much action taken in this respect. We can do it in simple ways such as reducing the excessive use of items which will be eventually thrown away, like the same plastic bags and we could reuse some, if not all, of the many bottles, plastic bags and containers that pass through our hands every day.

Many people already employ these tactics and other economising and protective methods, but for there to be a positive effect in the community, it is something that everybody would have to put their hand to and make a contribution. So, what is needed, I think, at this point, is the launching of a campaign advising the community how to reduce and to re-use so that we could lessen the garbage load. This campaign would be designed to educate people as to how they might make their contribution towards a safe environment. Indeed, it is a matter that concerns us all, each and every one of us.

As for recycling, Mr. President, I was very pleased to hear recently of two young entrepreneurs who are using their efforts to recycle old newspapers to make animal beds. There is also a researcher, an ingenious and dedicated fellow, who is working on garbage to use it for landfills in the agricultural lands which tend to be very undulating and these would be used to level those fields and make it much easier for the agricultural implements to operate effectively on those fields.

There is a whole range of possible recycling projects. Senator Walkes mentioned some, and there are others that

range from compost making to electricity as well as plastic calling cards. Admittedly, planning and investment of a high scale will have to be called for in relation to recycling, but something can be done. I submit that we need, in fact it is our duty, to safeguard and protect the environment for our children and children's children and generations to come. A start should be made at this point to enlighten the public as to what could happen and how to avoid and avert any possible dangers that could affect our health, our beaches and coastal areas, our economy, and they should be advised how they can help and contribute and participate in any such campaign.

An aggressive publicity campaign, I feel, is what is needed. One, that in the final analysis will show that garbage can be a resource and need not only be a problem.

Mr. President, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, when it comes to the collection and disposal of garbage you are always bound to hear a hue and a cry. When it comes to the location, this has been going on for years concerning the site we choose to dispose of garbage. Other parishes have had to put up with certain discomforts over the years, but we believe that once they are well managed, these garbage sites can be a pleasant situation eventually, no matter where they are located. There have been landfill operations done after the site has been closed and some are actually in use today. It is a question of management having it well supervised and that people do not come and dump with their trucks all kinds of matter which tend to become very obnoxious to people in the surrounding areas.

I do not understand Senator Barker's concern about St. Thomas, because if there is one sensible thing the Labour Party ever did, it was that they chose that site on their own initiative and it has proven to be a very good site under the circumstances. I don't think they could have chosen a better site. Christ Church has had Kingsland, Power Quarry, which are now saturated. When they went to St. George, Workmans site, there was a hue and a cry. I think it is now settling down. People are now fairly comfortable. Once these things are well managed, Sir. The Labour Party has been looking around for sites before the 1986 General Election and with good intentions and with goodwill, they came up with the site in St. Thomas. I don't know if you are aware of that.

We are only trying now to perfect that site, (it having been chosen by the Labour Party) to make it a very good site and make it very habitable for the people who now live in the close environs in that area. It is true that people are in the down wind from that site but we would hope to manage it in such a way as to provide the correct management and the correct team that will reduce the kind of bother about which they might be concerned. However, we all admit that it has to be put somewhere. St. Lucy has had it. St. Peter

has had it. Christ Church has had it. St. Philip has had it. We have only reached now the centre of the Island in St. Thomas. There should not be any question about that. 12.15 p.m.

There were times in Barbados before we had the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board when people used to dispose of their own garbage in a very efficient manner. People would take out the things that would help with compost and then get rid of the things that were disposable. People used to raise their vegetable gardens off the same garbage by putting the things that were perishable in the compost hole, wetting it and eventually getting good manure. Since we have moved on with modern things, all of that stuff is now being wasted. People put everything in paper bags for the Sanitation workers to take away. As a result, we are losing some very valuable manure in the process.

I am glad that Senator Walcott has mentioned some very modern ways in which it might be on stream to help dispose of garbage and help to rescue some of that stuff from being lost to our gardens by way of fertilisation. I do not think you can really quarrel with the Government for having chosen St. Thomas as a site right now. We will continue to look for sites. When that is saturated we will have to keep on looking. Today it is at my doorstep, tomorrow it will be at somebody else's doorstep. But it is something that has to happen. We cannot become too small-minded because the dump site happens to be in our location. As we go around eventually every parish will get a piece of the dump.

