
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

SENATE

Wednesday, July 15, 1992

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, July 15, 1992, at 11.15 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 Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment);

Senator Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH;

Senator J. J. PAYNE;

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

Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT, S.C.M.;

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.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. Report of the West Indian Commission
2. A Synopsis of the Report and the Overview of the Report of the West Indian Commission
3. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1990
4. The Rate of Interest (Revocation) Order, 1992
5. The Health Services (Hospital Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 1992.

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

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 45(2) for the duration of today's sitting to enable us to deal with 2 Bills which are before us.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, SENATOR J. J. PAYNE was appointed to act as Deputy President for the remainder of the sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

1. *The Student Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1992*
2. *The Companies Stabilisation Tax Bill, 1992.*

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING BY GOVERNMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF BARBADOS DOLLARS EQUIVALENT TO US\$21 200 000 TO ASSIST IN THE FINANCING OF THE SECOND ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to begin by making reference to the large network of roads which is in this country, some 1 050 kilometres of network of roads, which have to be maintained and upgraded from time to time. In this regard Government has been constantly seeking funds in order to maintain this very large network of roads. As a matter of fact, Barbados has one of the largest networks of roads per square kilometre anywhere in the world. It becomes increasingly difficult for Governments to maintain that kind of network. It was because of that in 1984 the last administration approached the World Bank and was given assistance in the sum of U.S. \$11 million in order to finance the first Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project. The total cost of that Project was \$19.8 million. As a result of that first loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Government was able to carry out a series of works including major road works.

The Government was able to upgrade the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation in making it better able to cope with the workload as regards road maintenance and rehabilitation. There was also an input in that loan where we had safety projects on the road. There was also an input where we were able to look at materials and given equipment so the Ministry was better able to fulfil its role as the caretaker of all roads.

This second Road Development Project which has just been approved by the World Bank on June 23, 1992, is also seeking to carry on the work which we started in that first road project. This loan is for U.S. \$21.2 million to assist with the financing of this second Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project.

11.25 a.m.

Sir, the overall objectives of the second project which we are now discussing will enable Government to preserve the capital base of the present road infrastructure; also to improve our road maintenance planning and practices, reducing investment cost related to its road network; also improving road safety and transferring the provision of passenger transport services to the private sector. It is in about 3 or 4 parts. Part A is the investment programme. We are hoping to rehabilitate and improve two sections of Highway 6, that is, Collymore Rock to Villa Road and Searles to Six Roads in Christ Church. The estimated cost is US\$2.4 million. There is also a road safety programme

consisting of the improvement of the following 5 road intersections: Rendezvous to Highway 7, Codrington to Cave Hill, Pine East West Boulevard, Pine North South junction, also Thornbury Hill to Highway 7, Rendezvous Golf Club Road which has an estimated cost for those 5 junctions of US\$2.076 million.

There is a resurfacing programme in which we hope to raise the standards of certain roads and to prevent further deterioration of approximately 160 kilometres of selected roads. These roads will be divided into 4 packages and we hope to facilitate the execution of these roads over a 5-year planning period. There are a number of roads which have to be done. I just mentioned a few. The list can be available to members. In the first year we hope to do St. Lawrence Gap to Bresmay, Spring Garden, Batts Rock, Paynes Bay, Holetown, Gibbes, Highway 7 Oistin as well as Stuart Hill, St. John and College Plantation, Graeme Hall Highway 7. Those are a number of the roads which have to be done in the first year. It has been phased in 4 different sections. The list – in very fine print – could be made available to members if they so desire. Sir, those are the roads to be resurfaced and the estimates cost of that exercise would be US\$15.2 million for that exercise.

There is also an input for rehabilitation of bridges and culverts and the replacement of certain walls. There are 4 culverts to be executed under this programme. They are located opposite Buccaneer Bay and Treasure Beach Hotels on Highway 1 and at Hothersal Turning and Farm Road, St. Peter off the By-pass road. The estimated cost of this programme is US\$418 000. It also includes a 2-year pilot project which will be conducted by the Ministry itself for the annual routine maintenance of approximately 65 kilometres of road to be contracted out to the private sector which would be overseen by the Ministry. This project is expected to commence later in this fiscal year. The list of roads to be maintained are listed in Appendix B and the estimated cost of this programme is US\$643 000. There is also an input for equipment which would be for the Ministry itself. We are hoping to acquire new road maintenance equipment and workshop tools estimated to cost US\$1.6 million for various equipment and tools.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please speak into the microphone.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Various tools and equipment are listed which are too numerous to mention here and there is a component in this project for the equipment repair and rehabilitation programme to be executed during the same period. The spare parts for rehabilitation and maintenance will cost approximately US\$681 000 while the rehabilitation by contrast is estimated at US\$128 000.

The third part of this programme relates to the acquisition and utilisation of approximately 150 fare boxes

for the Transport Board's fleet to assist the Board in the converting to one person operations by the 30th September, 1992 at the latest.

There is also a technical assistance input in the loan which would go to help improve MCW's workshop and equipment, management operations, implement a better maintenance management system for the Ministry and to reduce the operational cost of the Transport Board.

We are also hoping to carry out a number of studies in the area of transport. There is the rationalisation of road network to determine whether all primary, secondary, feeder and residential roads used to be maintained to the same standard. The study will also examine all primary and secondary roads with low traffic volumes which will ensure the best use of the Ministry's scarce financial resources. There is also a computerisation study for a design and introduction of a comprehensive mechanised accounting system in the MCW to improve cost accounting for internationally funded projects. There is also a study for rationalisation of public transportation. This study we hope will involve the examination of rationalisation measures and privatisation alternatives for the passenger transport services provided by the Transport Board.

We have a World Bank expert already here who has submitted a Report for improving the operations and cost efficiency of the Transport Board. The major recommendation of that study is the movement to one person operations which have already commenced and we expect to be completed by the middle of September by the latest and we already have had discussions with the union on that aspect of one man operations.

In brief we have a rehabilitation programme, a safety programme, overlay programme, we have bridges and culverts, road maintenance by contract pilot programme, also land acquisition as well as equipment, institutional strengthening and other contingencies.

The terms and conditions of the loan – Sir, there are certain conditions attached to this loan: there is a grace period of approximately 5½ years, amortization US\$1.06 million on each May 15 and November 15 commencing November 15, 1997 and ending on May 15, 2007. Interest cost of the bank's borrowing plus ½ of 1% on the principal amount outstanding. Commitment charge ¾ of 1% per annum on the principal amount of the loan not withdrawn from time to time. There are a number of conditions otherwise attached such as providing quality reports on the progress of projects which must be submitted by the Government commencing on the 30th September. 11.35 a.m.

The Government must also meet with the bank during the first quarter of 1994 to review and evaluate the progress of the project, the achievement of its objectives

and the progress in the execution of the Transport Board action plan.

Also, Members might be interested to hear that we intend to follow the international competitive bidding procedures. It would be delightful to hear from the Opposition. Also there will be an action plan in relation to the Transport Board which we must submit to the Bank by July 31, 1993 and which the Government must work towards.

So, Sir, those are some of the objectives of the loan and we are hoping that as part of the loan is also the money which has been provided by the same World Bank to the Caribbean Development Bank for the continuation of Highway 2A, also Canewood Road and Clermont Road will also be done in this financial year. We already have back pre-qualification tenders in respect of Highway 2A and we are hoping, all things being equal, that we will be able to start the second phase of Highway 2A sometime in January 1993.

We also intend to pursue similar road projects which we had under the Venezuelan Loan Fund Scheme – certain tenantry roads which we have already started. We are continuing talks with the Banks from Venezuela in order to be able to use some funds which have not been disbursed as yet in order to continue certain road works as far as the tenantry roads programme is concerned.

We are conscious of the large tracks of roads which have become very bad in recent months because of the rains and other heavy equipment which pass over those roads. We are also very conscious of Highway 1 and other roads in the country which are crying out for repairs. We are very equipped in the Ministry to deal with the roads. We know where the roads are. We have done our surveys already. We have produced our costings and the Minister is now equipped staff-wise to pinpoint what has to be done as far as certain roads are concerned. It is just a question of finance and we are hoping that we will be able to make a broad-based attack on certain roads in the next year or so in order to relieve some of the hardships which motorists now encounter on some of our roads.

Sir, I think, with those remarks I would like to move that this Resolution do now pass. I am prepared to answer any questions which may be raised by Honourable Members on this Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR J. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. Sir this Resolution deals with a second World Bank loan for road rehabilitation. Indeed, Sir, my party is pleased that Government has at long last followed up on the excellent work that we did with regard to the road infrastructure in our island and using the good name which

we had with the World Bank, primarily as a result of the efforts of the last BLP administration, we are happy that they are using the platform that we have built – the excellent platform that we have laid – and at long last have shaken themselves out of slumber and are taking positive measures to improve our road infrastructure.

Indeed, Sir, during the last 6 years there has been absolute neglect of this basic need for decent roads. Indeed, Sir, Highway 2A, at least the bottom part of it, speaks volumes to the lack of foresight that this Government has shown. Sir, when we left office in 1986 the plans for Highway 2A were in an advanced stage. The funding, Sir, had been all but secured. All that was needed was the necessary political action to get things done. Sir, it is not to our credit that 6 years after, Highway 2A has still not been built. Sir, the events of 1988 with regards to Highway 2A will forever be vivid in our memories. It shows Government at its worst and we hope the likes of it will never again be repeated in this island of Barbados.