I commend Government in trying to provide the kind of management team in place that would reduce the stench and odours so that when we get a fill of garbage we would be able to get people to roll it, pack it and as you go along put in dirt. If we do it that way it would reduce all the kind of unholy stench which people will complain about. Eventually when you get to the top of that then you would have proper land use. You can put it back into land after a number of years have passed and it could become real house spots in the meantime. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, there are just one or two observations I wish to make on this acquisition and the implications it raises. Acquisitions of this type usually give the opportunity for parochial concerns to surface because in Barbados nobody wishes to live close by to what we call a garbage dump. It is in that context I understand the concerns of Senator Barker. However, I think we have to rise above these parochial concerns, recognise that as we move into the 21st Century, as we plan to develop Barbados for all of us, that planning has to take environmental concerns as a very serious matter.

If you look at Barbados in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's, I do not think we have paid enough attention to

environmental concerns for planning. That is why today as you walk along the seacoast you see some beaches have disappeared. Some hotels were set up in Barbados and raw sewage was disposed into the sea. I think we are gradually moving out of that phase more and more. As we plan to develop the country the environment is being taken more and more as a concern to all of us.

As I think of the issues which this matter raises, particularly planning for environmental development, the country has to be concerned about the value of life and health. These are two of the major matters which have to be addressed when we turn attention to the matter of the environment. The issue really is not who should have a piece of the cost of bad environmental management. There are costs and benefits attached to any exercise of this nature. What we have to do as a country is to make sure that we minimise the costs. There are going to be costs.

If you look at the United States you would see how indiscriminate dumping of dangerous wastes has led to the proliferation of certain types of diseases. Those of us who watch CNN would notice residential areas which were developed on dumps where they disposed of toxic wastes and how it led to certain diseases in children who grew up in those areas.

Mr. President, in a very offhand way Senator Barker focussed on some of the costs associated with indiscriminate solid waste management. The cost is borne by the entire country to the extent that we do not minimise those costs because more and more Barbados is depending on tourism. I certainly would want to believe that this acquisition is going to lead to a more efficient management of solid waste. The solid waste has to be disposed of in Barbados. What one would wish to see... I am not knocking Senator Barker for his parochial concerns. I would wish from the point of view of Barbados to note that we bring to bear upon this landfill the most efficient methods of managing waste disposal.

I am aware that in Barbados there are some persons and I refer to businesses, who dump waste indiscriminately. I have had to deal with a situation like this in Charnocks where there were some operators who would play cat and mouse on the people who were assigned to manage the site. As soon as the watchmen or security men were not there, they would go and dump raw sewage. I believe the full force of the law has to be brought to bear on these people and those who collaborate with them.

I do not believe that the Government is so callous as to acquire a landfill and use it in such a way as to penalise a particular community because in penalising that community you are penalising all Barbados. It is because I recognise that I reject completely the arguments advanced by Senator Barker. To say that you have to stand still because, in Senator Barker's view, you have not been able to effect

efficient management of what you are doing now until you can improve your management, is to say that Barbados has to remain in the 20th Century while other countries prepare for the 21st Century. I am not going to accept that, never mind I accept some of his concerns which I think any reasonable person would accept. Nobody should be asked to live with foul odours which emanate from any landfill site.

12.25 p.m.

In supporting the Resolution I would hope that the Ministry of Health would ensure that not only the most efficient means are employed to manage the site but that the most diligent persons are put in positions to manage the site and to supervise those who have to work with this site. I think it is important for Barbados at this time and for Barbados in the future.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, before we take the next matter I would like to move that the Senate approve the appointment of Senator Joseph Payne to act as Deputy President for the rest of today's sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

STUDENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991

Order No. 4 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled the Student Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1991.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, the Student Revolving Loan Fund was established to assist needy students in approved courses especially in those areas which were considered necessary for the overall enhancement and development of this country. The programme was designed to benefit any citizen from Barbados 18 years of age or older but under 35 years unless those citizens over 35 years received the special approval of the Minister. The beneficiaries must be enrolled or propose to be enrolled in an educational institution and must promise to pursue a full-time course of study; such course of studies must be approved by the committee.