Indeed, Sir, we are fortunate that the international institutions still find Barbados to be a viable place, inspite of the efforts of the Government to tarnish our image. And so this loan, Sir, is timely. We on this side have no difficulty in giving our assent to this Resolution.

Sir, it would be remiss of me if I did not use this opportunity to go through the Resolution, especially the Addendum and to highlight certain things and to ask Government to consider other things also.

Sir, the loan is for US\$21 million which is about \$42 million. The first thing I want to comment on is the commitment charge; this is the very last item in the Addendum. It says that if we do not use the money we will have to pay a commitment charge of 3/4 of one percent for the money that has not been withdrawn from time to time. So therefore, Sir, it would be imperative for Government to make sure that they avoid, as far as possible, this commitment charge and given the manner in which the Minister of Transport and Works has been doing things, I hope that the Parliamentary Secretary would use his good offices to ensure that the country does not pay too much commitment charges. It is time that the Ministry awake, because every dollar that we save in this commitment charge is a dollar that could have been spent in improving the roads in this country. So we hope, Sir, that when this Honourable Chamber gives the assent to this Resolution, and I have no doubt that we will, the Ministry gets cracking to make sure that the money does not lie there idle, as happened to the Highway 2A money, and we pay commitment charges on it.

Sir, let us look now at the objectives of this project. The first one is to preserve the capital base of the road infrastructure and then they talk about improving road maintenance planning and practices and, Sir, we can pause

there for a minute because all of us recognise the importance of a proper maintenance programme for our roads.

11.45 a.m.

In years gone by, those of you who are older than I will know that the most important person in this chain was the person who went beside the road and moved the grass from the side of the road. Sir, that is a long way off, but his function in addition to removing the grass was also maintenance because he would then put back the rocks at the side of the road in proper condition and so on. That was also part of his job and they did a good job in years gone by. Sir, we do not see many of them now. As a result, (especially roads in the tenantry because they are not weeded as often as they should be) we get erosion from the end of the road and roads that were previously 15 feet or 16 feet are now 10 or 12 feet wide and so on because of the gradual erosion from the end.

Sir, I am not saying that we should go back to that system. But I am saying that whatever method we use or whatever dollar we spend in maintenance is going to prevent us from spending \$100 000 down the line and it may be a case of pennywise and pound foolish. Sir, that is why I was a little bit disturbed that the particular Ministry of Transport and Works suffered so large a staff cut last year where a lot of their maintenance staff were sent home. I wonder, Sir, whether this is going to be the detriment of our road system especially our side roads and tenantry roads. Sir, I hope that the Ministry will again look at this maintenance programme and schedule to ensure that the money we spent 5 or 10 years ago is properly maintained.

Sir, another objective is to improve road safety. I am glad especially during the regime of the Barbados Labour Party that we paid a lot of attention to sidewalks especially in built up areas. We know that a lot of accidents involve pedestrians – in fact too many. If we are spending this money on our roads, we should make sure that wherever feasible and possible proper sidewalks are put in place for our pedestrian traffic. While I am on this point in talking about road safety, I think that the time has come where the Ministry of Transport and Works should seek to bring in a law which makes the wearing of seat belts compulsory. Sir, most of the cars if not all which have been purchased within the last 5 years or so are equipped with seat belts. It should be an easy matter for Government to do 2 things: (1) to ensure that the occupants of those cars which are fitted with seat belts actually use them and, (2) give the owners of cars without seat belts a period of time during which they have to equip their cars with seat belts.

Sir, I think that is something which Government has to look at because all the evidence suggests that the wearing of seat belts can reduce the incidence of serious injuries especially, Sir, as we have roads on which it is possible to exceed the speed limit. It is possible and I am

not advocating that. But I am saying that if that happens that we have some roads on which people find it difficult to maintain 38 miles per hour. Sir, it is something that Government has to look at because, as a guess, 80 per cent of the cars are equipped with seat belts. So I do not think it would be a terrible imposition to make sure that cars are equipped with seat belts and that people will wear them. I should look forward to Government acting in this regard. As I have said before, all scientific evidence points to the fact that we should be encouraging our people to wear seat belts.

Sir, while we are on road safety, I am still worried about the conditions under which some of our people are transported. I am not certain that those Suzuki vans are manufactured in such a way that is necessary for physical support for passenger travel. I mean in terms of minibus operation. The sides are rather thin and anytime we have an accident it is very likely that deaths and serious injuries can result. Sir, I wonder if the time has not come where we again look at the suitability of these vehicles for passenger travel. Again, we have to stop paying lip service to the overcrowding on the minibuses and the route taxis.

Sir, the police seem unable to do something about it primarily because it seems as though their efforts are futile and they are not getting the support that they need from the legal system. I strongly believe that unless we get to the stage where operators of these vehicles lose their licence after a number of offences, we are never going to root out the problem of dangerous driving and also the overcrowding. I believe that if a person has 2 or 3 convictions that his licence should be taken away for a period of time. Now people will say that you also take away the man's livelihood. That is true but he is going to have a warning and he must know that he operates within the law that he will not be brought before the Courts. The Courts are only there for people who act outside of the law. Until we get to that system where we become tough by taking away their licence, the minibus operators and drivers will continue to do as they like. We saw on one occasion where a lot of people were killed as a result of their practices. Are we going to wait, Sir, for more people to become seriously injured or die before we use the law? Do not forget, because I am not too sure about the Bill we passed some months ago...

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir, the Road Traffic Act that we passed a few months ago had provisions relating to all of this. Why are they not implemented? Why do we see these vans passing in front of the police stations carrying twice as many people as they are legally entitled to. They do it, Sir, without batting an eye or with impunity. It shows a contempt for the law. Until we as a society show more respect for our law, we

will slip further and further into the morass that we are presently in.

While I am on the public transport system, we come to the fifth objective which is the transferring the provision of passenger transport services to the private sector. Sir, I want to state categorically now that I totally disagree with the moves which seem to be on the way of privatising the Transport Board. I see transport as a service and I can well remember the days when I was a boy where people living in Belleplaine, Hillaby and those parts of the Island last bus was at 7 o'clock and the fellows who used to go to the theatre to watch a 4.30 p.m. show very often had to leave before the show was finished in order to catch the last bus to get to their homes.
11.55 a.m.

Sir, if we are not careful we are going to go back to those days, because the private concessionaires are in it for one thing, that is to make a profit. So if the bus is only half full at 9 o'clock a night they disregard social and other reasons and say, "I am not going to carry my bus from Bridgetown to Belleplaine only half full." But the Government has to take a different view; they have to look at this thing in a holistic way.

Transport is only one of the social services. But if we want to encourage people in Barbados to live on the land, if we want to encourage people to stop the migration from the rural to the urban areas, we have to make sure that the people have adequate services. Services must be provided in the community in which we want them to reside, and if the people in St. Joseph are forced because of the privatisation, if they cannot get a bus after 7 o'clock, the next thing we know, Sir, they will be seeking to move into the urban areas and we know that the urban areas, in my view, are already overcrowded.

Privatisation of the transport services should be the last thing any Government undertakes. That is why I am very disturbed that all the international agencies, because we have to borrow money from them, want to make us do things which we know would not be in the best interest of the country. It would not be in the best interest of the country for us to privatise the transport services. What is going to happen to the old age pensioners? I remember that in 1986 during the election campaign my party, the Barbados Labour Party, took lashes because we restricted old age pensioners; we did not want them to travel in the rush hours, and those on the other side went all over the country making a hullabaloo just because we did not want our old age pensioners, for obvious reasons, to be travelling at the same time as people going to work. So they made a big fuss and they changed it.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President. I believe that Senator Barker knows only too well that the old age pensioners

today when they travel on Government transport do not pay; they travel free and at any time of the day. There are no conditions or stipulations as to when they can travel, and when they travel on Government buses they travel free. I do not think he should attempt to mislead the Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you for the intervention, Senator Clarke.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, but Mr. Deputy President, I wish the Honourable Member would allow me to make my point. I know what he is saying is true, but I was making a different point. He is too hasty to get at me and he knows he always comes out second best. The point I am making, Sir, is that in 1986 on the other side they made a big fuss about old age pensioners being able to travel when they like, and what they have done is that in Bush Hall, in Grazettes, in the Pine and in the Ivy where there is no Transport Board bus, the old age pensioners cannot travel free at any time of the day because the private minibuses in most cases do not allow them to travel free. That is the point the Honourable Senator would not allow me to make. What has happened is that we have taken away the right of our old age pensioners to travel free on the buses, because they have taken away the buses. That is the point I want to make. If this trend continues all over the country our old age pensioners will be forced to do something they have not done for the past ten years or more, that is, to travel free in the transport system.

Sir, I believe that our senior citizens have fought and have worked to make Barbados what it is.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I am getting an aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you address the Chair? Go right ahead. I have heard nothing. Will you please continue?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir. Our senior citizens have worked hard to build up this country and for us in the name of privatisation to take away these rights from them is reprehensible and I want to have no part in it. That is why I am against this privatisation. Not only that, we have now the minibus operators saying that from next year they are not carrying school children at any subsidised rate, which means that the parents will have to look for \$1.00 extra a day, which is \$5.00 a week. It may not seem much to the millionaires in this Chamber and outside, but for a person who had his salary cut, a person who has to pay more for school meals, for text books, that \$5.00 can be the final straw that breaks the camel's back, and I have heard not a sound from the Government about this important act.

Sir, when we allow our social services to be totally run by the private sector, whose interest is to make a profit, this will result. That is why I am making an impassioned plea for the Government to rethink its privatisation programme. It is not in the best interest of the country. All of us will suffer. I do not mind having to pay a little more in taxes so that my senior citizens and my school children can have subsidised travel. I can go on record as saying that. I have no problem at all with that, because I benefited from a school bus fare when I was a boy a year or 2 ago. That is an exaggeration, but I benefited enormously and I would like to see this benefit continue. It is not going to continue if Government's, according to this document, objective is to transfer the provision of a transport service to the private sector.

Sir, there are things Government can privatise. Privatised CBC. CBC is serving no useful purpose, privatise that. All CBC is doing is being the propaganda arm of the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please keep to the subject of the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am talking about privatisation and I am giving alternatives.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please keep to the subject of the debate. It has nothing to do with the second road maintenance and rehabilitation project.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point I want to make is that there are services that the private sector cannot deliver efficiently and effectively in our community, and I want to contend that transport is one of them. The private sector cannot provide these services efficiently or effectively. The alternative then is to make sure that the public transport system is working efficiently and effectively. That is the alternative.
12.05 p.m.

We have not managed the Transport Board properly over the years. That much is clear. It is possibly at the lowest ebb in its history. Now that the unions are in a very receptive mood, for obvious reasons, what about one-man buses? It would save at least 1/3 of the wage bill. There is always a cost. If the alternative is to have chaos in the transport sector, I am sure every right-thinking Barbadian will say, "Let us go that way." Since we have a uniform bus fare system, it is easy to have one-man operated buses and at tremendous savings in labour cost.

We might consider contracting out maintenance and repairs. I am told that the workshop of the Transport Board has been a source of tremendous worry in terms of practices and keeping of records. If we can find a way of contracting services there would be spin-offs in the wider community and we may be able to get repairs done cheaper

and more effectively. We have to look at alternatives and selling the Transport Board, in my humble opinion, is not a feasible alternative.

We move on to the investment programme. We notice under Part A the first road we are going to work on is Highway 6. The Government knows what it is doing but nowhere here do I see a mention made of the Scotland District. I remember last year around this time a Bill came before us which gave the Minister of Agriculture a lot of powers, and I can remember my words. I said, "Now that he has the power, he has to do something about it". He was claiming before that he did not have the power so this Chamber and the other Chamber gave the Minister of Agriculture the power, yet we see a \$42 million programme and no mention of that important area of Barbados.

As a country we have to decide what we will do with St. Andrew and St. Joseph. Do we want them to be a part of Barbados? If I were living in this place and saw a \$42 million road programme and no mention of the people who have to take detours to get home because the Springvale Road and the road through Turners Hall are in bad condition... Those are the 2 important roads where people from Belleplaine and Bruce Vale have to use to get home. It points to the neglect this Administration has for people in rural areas. All the roads in arable areas will be fixed, but there is no mention of the poor people in Hillaby or in White Hill. The road down White Hill was broken off for years. Nobody thinks about them. They are second class citizens as far as Government is concerned. We are going to spend \$42 million and they don't get a mention. They are the ones whose roads are worst than Highway 6, but not a mention of Springvale Hill.

I contend that the problem with the Scotland District is maintenance, but this Government has not yet heard the word "maintenance". I am appealing to the Government to do something. I am sure that Senator Barker-Welch is appealing but I am adding my voice to hers. Do something for St. Joseph and St. Andrew! This Government has no regard for people in the country. I have seen Horse Hill...

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am making a strong appeal. Let us sit down and decide what we are going to do with the Scotland District. Let the people in those areas feel that they are a part of Barbados. As I mentioned before, if we privatise the Transport Board, they will no longer get buses on evenings. They have no roads, little street lights and, in short, we are telling them they don't belong. I want them to know as far as I am concerned they belong and I will use every opportunity to air their cause and let the Government know it has a moral obligation to provide services for the people in the Scotland District.

I believe the potential of the Scotland District is enormous in terms of tourism, fishery and agriculture. We get natural gas from that area. The area has given to the rest of Barbados but in turn has gotten nothing from the rest of Barbados. We run a gas line from Turners Hall to pass through Welches, the gully at the back of Mahaica and I don't know whether the people in White Hill have natural gas yet. We are taking their natural gas and pumping it into town for town use, and we are not even paying them for the natural gas that we pump from the area. These things have to stop.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary is making jokes on the people of St. Andrew. They are people too, and you should not be making jokes on them.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, I would like to clear up that problem. I am not making jokes on the people of St. Joseph and St. Andrew. All I am saying is that the original gas works were found in Turners Hall.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I want to go on because I could talk until tomorrow on that, but it would not move them because they are in a mind-set. They don't care about the people in the rural areas.

Part of the investment programme as given in the Addendum deals with the equipment at the Ministry and talks about rehabilitation of existing road maintenance equipment. The Ministry of Public Works, Communication and Transport needs to decide how much work it is going to do itself and how much it will contract out to private individuals. The Parliamentary Secretary said that over US\$400 000 is for maintenance of equipment and spare parts. I hope that I have not misquoted him, but I am sure the figure was around US\$400 000. Is the Ministry going to contract out its road maintenance or is it going to do it itself?

12.15 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right. You address the chair.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I said "Sir", so I was talking to you. I would not call him "Sir".

If they are going to contract their services, why then are they spending this money on their own equipment? Perhaps, there is an explanation but I have not heard the explanation. It is something that needs looking at. If they are going to contract their services then the need for

them to have this equipment would, obviously, be less. I am not sure where they are going from there.

The 8th item under investment says "Acquisition and utilisation of approximately 150 fare boxes for the Transport Board's bus fleet." You say you are selling the Transport Board and still you are buying 150 fare boxes. Even before they get here you might be selling them. I am not sure. There is a lot of confusion. I am sure at times you, Sir, are confused on the whole situation.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think I can speak for myself, thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I know that, Sir, but I am just echoing your thoughts.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have become clairvoyant now.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: All of us in here, Sir, would confess that we are uncertain. Even the Parliamentary Secretary is uncertain of what is happening in Transport. Some time ago we had a Resolution to buy land to build a Transport Board headquarters. We have the land in Kendall Hill because we passed a Resolution – I cannot remember the date – with regards to land at Kendall Hill for the Transport Board headquarters. We have land for headquarters and who knows where the plan is to build a new headquarter there.

We are buying fare boxes but still we are selling the buses. I do not understand what is going on. I am sure they do not understand what plans they have. I would like the Parliamentary Secretary when he replies to enlighten me as to exactly what Government intends to do. If the World Bank is putting them under pressure, the people of Barbados, not the World Bank, put this Government into office. They should be taking directions, not from the IMF, not from the World Bank, but from the people of Barbados because we are called upon to make sacrifice after sacrifice but still we have no say.

The people should be able to decide whether or not they want the Transport Board to be privatised or not. They should be given a likely scenario of events that will unfold after privatisation. They should be the ones to make the ultimate choice whether or not we sell the Transport Board, not the World Bank because the World Bank does not live here. They might send a so-called expert, probably a low level fellow down here, he spends a week or 2 down here and he goes up to Washington with a plan that does not take into account the social needs of the country and the cultural habits and patterns that exist in the country.

The people must be involved. The people did not vote for selling the Transport Board because this is a recent thing. I am sure that if we get the Transport Board

efficient, and it can happen but not with this present Government, and the subsidy is halved, the people of Barbados would be content to pay the subsidy in order to maintain the services.

As I said before, we on this side have no problem in supporting the Resolution but we have a lot of concerns. In my view they are legitimate concerns. Government needs to take stock of its whole policy, especially with regard to transport and sit down and come up with a plan that will benefit the country as a whole.

With those few words, Sir, I would lend my voice in support of this Resolution and hope Government acts expeditiously and sensibly in the execution of this programme.

Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. Deputy President, I wish to support this Resolution which seeks to obtain some money in order to keep up the maintenance of the roads of this Island. It puzzles me when people suffer from what I can only term as amnesia, or some strange illness which renders them incapable of remembering what went on between, for instance, 1976 and 1986.

Maintenance is a word that is very foreign to some people, the very maintenance of which the Senator was speaking, which was quite absent, totally absent from the constituency of St. Joseph. I am speaking about what I know. I remember travelling one road, in fact, a track. I thought this was just a little track. It was not a track. It was a road but because of many years of neglect, this was now a one foot track, a road that buses, I understand, used to pass at one stage.