The current status of this Fund at 31st March, 1991 reflects that there is a sum of \$679 543.37 outstanding at this point. I will repeat that \$679 543.37. These are the accounts that are past due at this point in time. Past due accounts total \$679 543.37. In accordance with the aging of these past due accounts – aging is how long they have been outstanding over time, the loans outstanding one to five

months – there are 141 loans outstanding and these account for \$60 734.94; loans outstanding six months or over total 79 totalling \$152 958.58; 22 loans have been cancelled and or called and these total \$465 849.85. Total loans past due 242 totalling for a sum of \$679 543.37. The amount of loans circulated or in other words the size of the portfolio so far is \$18 995 484.34.

It is quite clear from these figures that the fund which was set up as a revolving fund because of these delinquencies has ceased to revolve. If the initial purpose of the fund, that is, to assist these students in the pursuit of those courses which were considered necessary for the enhancement and the development of the economy, if these objectives are to be achieved and if additional students are to benefit it became necessary for this Government to seek additional sources of funding to ensure that some motion was continued within the fund. As we seek funds there are always conditions necessary to ensure that the programme achieves what it is established to achieve. As a consequence in entering into an arrangement with the Inter-American Development Bank it was agreed amongst other things that the existing legislation should be amended in order to draw down on these funds. The areas affected really to amend the changes that are being sought here are as follows:

- (1) to change the rate of interest on a loan from a maximum of 12 percent per annum to a rate not exceeding the prevailing prime rate charged by commercial banks in Barbados; as certified from time to time by the Central Bank of Barbados."

And the reason for that is that if we want commercial banks to take part in this we must set a rate that will induce commercial banks to lend because if the rate is below that of the prevailing prime rate at which commercial banks are lending then of course the banks will not participate.

In addition Government was required to pay into the Fund all amounts overdue by 182 days or more from the date on which such amounts become due and payable. The amendment before us will remove this restriction calling upon Government to make a contribution to the Fund within that period.

Let us get back to the heart of the matter. This is a Fund that is set up and people have benefited from it. I do believe rather strongly that people who have benefited have a commitment to make good. I believe the time has come... If we want to ensure that this facility remains in place as a viable programme for the future development of this country, then consideration will have to be given to seeking ways and means of recovering from those people who are delinquent. I believe that areas that need to be looked at are:

- (1) people who have benefited from the programme and who are now past due – this is one consideration – should as a condition for

employment in the public service be required to make good the loans outstanding or be called upon to enter into some arrangement to make good the arrears;

- (2) those people who are currently working could be called upon either to have their wages and salaries garnished or failing that they could be called upon or forced into an arrangement whereby they should make good the arrears.

It seems to me that people who enter into a written or oral contract to borrow money when they know full well that these funds would be used to support other needy students and then once they have completed their education they turn their backs on it, it just seems to me it is not fair, it is not right, it is not just and that some effort would have to be made to make these people who are delinquent accept their full responsibility.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that this Bill be read a second time. Honourable Members in favour please say aye, those against please say no. Go ahead.
12.35 p.m.

SENATOR W. L. INNISS: Mr. President I rise to speak on this particular matter because I am quite concerned at the lack of social conscience of some of our citizens that they can come forward as students and receive money from a fund which is supposed to be revolving and by their own action they prevent that fund from revolving any further.

I have been quite appalled at the sum mentioned by the Minister but Government itself must take part of the blame for this state of affairs, because this money should not be left out in the market place for such a long time without something being done about it.

I have certain knowledge (and by certain here I mean sure, not some kind of knowledge) of some 17 persons who have been threatened with action in connection with this fund and I believe that they recognise that the person who made the threat, having been given instructions on behalf of the Fund, was serious. Of those 17 persons, some 15 persons have responded and have either paid money or made sensible arrangements to pay that money. If 17 persons or if 15 out of 17 could recognise that there is a time when nonsense must come to an end and start to do what is to be done I believe that if those responsible for administering the Fund should become serious about it the other 17 out there will take life far more seriously.

There is no protection against these defaulters in terms of being sued in the law courts. The law courts are there

and people have to be firm. I would be the last to expect that any young person just out of university should be prosecuted simply because he is too poor to pay his debts immediately. But it is known there is a grace period, because you are not called upon to pay money to the fund out of your first pay cheque and generally people who borrow this money have received university education, they are professionals, they have university degrees and it is common knowledge that the acquisition of a university or professional qualification in this country, like in many other countries, gives one a reasonable salary on which to live and therefore they should not be allowed to prevent the poor children of poor peasants of this country from receiving money for further education.