It also pains me to hear just political points being made about caring for people in St. Joseph and St. Andrew. I think it really goes very hard on me to listen to those sorts of sentiments when there was a time when something could have been done by the very party to which the Senator belongs. Those people in St. Joseph and St. Andrew had been neglected for years. It has only been since 1986 that anything has been done for the roads in St. Joseph. The evidence is there. It would take me today, tomorrow and maybe the next day to make you understand how the roads of St. Joseph were in 1986. Areas like Spa Hill, Mellows Hill, Horse Hill – my colleague on this side was wondering if he had not seen Horse Hill. People were afraid to go down or come up Horse Hill. I travelled there day after day and that road was a killer. People's cars turned over at the bottom. Buses and taxis could not get up that Hill. That is the same St. Joseph that the Senator is saying he is so sorry about those people.

Since 1986 Horse Hill is now a magnificent road there for all to see and travel on – Mellows Hill, small

roads in Sugar Hill. All over the parish of St. Joseph there is evidence of maintenance. There was an absence of maintenance of roads during the years 1976 to 1986.
12.25 p.m.

All parts of this island suffered because of the lack of maintenance. Since 1986 people have been able to walk and drive with very much more safety than they did before. That was because there was a serious road programme going on in this country. I do not know where the Senator was. Maybe the Senator had taken leave and was not here at the time. But I can assure the Senator that what I am saying is gospel. I was there myself. I lived with it.

I am very happy that this Government is going to continue the maintenance which we had to start in 1986.

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, Senator Barker-Welch listened to you in silence. I crave the same for her. Senator Barker you understand. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Thank you very much. I cannot understand when people get up and try to say strange things like people on this side do not care about the people. The Democratic Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party Government has shown that it is interested in the masses of people in Barbados. That is our heritage and that is what we will carry on in spite of the fact that at this moment we are having some difficulties as are happening all over the Globe.

I do not intend to say much on this because I am sure that when my colleague here replies he will explain what is going to be happening in places like the Scotland District. All of a sudden the Scotland District is of great concern to some people. But I was there in 1985 and 1984 when I was travelling in St. Joseph the Scotland District was neglected, completely neglected. I am sure that my Government has plans for the Scotland District. As the Senator has said some parts of the Scotland Districts are very fertile. There is going to be need for a great amount of rehabilitation, a great amount of money has to be spent on the Scotland District. It is not that we are not mindful of it but one has to give priority to the things that need to be given priority and in time we will get over to the Scotland District, as I am sure Senator Morrison will be able to enlighten you.

Mr. Deputy President, I am at the end of my little intervention. I just wanted to stress again that it was this Government that decided that maintenance of buildings, of streets, of schools, of whatever, we decided that maintenance was necessary and that is what has been happening since 1986. And as long as this Government is in power we will be paying attention to the maintenance of roads and of all the things that go with it.

I can agree with the Senator on a point he made and that was a point to do with road safety. I am sure that that too will be looked into, because the roads are getting very dangerous. There must be some laws which can be enforced to deal with the people who are contravening our laws and getting away with it. As for the old age pensioners, I am sure that Senator Morrison will let us know what is to happen with them because I am sure that this Government is not unmindful of the needs of the old age pensioners. I am sure that they are not to be just left not being able to get into town whenever they want. Mr. Deputy President, with those few words, I support this resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Springer.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. Deputy President, I am not rising to support any particular political viewpoint but just to make a few factual comments and to appeal to the powers that be for some consideration for the Scotland area. Let me say that I recall back in the sixties that we had a network of roads that we could be very proud of and I myself hailing from the St. Andrew parish took pride in taking people, whenever they came to the island, right through to Belleplaine and Morgan Lewis and so on because it was made convenient by the network of roads. This is not possible nowadays. You have to travel with a road map. You have to be careful which road you go on. I am not blaming any particular individual for this because right through the years St. Andrew's parish and the Scotland District suffered from the collapse of bridges.

I would like to think that in these modern times with modern technology that there is some device by which we can rectify the problem of the fallen bridges. You cannot get to Belleplaine except you cross a bridge. Every road leading to Belleplaine has a bridge. Whenever there is any significant rainfall coming sometimes sooner than at other times but at whatever period, you can expect all over again the collapse of bridges. That has gone on regardless of who had fixed the bridge or what party was in power.

I am a little concerned that in this age of modern technology that we have not yet hit upon a way of dealing with those bridges and I do not think that those bridges in the Scotland District are of such magnitude or such a nature that we should not be able to cope fairly easily. But all of us here and a lot of Barbadians and legislators have gone all over the world and have seen the technology of bridge building. The United States is a very good example. The work of I believe, the Dutch at first. Bridges stretching for miles and miles and lasting for years and years regardless of the pressure.

My point, Sir, is that I think the time has come for us to look very carefully into the matter of bridge building in Barbados. It is at a much lower scale than in North

America. But because of the importance of getting into that area I would like to think that some of the funds being borrowed will be allocated to this problem of maintaining and perhaps renovating the bridges in the Scotland District. That is my first point.

I do not know whether in the fine print that Senator Morrison referred to, there is provision for the Scotland District at this time. But I fully recognize as Senator Barker-Welch said that this is a special concern, a special project because of the expense that I believe will be involved in this regard. Let me say that I hope we do not have to wait too long for it. Because there are some very important consequences for Barbados and the people of St. Andrew mainly being in the deepest part of the Scotland District, so to speak, where we can all benefit if the right things were done with the roads. The people sometimes feel cut off from the mainstream of the culture. I know of organizations with connections in St. Andrew that have to have their special functions in Bridgetown and to ask those who are in St. Andrew to travel to town for the meetings because of the problem of the roads. I hope that will be rectified in the whole road building project.

Then there are some other difficulties. We boast of our tourist industry and we depend on the tourist industry. We therefore have to ensure that there is always access to some of the most beautiful landscape available in this country and perhaps anywhere in the region. But unless the roads are accessible the tourists will not see this. We will not benefit from that scenery. And also there is the problem of the ability to reap the crops in that part of this country. The small farmers are doing yeoman service in growing their crops and trying to get them out into the more populated and easily accessible areas. But imagine how much more could be done if all those roads in Coggins, Sturges, Swans and Walkers were fixed, if the bridges were fixed how much more could be achieved by the farmers in that part of the island.

12.35 p.m.

I say nothing about the reaping of sugar cane. I think it is widely known that the whole Scotland District is more than any other part of this country, predominantly in the hand of small farmers. There are no big plantations still dominating the estates and so on. It is mostly in the hands of small farmers, the small people we should want to help and therefore I ask that some consideration be given to making it possible for them to grow their crops, reap them and have them marketed without too much trouble.

There is a method of dealing with crops that I observed when I was in Canada where the people in the agricultural belt grew their produce and from time to time they formed cooperatives and you could drive about 40 or 50 miles out of the urban areas into the agricultural belt and select the produce that you wish. They grew watermelons and fruit of all kinds, grapes and all kinds of

things. It helped to keep the prices down and it helped those people to make some much needed money without having to go to town or to market to get rid of their product. I think the people of Scotland District should be encouraged to get involved in this but it is never going to be a reality until you are able to access the area, hence the need for better roads in that area.

I think, Sir, that we all are aware that the longer we wait to deal with those physical problems in any part of this country it is going to get worse and therefore in the long run it is going to be much more expensive; so the sooner the better. With those thoughts, Sir, I will support the Resolution and I hope that a move is made quickly to deal with these areas. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Walcott.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy President, as the last speaker said, and the Honourable Senator who presented the Resolution, in Barbados we could at one time boast of a fine network of roads that serviced our large travelling public. Not only did the roads comprehensively cover the island but their condition was generally of a good standard. However, over the past decade or more the road surfaces have deteriorated considerably due to the too heavy traffic, and I have mentioned that in here before, and also apparently to inadequate maintenance programmes. Whatever the cause is, Mr. Deputy President, the present situation does appear to call for a major road maintenance and rehabilitation project.

I am in support of the project such as this but I only hope that it will be carried out with all due care and commitment to the benefit of us all, especially since in time to come it will be us who will be contributing to the cost of the repayment of the loan. While I welcome the plan to upgrade the standard of the roads in the country, at the same time, I feel very strongly that the way in which the roads are used should be upgraded too and by this I mean that special attention needs to be given to this aspect. Indeed a highway code should be available for all users of the roads and when it comes into effect it should be taught in the schools as well.

There are many ways through which the proper use of the roads can contribute to the reduction of the number of road accidents which we are experiencing these days and the education of the public as a whole and the drivers in particular would greatly help.

One of the irregularities which I have noticed is the use of the roundabouts. I think these roundabouts serve a good purpose but this in controlling the traffic. But some users ignore the rules and this is compounded when the roundabout itself is not placed plumb in the middle of the junction and the space between the exits is not the same.

Here and in many other cases of road incidents, drivers are inconsiderate and ignore the rights of others and they just press on regardless and then we have problems.

Another dangerous project I see on the roads is the bicyclists who ride on the roads at night without lights and without reflectors. Sometimes of course they are dressed in black suits as well. Reflectors are very important for cyclists and should be a requirement. My main concern, Mr. Deputy President, is for the security of the small children. There is no regulation requiring them to be seated in moving cars and this could be very dangerous. Children who stand in the back of the car and indeed they don't just stand there, they stand on the seats and hang through the windows and lie down at the back at the top of seats, and they can easily be thrown forward and even out of the vehicle if there is a sudden stop. I think we have had experience in recent times of something like this happening. Children under 4 should definitely be required to be in car seats, preferably in the back. Senator Barker mentioned the use of seat belts and he meant it generally. But I am saying I agree with him but specifically it should be a requirement for children under 12 whether they are in the front or in the back. I think that a child who is six years old is allowed to sit in the front seat of a car but there is no statement there to make her wear a seat belt and that is too dangerous for a child of six years to be in the front seat without any sort of restraint. There is a similar allowance, a permission I think, for a young child to be sitting in the front in the charge of an adult. Well there again, without seat belts, I think both are in trouble and it is all too precarious.