I would believe that instead of sitting back as has been done in some other Government departments and allowing people to run away with these moneys with impunity, serious effort should now be made to have them dealt with. Very often there is no need to go to any law courts; people recognise when you will do it if you have to do it and they will come to their senses.

If any one should see some of the names that appear on this defaulter's list (and when I say this list I am referring to, it is the defaulter's list of the Students Revolving Loan Fund) he would be surprised to see some of those who are making a name for themselves in this country, do not wish some other poor children of this country to make a name for themselves by benefiting from this now non-revolving fund.

Another area in which people have to be very careful, is when you are given this loan, one has to be careful that one does not ask for a guarantor just for the sake of asking for a guarantor. The guarantor should be a person of some substance; not so rigid that people who do not have strong connections cannot get a guarantor, but a guarantor should have something against which action can be taken. Because you have guarantors sometimes and when you look towards the guarantor, the guarantor has nothing beside his head, and as someone else is saying, his belly. There is nothing which one could use to force the guarantor to take the responsibilities which he should take if the principal debtor refused to take his rightful place.

As I said, it is not an impossible task to collect this money. One only needs the will and one has to put in place what has to be done.

While I am speaking on this matter, Mr. President, I believe that a little more attention should be made to publicise the nature of this fund, because I know it is believed in many quarters that it is for university training only. We do need to let people in para professions and people in certain technological areas be aware that they can come and let those who are really needy benefit from the Fund while pressure is put on those who have benefited and

have now made their own positions more comfortable to come forward and if their social conscience is dead, well then, we should know how to resurrect it by other means.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, we on this side want to add a strong voice in support of the Student Revolving Loan Fund. We feel that it is anti-social behavior for a person to borrow money from the Fund and then having received their education ignore their responsibility to the Fund. I would like, Sir, the same thing that has been done with National Insurance ... And I am sure Senator Alleyne will agree with me, that the same thing that was done with the National Insurance be done with this Fund. Let us, a Sunday morning read out some names of people who owe money to the Fund, because, Sir, a lot of us in here would have been glad for some provision like this in years gone by in order to help us with our education. It is not a matter to be taken lightly. We must add our voice to those going on before that the Fund must be respected and that commitments to the Fund be honoured and I will repeat what I said, I would not mind a Sunday morning waking up and seeing some names in the paper of those persons who are in a position to repay their commitment.

Sir, we must at all times recognise certain things, but there are lots of people who are in a position to, but who have reneged on their responsibilities.

Sir, the Bill has our support. We have no real problems in it. We want Government to maintain and strengthen and expand the Student Revolving Loan Fund. It is vital, because, Sir, even although education is free in Barbados at all levels, the students still have to look for a lot of money for books and for living expenses in order to maintain themselves while they are at university, whether here or overseas. So, there is going to be a constant call on the resources of the Fund and I am suggesting, Sir, in spite of the fact that there are these outstanding loans, that Government find ways of using, maybe some of the money from the Training Levy or some of the money from the Employment Levy which is \$26 million. Some of that money could be put into the Revolving Fund and make sure that it is properly managed in order to make sure that there is a pool of money available for those persons who would wish to benefit from this Student Revolving Loan Fund.

Sir, the last speaker made an important point about the publicity of the Fund because there are people who would like to go to the Community College or the Polytechnic in order to do a short course but because of financial considerations are unable to do a full time course. A lot of them, Sir, are unaware that the Fund could meet their need. So, I would agree with the point made, (Of course when we get the money in first) that we need to tell the people of the country that they can borrow from this resource in order to further education.

Now, Sir, the guarantor. We heard the former speaker mention about the responsibility of the guarantor, but we have to be a little bit careful here. Sir, while the guarantor has a legal obligation, you can imagine a situation where a parent signs his name to a loan and the fellow goes overseas and for one reason or another does not come back or he comes back and freaks out. We have to be very careful, because the only property which the person might have is his house and he may have other children to look after. We have to be a little bit careful on the position of the guarantor. While they have a legal responsibility, we have to take other considerations especially since their son might be 23 or 24 years or some age up there. It is debatable, Sir, whether or not....
12.45 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should look after him.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am not saying that you should look after him. I am saying that we can give consideration in probably making more generous terms or something in order to meet that contingency.