Mr. Deputy President, I have mentioned but a few of these irregularities one sees on our busy roads every day. The fact is that we have a very heavy flow of traffic and many of the roads are fairly narrow and have to be carefully negotiated while on the wider highways there is a lot of needless and unnecessary speeding and drivers take unnecessary risks. In either case what is necessary is for all drivers to acknowledge and respect the other users of the roadways. A highway code, available to all drivers and users of the roads would go a long way to educating the public and should accompany the upgrading of the road system that is being planned now.

I will take this opportunity of paying tribute to the groups like PAREDOS who are working to try to get the security of the children taken care of because the young people form a very large part of the travelling public in Barbados. Also to be commended is the Barbados Road Safety Association which I understand is today planning to prepare and launch an instruction course geared to improve the standard of the driving of the ZM and ZR vans. I hope all of this will assist what is being done officially. In this brief submission I will support the Resolution.
12.45 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I should like to support this Resolution and, in supporting it, I should like to look first of all at the fact that Government has to continue to upgrade roads. That is a fact of life. That is what Government is there for to continue to upgrade the infrastructure of a country. I welcome at this time the upgrading of all of these roads that are really in dire need of repair. As I step out of my yard on mornings, there is a big hole in front of my door and that is not in St. Andrew. That is in St. Michael. A little further up there is another one. Mr. Deputy President, I keep pushing my constituency representative about it. I do not believe in leaving stones unturned when it comes to my area. Also, I feel special about the parish of St. Andrew because my mother was born there and the majority of my family is still living in St. Andrew. Therefore, I know what St. Andrew has to offer. It is a very rich parish in terms of natural resources. I know that St. Andrew has special problems.

Sir, I think it is all right for us to talk but a lot of money has been spent on that parish in terms of rehabilitation of the roads and road maintenance. I know areas like Fruitful Hill where for a long time these people have been having little bits and pieces done and when the rain comes they are washed away again. I recall traveling to St. Andrew one evening. Everything in Bridgetown was quite bright and when you got there the bridge collapsed. I almost lost one of my relatives who had just reversed from that bridge. I know that St. Andrew has been having some attention through the World Bank Programme and I have discussed this with Senator Morrison and others. I can see for myself as I travel to Soil Conservation and so on.

I agree with Senator Springer when he says that that is the kind of parish that is going to be almost the food basket of this country. We have the orchard fruit project down there which is quite a project in terms of economic development in the country, in terms of employment of people, in terms of the sale of fruit trees and there is a lot of traffic going into that area. I, too, would welcome any special money that you can get for St. Andrew to work on those bridges. Well, I see here that it is mentioned bridges and culverts and I know that includes St. Andrew because that is the place where you have most bridges. If attention is going to be paid right now to that aspect of it, I welcome that. But I am also asking and I hope some special money be provided because we have special problems. Let us not fool ourselves. Whereas you could go and do another road by just putting on some extra barbergreen or something like that, you just cannot do that in St. Andrew. You have to take into consideration the erosion and that is a big problem in the whole Scotland area. I know that in Fruitful Hill there is a young man who is growing pineapples and it is very difficult to get to that young man in Fruitful Hill. You have to go through all sorts of pieces of board that he has constructed himself in order to get to him. Even to get into the very road, you can only drive to a certain part of

that road. Not that Government has not been out there working and trying to do something, but every time you try and you do this and that then comes the water and you get another problem.

Sir, I would like to see that area being concentrated on in a special project because I know that it is going to take millions of dollars to really do St. Andrew properly. Of course, it is worth it. It is Barbados and it is a parish that is filled with natural resources. It is a beautiful area so it is worth it. I hope when we borrow the money to do a special project like that we will not hear the people saying that the Government is selling out Barbados, because it is for us and our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. That is what I hope because we want these things and, when we are getting them, people start talking all over their faces about Government borrowed money. How else are you going to get these services? Our tax dollars cannot do all of the things that we would like to do in a small developing country like Barbados. Therefore, we have to borrow money whether or not some people like it. This is a fact of life. But look at the returns that you are going to get in the future.

Senator Springer mentioned the amount of crops that can come out from the small farmers if we had those road systems fixed. He also mentioned the richness of the whole area. Therefore, I know that the Ministry of Agriculture has a special programme for the Scotland area. It is not that the Government in any way is neglecting the Scotland District. I do not think that I would sit down in the Senate and as a member of the Democratic Labour Party with a Government which is neglecting the Scotland area. That is where I come from and where I belong. That has helped me considerably as a child. It has helped to educate me with my parents having certain things down there that can bring them a dollar and there is still land down there that we can work and get food from.

Sir, I am very serious about the Scotland area but I know that something is being done. The orchard fruit project is being done. They are even looking at the river so that we can get some shrimps. There is all sorts of silicone and sand that you can make glass. Look at the amount of things that you get from that area and things are being done about them. I want to say to any Senator that does not know, visit St. Andrew and see what is being done. I have already made it clear that there are some things that are going to take more time and I do not have to waste any more time on that.

I am happy to hear that we are going to have programmes of training in the technical areas especially. I welcome any training programmes because training is the key to development. An untrained person cannot help a nation and I am glad that we are addressing our attention to the skills of people in these particular areas because for the future our country will need a lot of skilled people. I

think that in the schools we need to devote attention to the development of skills that are going to be futuristic for Barbados.

I well recall, Mr. Deputy President, a study that we did at Tufts University where they looked at certain careers that will not be of any use to people in the future and a lot of them were these white collar jobs. There was one that was looked at where people believed after doing the research that there would not be much need for a lot of white collar workers. Sadly to say even secretaries and people like that are going to be replaced by computers and dictaphones, whereas you may have needed 10 people and now you may need only one person. These are things that we have to look at in a developing country like Barbados in training our people and spending money on the training. I think we need to look seriously at an apprenticeship scheme where when our children are technically bent that we send them straight through the technical institute which is now the Polytechnic.

12.55 p.m.

What I am saying is that we need to do this more on a practical basis. I do not believe that after a fellow comes out of the Polytechnic he should now be trying to learn how to fix up an engine. I believe he should have learnt that and these people could be sent to various people, factories or whatever to do the job and earn some money while they are being trained. That is how the old apprenticeship scheme used to work and I believe we are going to have to look at that seriously again, whether we like it or not.

I remember a certain Senator in here saying to me that he was an apprentice in a particular profession; his friend went to get a degree, but who is the man who knows the business of making all the money? The one who was apprenticed, because he was actually doing the work. So when he would have graduated after 5 years he was in business. Too often we hear young people say "I did so and so at school." We cannot put them in a factory.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Fraser, but let us get back to the subject, please.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, I am referring to the aspect of training in skills that are going to be suitable for the particular positions and I was only drawing a reference. I do not think I was trying in any way, with respect to you, to get off the subject. I think we need to emphasise more the importance of training for the job and training for the career than just belief in training and not applying it to anything practical in this country. We have seen too many people with book learning who cannot do anything practical to help the country to move forward, so somebody has to take them and put them on the job and train them again.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, that still has nothing to do with the road maintenance project.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: I am not now speaking on road maintenance, Mr. Deputy President. I was speaking on a training programme consisting of the various things. I came off road maintenance a long time ago, Sir, with all due respect to you, and I am now on a training programme consisting of

- (a) on-site training of the Ministry's staff in selected technical areas,
- (b) off-site training of Ministry's selected personnel, including local and overseas courses, and international seminars and conferences, and
- (c) re-training activities for staff laid off at the Ministry and the Transport Board.

That is what I was alluding to, Sir, so I hope I have not in any way offended or misguided you, but I believe I am right on track here with the training.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, on a point of elucidation. It is a whole road maintenance programme and replacement. The training we have is only incidental to what has to be done by the same engineers in our division. It is a kind of specialised training on the job to make them more efficient in carrying out the same road maintenance project as they have to under the World Bank Scheme.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: My understanding is that this is specialised training to do with the same road maintenance programme.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, if the activities have to do with training of specialised people, then we have to have some sort of code. Senator Morrison has explained that these are specialised people to be trained. I am saying we have heard that already. It says here: "re-training activities for staff laid-off at the Ministry and the Transport Board." If you are going to train them in proper road maintenance, they have to know a lot about a lot of things and they have to be there learning from somebody else who is doing the practical work. That is what I am talking about, Sir, for the benefit of Barbados. We must train people on the job. If we waste time with just letting them learn out of the book, they are book people. They do not know how to do it. If I give a man a fish every day and do not teach him how to fish, he does not know a thing about fishing.

I welcome this. I am supporting it, Mr. Deputy President, and therefore I congratulate the Ministry for looking at this. This is a real way of spending money. I welcome this aspect of spending money, because if people are not properly trained, especially in things like road

maintenance, they waste a lot of time, they do things that they have to undo, they may use the wrong material and it does not work, and so when we are talking about things like road maintenance we are talking about a highly technical skill. It is not just throwing a little bit of sand and tar on something any more, you have to mix the asphalt and so on, therefore you need people who can understand a little bit about chemistry and all these aspects of it.

I heartily support the Resolution, I welcome the aspect of training and re-training of persons, which is always an asset to any country. We never know enough and there are new technologies developing all the time that can save time and money. When we put up projects, whether for tender or not, we have to look at the money we are borrowing to pay the people, because we have to pay it back. The job must be properly done by people who have the right attitudes and the right training.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, it is now 5 minutes after 1 o'clock and I would wish that we suspend this sitting until 2.00 p.m. today.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: Mr. Deputy President, we have heard a lot today on this Resolution. There are a lot of very attractive aspects and I think we had a lot of positive contributions from both sides of the table – a lot of politics as well. I would like to stay clear of that and to make a real and useful contribution. We heard a lot about our roads. If we look at the history of our roads in Barbados, these roads were developments on schemes designed to get produce, such as sugar cane, out of the fields and they spread all over the Island. We paved a lot of them and in those days there was a parochial set-up which was an easy way of managing each area. As time went on, a lot of these producing areas went out of production so it is difficult to see how these areas could then support these roads.

What it has come down to is that, nowadays, it is impossible for us to keep all the roads we have in Barbados in top shape at any one time. I believe we may well have to look at plans where we close off certain areas. We have to have a different mind-set. We are not ever going to be able to create the money to keep all of our

roads going. Much of the materials which were used to surface the country roads are now used in tenancies and support the suburban development and Bridgetown and other heavily populated areas.

The next thing is the buses. We talked about the buses and safety. There is no doubt in my mind that this bus situation we have will get worse in terms of passenger safety and road users safety. We heard Senator Barker plead that we don't privatise. I rather think with a mixture of privatisation and Transport Board services, with subsidies from Government, the answer might well be in that area. If Government could not control the Transport Board before, which was a department of theirs, I do not see how it will ever control a wide base of private operators operating for financial gain.

The main thing I want to talk about is this loan represents a large sum of foreign exchange coming into Barbados. I realise that some of it will go out in terms of equipment which some of it is earmarked for, but much of this money, when this project starts, is going to be paid out on a weekly basis in Barbados dollars. The taxpayers of Barbados who are being taxed now at an unprecedented rate or about to be taxed since there are a number of grey areas in this, must know where their money is going. I think we are now into an era of greater accountability by public officers. From the Prime Minister back down we have to have this awareness that taxpayers want to know what is happening with their hard-earned money.

There was a time when they got off the interest on loans to repair their houses and now that will be going to Central Government. They will want to know what is happening. I want to know. I do not believe that I am unique or peculiar in that area.

This money is going to create jobs. It is going to stimulate the economy. We heard Senator Fraser refer to it as a real way of spending money. I think that is a mind-set which is really out of the picture. We want a real way to account for this money that we are going to spend. We are talking nowadays about top quality management and cost effectiveness and we want to see this. If you are sending out international bidding we understand that that will tend to look after itself.

If you are going to use international bidding procedures that will tend to look after itself, but the work that is going to be done by the Government's roadworking projects have to have accountability as never before because these are different times. Those old times are not going to come back. Down the road we are going to have to pay back for this. I would not like to hear 15 years from now the then Prime Minister get up and say he is not responsible for the loans made in 1992 by Government. I think when he gets into office he has to realise he has these things. I would not like to think that at that time Government's spending has doubled either.

All of these things the taxpayers are worried about because at the end of the day they are the only persons that will have to make up the difference. We must be aware of the fact that times have changed. We cannot go ahead and borrow money and use it the way we did before. We cannot have more of what didn't work before. As was just said, "we will have to clean the stable out".

My main concern is that when we get this money and put it into these projects and it helps to stimulate the economy, as it must, let us make sure we get value for money and that we plan carefully for the day when we have to repay it. With that, Sir, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this Resolution for more than one reason. I recognise that the Resolution being debated addressed a very important element of the development of our country as it relates to our roads. In addition to that, it is timely that such a Resolution comes before this Honourable House because with the economic recession very much with us the country is more or less dormant. The presence of this programme does give a chance of increasing activity in the country and indeed bringing hope to some person who may have lost hope, although that should not be the case.

The Resolution addresses the subject in a comprehensive way very consistent with the known planning of the Democratic Labour Party and not in the same manner as other political parties behave when in Government. I recall that just before the elections of 1981, the Barbados Labour Party ran hot and sweaty and paved the road from the corner of the university to Speightstown and what was discovered was that this was just an election gimmick because although the road wanted fixing one would have thought at that time with proper planning the opportunity should have been taken to do a road-widening and straightening process since Highway 1 joins the 2 main cities of Barbados. Indeed, Sir, that is the sort of shortsightedness that you had when dealing with the Barbados Labour Party. I would not be surprised if one of their representatives appear in the Chamber shortly to represent this position.

This morning, we heard quite a bit on the Scotland District from various Senators and I recall since I have been in this Chamber that several times the Scotland District has been discussed and I think that most Senators here, as indeed other senators who may have been with us before, recognise that the Scotland District is a very complex area of Barbados. It is true it is representative of 1/3 of the land area in Barbados, but indeed, Sir, the area is particularly complex and difficult. It is my understanding that some 3 years ago a study was carried out on a rehabilitation project for the Scotland District which

would have included roads and additional works to what the operation there is now doing in order to stabilise the Scotland District, to put in an efficient road programme. It is my understanding that the cost given was somewhere in the vicinity of \$200 million. Now \$200 million in the context of Barbados is no small sum. Although we obviously have a strong feeling to see an improved roadworks programme for the Scotland District, in the context of cost we obviously have to watch this very carefully.

2.15 p.m.

Indeed, Sir, the Scotland District holds great potential for our country because of its natural resources, the obvious potential for some kind of agriculture and tourism development. It is my understanding that the Government has looked favourably at establishing a Scotland District Authority which would have full responsibility for the development of that area of Barbados whenever the time comes for its total development.

Indeed, Sir, a responsible Government would obviously have to look at expending its resources in the best way possible to satisfy all the people in Barbados. The expenditure of this U.S. \$21 million covers every parish in Barbados, apparently, except St. Lucy. This is unfortunate. I would obviously have to make a few comments because (1) I am from St. Lucy, and (2) I see a special need in St. Lucy which I would like to draw to this Chamber's attention.

I have been very reluctant all along about ever discussing this matter because in some way I may have a connection. Quite near to where I live there is a bay called Cove Bay which, without doubt, is one of the most beautiful bays in Barbados, if not the most beautiful bay in Barbados. I believe that consistent with our tourism development, the entrance to Cove Bay should be made so possible that visitors to our island and, indeed, Barbadians, would have an opportunity to visit Cove Bay on a more regular basis.

What I observe there, Sir, is that a number of persons, mostly visitors, come as far as the entrance to my home, turn around and return to Bridgetown or wherever, without ever getting the chance to see the beauty of Cove Bay which they have read about in probably various editions on Barbados and which they may have been told about by other citizens in Barbados who live to the south of the island.

In our country where politics plays a big part, Governments are always very careful about what they do because of the opposition politicians probably pointing fingers and indicating that a road may have been put because it suited one of the members of the particular political party. I find myself in the unfortunate position that I live near to the most beautiful bay in Barbados but

whenever the Government, especially if it is our Government, decides to put a proper entrance to this Cove Bay, you will obviously hear that it has been put for me to make some personal gain by way of some land development or something like that. However, I make the call on Government to look very seriously at the entrance to Cove Bay, not for my own interest but for the interest of development of tourism and the benefit of all persons in Barbados.

Sir, I have to make a few comments on the question of minibuses, particularly the Z vans. I share the views as expressed by 2 other Senators this morning in relation to the operations of the Z vans. One of the things I notice with those Z vans is that about 50% of their accidents actually involve an overturn as opposed to just a collision. It is because, obviously, the vehicles are very light and their body structures are not really made to accommodate the number of persons they carry in the vehicles.

I believe our transport authority should look at the possibility of inviting the owners of these Z vans to put wider tyres on the vehicles to improve the balance; we may have to regulate the speed limit on the Z vans to such an extent that we would avoid overturns; and the bumper up front is just in front of the driver. I have seen some place already where there is security grill affixed to these Suzuki vehicles that would safeguard a collision or given the possibility of their running into another vehicle, it would at least, safeguard the passenger in front and the driver. I believe and I share the view that a closer look has to be taken at this method of transportation to support the security of persons using these vehicles.

Also, too, Sir, I support the use of seat-belts in motorcars. In the last 2 months we have had at least 3 accidents which involved the lives of 2 and in 2 instances 3 persons. We are accustomed to accidents but, indeed, the accidents which we are now having are taking more lives than we are accustomed. We are accustomed to having a crash and probably one person dies but in the last 3 accidents we have seen where 2 and 3 persons have lost their lives in one accident. Most possibly if the belt was used we may have saved a couple of these lives.