Sir, I will repeat that we want to see Government seeking funds from some source to strengthen and expand the Student Revolving Loan Fund because, Sir, there is an urgent need especially for children of the working class and lower middle class whom it was supposed to benefit in the first place. There is an urgent need for resources to be there for their use. Sir, I am convinced that a lot of the people have refused to pay. I am sure Senator Inniss has allowed them....

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Well, he said that he saw the names. Sorry.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. No names have been mentioned in here and I do not think that it is fair to speculate on names.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Be that as it may, I am sure my name is not there. Anyhow, Sir, with those words, I want to give my full weight to the scheme and to ask Government to do all in their power to make sure that the scheme is restored to financial health and viability. Thank you.

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

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR J. J. PAYNE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR Mr. PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE OF LAND AT WORKHALL, SAINT PHILIP TO WHITNEY BARTON TO BE USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the sale of land at Workhall, Saint Philip to Whitney Barton to be used for residential purposes.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution deals with the disposal of a parcel of land at Workhall in St. Philip. The Resolution seeks approval to dispose of this Government owned property of some 220 square metres of land on which there is a disused public convenience and Mr. Whitney Barton has offered to purchase the site for \$12 000.

In 1984, a policy decision was taken to close the public conveniences throughout the Island and subsequently a decision was taken to dispose of the properties by way of sale or lease. In this particular instance, the offer of Mr. Barton was accepted in preference to others because he was the former owner of the land. The policy is that where land on which these conveniences were housed is being disposed of the former owners would be given the first preference or first opportunity to refuse. Under the circumstances, the Resolution seeks to place the land back in the hands of Mr. Barton.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, this is the second time that a Resolution came to us of this nature. While we understand Government's policy, yet still we wonder if these baths should not be given back to the community which have used them for at least thirty or forty years. Sir, I say that because in many of our communities there is a lack of space for youth groups and other groups to congregate and to engage in meaningful work. I know, Sir, that in Blades Hill the St. Mark's Girl Scouts Association for the past couple of years has been seeking permission to use the bath that was at Blades Hill.

Sir, I would ask the Minister if there is a legitimate group that could make good use of the facilities in the long run if it would not benefit the Island to allow the youth groups to use them. I know they are small but they can be used. I know, Sir, that under the previous Administration a few baths were renovated, expanded, and used by the community for community purposes. I think there is one in Bayville and there is one somewhere in town, maybe Westbury Road, which has been so used.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am making a general point that where a group in the community can make good use of the bath that Government should facilitate them. That is all I am saying. I do not know about this particular bath. I am not interested in that. I am making a general point that if a legitimate group in the community is desirous of using the bath for congregating and other purposes....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, that is not a point that you are making in the Resolution. I am not going through that. The Resolution is before the Senate for the sale of this land to someone else. Don't say that you want to give the land to somebody else. That is not the point. We must stop these little children methods up here. We are debating the matter. If you think that is a point in your head you are making, the Chairman does not consider you are making any point, because we are not giving away land or anything like that, we are debating the question of how we are going to utilise this land.
12.55 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was just responding to the Minister who enunciated Government's policy and I am saying there is an alternative policy that could be considered.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, if your future is giving away the land,....

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I never talked about giving it away, I talked about letting the land be used by the community which it has served.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is giving it away. The taxpayers have to pay taxes, you know.

SENATOR M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. President, I would like to correct the Honourable Member. The Government already has that stated policy of turning over the baths, where it is suitable, for use as community centres. There is one, in the constituency which I had the privilege of representing, at Branchbury, St. Joseph. The one at Lammings is being done and at several other places in the country this has already gone on. He was saying we should do it. I want to correct that by saying that we have already done it and wherever it is possible, wherever it is convenient – because in some instances it is not convenient – this Government has already done so.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I thank the Honourable Senator for enunciating Government's policy to me, but I was only reacting to what the Minister was saying. If the Minister is not acquainted with Government's policy I cannot be blamed for that.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Could I, Mr. President, in winding up just respond and say that this is not the first occasion, as the Honourable Member said, and he was present when this very policy was enunciated, but it seems to me that there is a habit to say things which it is believed will capture the Press' attention. I really do not see any need, every time we get up with these simple measures, to go way down the road and say the whole hog, but if that is desired....

I beg to move that the Resolution be now passed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I don't think the Honourable Member should bring the Press into our debates. They are not included in our debates, so don't inject them into the debates.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we have disposed of all the matters on today's Order Paper. I beg to move that the Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

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

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