I believe, Sir, we need to note those areas and address them quite early too because sometimes, I must admit, we allow things to go too long before we deal with them. We can see this will be a continuing development because it does not appear that persons can easily be encouraged to do things on their own. It appears to me as though we have to inflict the law or they have to know the law will take special, strong action if certain things are not done. It is from that point of view that we cannot depend on our people to act wisely even in their best interest.

Sir, this morning Senator Barker was making a song and dance about the Scotland District, the road works in

St. Joseph and a whole big political thing, obviously. He is forgetting this is only 1992 and it is not time that he begins to rant and rave as yet. What I notice and is very interesting is that the padre who is the Rector of St. Joseph became so annoyed with him that he got up and left when he heard the speech the Senator who sits next to him was making about St. Joseph. He could not believe it was about the same parish where he is Rector so he got up and left and came back not long ago before the interval. That should show the displeasure the padre had in the Senator at the time on the problems on the roads in St. Joseph and St. Andrew. He obviously realised that he was only politicking.

Now, Sir, by and large those remarks represent my contribution on this particular Resolution. I am proud to support the Government in this area.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Mr. Deputy President, I rise also to support this Resolution. A lot of what I had to say has already been said so I am not going to delay the Honourable Chamber by going over those items again. However, I feel one of the most important aspects of this Resolution at this point is the ability to realise \$21 million worth of U.S. money coming into the foreign exchange receipts of Barbados and, as Senator Cole pointed out, much of the money will be spent in Barbados dollars so it is going to improve our foreign reserves position. That is what we will need at this point more than anything else.

Of course, the programme itself, road rehabilitation and maintenance is highly creditable. We, over the years, have grown accustomed in Barbados to an infrastructure that is second to none in the Caribbean. Even with the deterioration that we have experienced I still believe our overall infrastructure, comparatively speaking, is second to none. That does not mean we should be complacent and accept that we can go down in our standards because we are still better than those around us.

2.25 p.m.

One of the problems which has not been identified yet in this debate with the maintenance of many of our roads is the fact that the roads, being the channels that they are, also carry the natural gas, water mains, some Light and Power and what not and very often we find it absolutely incredible (it seems almost to be a rule of thumb) that as soon as a road is surfaced it has to be dug up to put down or to repair or to do something with a main. Of course when this is done a bump or a hump is created or even a sink. I think the road that impresses us least in this regard is Highway 1. I have listened with interest to the introduction of this resolution by Senator Morrison and I noted he did say there was an Addendum attached which was available to all of us if we wanted to have it.

I am not in a position to criticise those areas that have not been named by him in his introduction because he made it very clear that he was only naming selected ones. But he did name Paynes Bay to Holetown which I am extremely glad to hear because I have reached a stage where I try to avoid that section. Unfortunately to avoid that you have to use the unfinished part of Highway 2A. The choice is not too good.

What I would like clarified in the wrap up is.... because Senator Morrison in his introduction referred to the fact that the final part off Highway 2A is going to start in January of 1993. But I am assuming that that is outside of the money in this resolution. That is nothing to do with the money in this resolution. That money is being funded elsewhere.

The other thing that I would very much appreciate some further elucidation on is that in the wording of some of the items here covered for investment programme, they are very specific, like in item 7, to the fact that these contracts will be with private contractors and in Item 5 which is US\$643 000 is going to be contracted out to the private sector. But the largest item of all which is the overlay programme to raise standards and prevent deterioration of approximately 160 kilometres of selected roads which is going to be US\$15.2 million I would like some clarification as to how that is going to be handled and whether there is going to be private involvement with that. I did hear Senator Morrison in his introduction talk about the fact that they will be following the international competitive bidding procedures which leads me to believe that these major works are going to be bid on in a very competitive manner and this will be throughout the programme. I certainly would hope that this is so.

But getting back to the problem that I alluded to a little while ago, I think that we have some new roads in the system – the ABC Highway; we have the Northern Access Road. These are entirely new roads in our system. Some of these roads, thinking of either one of those that I just mentioned were completely new in every respect. They only encompass small segments of original roads. By virtue of building those roads and believe me I am entirely in favour of that, we have duplicated to some extent existing roadworks. One may begin to ask the question as to whether in fact Barbados does not have too many roads and can we in fact maintain all of these roads or continue to maintain all of these roads? We may have to look at that in a very serious manner. I also appreciate the fact that with the new roads we have been able to provide for, should the need ever arise, the underground laying of mains or whatever outside of the actual surface area of the road. I also would like to think that any further road construction that takes place would take that matter into account.

I notice that the Barbados Light and Power and I believe the Barbados Telephone Company are going to be

soon looking at the same thing. They will be looking at taking overhead lines and putting them underground. I think that if this is going to traverse the island of Barbados we should be very careful in how these things are laid in the maintenance of the surface of our roads.

With those points, Sir, I do not wish to delay the Chamber any longer because most of the other points have already been covered, I will support this motion.

Thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Morrison.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I should like to respond to some of the suggestions made by the various Senators and I should like to start with the last speaker. I buy the point about the utility services being put in after you have done your resurfacing. But in recent years we have been trying to avoid that kind of scenario in that we try to ask the utility companies to make their projections a few years down the road and we try to get them to put in the services at the time when we are doing resurfacing or before. That used to be a problem in years gone by but in recent years we have tried to minimize that occurrence. With the co-operation of the various utility companies we have been getting some progress in getting that kind of development on a continual basis. It is a very valid point. It used to hurt me to see that you just lay a beautiful strip of road and next day these companies come along and then they dig up the whole road and spoil the whole surface which has just been relayed by the Ministry of Communications and Works.

As far as the other point raised by Senator Bellamy about the overlay programme which is the major resurfacing programme which is funded by the World Bank this is the asphalt paving which would be done by the Ministry itself but there is a big private input in that the asphalt itself comes from the private firms in Barbados. But we do our own resurfacing on these Highways. That money will be spent on that kind of operation.

Many Senators have adverted to the fact about the minibuses, the ZR vans and the overloading and Senator Barker raised the point about the seat belts which are all valid points. We in the Ministry, I can assure you, are very concerned about the recent behaviour of the new ZR vans which we have legalized and put on various routes. There seems to be no end of confusion out there on the road ever since we have amended the Traffic Act to accommodate them. We have brought regulations in here with the easier means of holding them by the police in order to fine them for certain things but I believe that the police have got to be more vigilant in the future in the control of these ZR vans. I myself see them day by day stopping any and everywhere and also in the middle of the road blocking other traffic from being able to proceed and there have

been picking up passengers at any time, any part of the day, any part of the road and they have been letting down passengers in like manner. It is very disconcerting to other traffic people to be able to cope with that kind of aberrant behaviour being displayed by the drivers of these Z vans. We are very concerned about these developments and we have been insisting that the Police should carry out their duties in a way that would bring some kind of christian feelings to bear on these operators. I even buy the suggestion by Senator Barker about suspension of licences. If they are going to understand that they owe the public a duty the time must come when they have had sufficient convictions on a particular traffic infringement that the licence should be suspended for a year, 6 months, whatever have you in order to show these people that we are not making sport and that we are really intent on having some kind of civilized behaviour being displayed on our streets in the conduct of the public who ply these minibuses.

As far as the whole road maintenance programme is concerned, I should like to assure Honourable Senators the Government had used a philosophy in arriving at the work which we have produced here. It is very significant that even though in these days of recession and tight money you have observed that in the Ministry of Communications and Works that we were not asleep in that we have been working tediously, day by day, year by year to have arrived at this programme to be put to the World Bank and to be accepted.

2.35 p.m.

We have been consistent in our work. We have worked hard and have coincided at this very point in time that when we most need something to be done it has been thrown out at the right point in time. It means that the Ministry has always been very vigilant and hardworking in this respect and we have not confined ourselves to any constituency basis in arriving at the roads that we are going to do. It is a 5-year programme and I was not even to mention all the roads; it was to be done in stages – stage 1, stage 2, second year, third year, fourth year. But we have more or less used a parish basis to look at the roads that are the worst roads and if in so far that they coincide with certain people's constituencies then all well and good. But we are not trying to do it at the time that we are doing constituencies as such so that you can thereby say that we are looking at our own constituencies in the Lower House to bring them any kind of work on the roads. We did it on a parish basis, based on scientific evaluation because the Ministry is now more equipped to look at the overall ... We have an overall map of the worst roads in Barbados and we try to allocate our resources to suit the worst roads, by putting the worst roads first and then eventually we will hope that by doing so we will be able to keep our maintenance at a very progressive and consistent level for the users of our roads. That is one point I wish to make.

Senator Barker mentioned some point about the equipment that we were buying and that we should use the money otherwise. This is normal equipment which is like dump trucks, flat bed trucks, tractor units, tree trimmers, front end loaders, back hoes, road sweepers. These are the normal maintenance things which belong in the Ministry itself. We have to have certain tools in order to do certain jobs on the various roads. Minor things like mechanical sprayers, hand sprayers, compactors used to repair the small holes in the roads with asphalt, brush cutters, chain saws, asphalt cutting saws when you want to tidy up work that has been done by the same asphalt plant and certain concrete cutting saws and things like that. So that kind of expenditure is supposed to be done in the area of making the various equipment more equipped to deal with the modern day problems which we come to grips with as we go on from day to day.

A lot, Sir, has been said about the Scotland District and I should like to clear up any mis-impressions that would have been given in this Chamber about bridges. Now, bridges are not part of this loan. I mentioned in my opening remarks about culverts. The overall name in the Estimates is Bridges and Culverts but we are only doing culverts. I mentioned 4 culverts in this programme. Now bridges come under a wider heading and the Scotland District has been a very special area for years as far as all governments have been concerned. Anything we conceived in the Scotland District is for that. That is a special project and we have heard today in this House by the Opposition Senator, Senator Barker, about Government more or less neglecting to do anything in the Scotland District, that we do not have any regard for the poor people in that area and that we don't do the roads down there and that all the development usually takes place on top of the hill. Well, Sir, I would like to put this in the record for another time. I have mentioned these things before but it seems to have gone on deaf ears. I would like, again, to reiterate the Government's policy as far as the Scotland District is concerned. My Government recognises the importance of the Scotland District which represents a significant portion of the land area of Barbados. It is an extremely beautiful area and it has great potential for the tourist industry. It also has great potential for agricultural development. Most importantly, Sir, it is an area where quite a number of Barbadian people live and refuse to move. People who have been born in that area tend to even remain more static than other parts of Barbados. So we are very conscious of the fact that people in that area do not like to move. As a result of that, Sir, when we got back in power we commissioned an engineering firm at the time by the name of Errol Clarke Associates to undertake a comprehensive road and bridges rehabilitation and drilling improvement study of the Scotland District. The study has been completed and it has been accepted by my Government. There has been a conservative estimate given to us by that firm and it appears it would take, on a conservative basis, at least the sum of \$200 million to do anything on the

Scotland District. We therefore set about, after having those figures, to approach a number of international lending agencies and other countries with a view to securing financing for this most massive undertaking. Today, Sir, the Inter-American Development Bank has indicated an interest in financing the major roads into this area as part of the programme of road network development. These roads that we have in mind are a road stretching from Highway F, from the East Coast Road to Codrington College and on to the Grantley Adams Airport. Also a road from Highway 3 from Horse Hill to Hothersal Turning junction and also a road link between the Charles Duncan O'Neal Highway and Highway 2A at Mile-and-a-Quarter in St. Peter. We have also had some enquiries from other Governments about trying to assist us with the building of bridges and we are still continuing talks with certain governments in the European Common Market.

Sir, as a result of our concern, as a party, for the Scotland District area we carried out a number of projects just recently and these include that we were able to repave the road stretching from Greenland to Cattle Wash including the entire East Coast Road. We also did major reconstruction realignment of Horse Hill. Horse Hill is now a much easier hill to negotiate since we have cut down the steepness and we have done more realignment down there which is to the great benefit of the people who now live in that area. We have reduced the gradient and it will become one of the most primary access roads to the Scotland District.

Sir, I should also like to tell this House that at that time when we did that project we took the opportunity to relocate certain people and to construct a new St. Joseph Post Office at the top of Horse Hill. That has replaced the current one which was rather cramped and could not be expanded because of the inadequate space at the time.

We are thinking of the construction of a temporary bridge at Walkers to contain the people. That was done to replace the bridge which was destroyed. A design for the new bridge has been completed and we expect that when we get the necessary funds that we will start work on that new Walker's Bridge. We have had a temporary road constructed at Turner's Hall and this road will be wanted during the rainy season and if found to be satisfactory it will be paved. We also did major road repairs and the strengthening of bridges at Friendship, St. Sylvan's Village, the East Coast Road, Bruce Vale and Greenland. Major road construction work was completed at Coconut Grove and some was going on, at the time, in Upper Parks, St. Joseph. There were road repairs completed and some were started at Isolation Road, Jordan Road, St. Simons Road, Powell Spring, Chalky Mount, Spring Field, Hillaby, Boscobel and Mellowes Hill. We had box drainage at Chimborazo and also we had works to start on the reconstruction and drainage improvement on the sector

of the road from Cattlewash to Gaggs Hill, an extension of the same East Coast Road.

2.45 p.m.

Also, we had works to start on the reconstruction and drainage improvement on the section of the road from Cattlewash to Gaggs Hill, that is at least an extension of the East Coast Road. Sir, I read all of those developments to show and to give the lie to the points being raised by Senator Barker that this Government did not care for St. Andrew and St. Joseph and that we have not done anything at all in those areas. In fact, we have done all that we can do except the major financing which we are now trying to achieve in order to carry out the major road construction works which are necessary for that area.

We have all the plans drawn for the roads that have to be done down there. We have done a major study. Plans have been submitted and it is just a question of getting the relevant international agency to finance that kind of massive development. So it is not because the Government was not concerned since we have always been concerned about St. Andrew and St. Joseph. As Senator Barker-Welch pointed out, she was one who participated in the infrastructural plans when she was representing that area and she brought that to Government's attention. We have always proceeded on that basis and we are now in a position given the necessary financing from the international agency to go right ahead and do the job that has to be done in that area. It is just a question of that since our plans have been drawn and everything has been done so far to facilitate.

So it is unfair for anybody to get up in here from the Opposition and suggest that far from being concerned that we did not do anything at all in the area of St. Joseph or St. Andrew when we have done more there in the last 5 years than the other people did for the last 10 years they were in power. It is a secret of the Government's performance in the 10 years that they were in power when they refused to maintain any roads in this country and that is there on the record. They thought that when they would have built the ABC Highway that we would have had this front for Barbados and that was going to be so beautiful that they would not have to worry about the other roads. We had to put up with that when we got into power and that has been choking this new Administration ever since 1986. Because look at how the people are crying out that they want better schools and they want that. They want us to work miracles. Every schoolmaster has been complaining about his school in the last 5 or 6 years and that is the residue from the neglect from the days of Tom. I mean we are not here to apportion blame as such because we are now the Government. But I must put it on the record that the thing that went on within the last 10 years before we got back into power was a complete neglect of Government buildings. Roads were not maintained and the kinds of utlays that they built for that new highway were more

constructed in the guise that, if the people did not rise up in this country at sometime, they would be able to facilitate the movement of tanks and things like that in order to keep people in Barbados quiet. Because when we went on that massive new highway and we did that highway, it was a known fact that the highways, our feeder roads, were at the time in a very bad state of disrepair and neglect. There was a calypso that was even thought of at one time about a hole there and a hole everywhere. Despite that, the Government went on blindly at the time and never attempted to repair those potholes. The history in the Ministry is replete with all these applications from various motorists. Every week we take them to Cabinet for compensation. That road has been so hard hit in the last 4 years with the people who come up with compensation for their motor vehicles that it is not funny. I am not talking because I belong to the Democratic Labour Party but these are all facts. We have been flooded with any amount of applications which we cannot avoid and we have to pay. We might be late for a little time but we have to pay in the long run. The Government is liable. If your car is damaged on the highway where it dropped into a big hole, the Government is liable. So when I hear them talking about we do not care about the people in St. Joseph, it is a big joke. We are always concerned about the whole island and we do it on a rational and fair basis.

Sir, I am very grateful for the remarks made by Senator Walcott. She has made some very valid points and I will sincerely take up those points with the Ministry because the safety of pedestrians is very important in this whole exercise. We have started some sidewalk improvements which Senator Barker-Welch mentioned and we are continuing to improve certain road junctions not even in this plan. We will make certain road junctions very accessible that you can see around certain corners and this will even more or less reduce the area of danger to pedestrians walking the road. But these are all ongoing concerns, Sir, and we are certainly grateful to Senators who made very valid points in this whole exercise. Each Senator who spoke was very cogent and to the point on their concerns and the Ministry has always been open to those suggestions. As I said, we are more equipped now under the World Bank financing to look at certain areas and we have been working with all of the associations concerning road safety in trying to make these roads more comfortable for our young children and things like that. But the thing that I agree with most from Senator Walcott is that people drive about their children in these cars, some who are well-to-do who even have their children in their lap and playing with the steering wheel, and they should know better. I think we should do something about these things because it has become more or less a kind of status symbol to have your children all in the back and front doing as they like while you are driving a motor car without any regard to people's safety. I think that we should have some kind of regulatory system in place whereby people who drive children should be under seat belt and proper control

by the parents who are driving the motor car. These are very serious points raised by Senator Walcott and I shall certainly raise them with my technical staff when I go back to the Ministry.

Now as far as the Transport Board is concerned, we have got to make it smaller and we are hoping, despite the plea of privatisation, that we can have at least a small Transport Board and we are working very hard on that. We should be able to convey to the school children and the old people that we are hoping, despite the plea for privatisation, to be able to have a smaller public transport system being run by the Government to take care of certain special needs for our children.

The fact about training that has been mentioned about the Transport Board workers is that we are saying because we are going into one-man operation we figure that there are some female conductors that may be displaced. We think that we are trying to re-train at least some conductors who are female in order to be drivers of buses so that we can keep the balance between male and female and not send home all of the female conductors but we will re-train them. There is money in this loan now which can go towards the re-training of certain females to become bus drivers.

We are very aware of the hardships but we are trying given the limited resources and, with all the will in the world, we would like to have the Transport Board run on a smaller basis. The old age pensioners, as Senator Clarke pointed out before, still ride free on our public buses. But we are still in the process of talking with the minibus operators to see if they can carry them and we will have to work out some kind of coupon scheme.
2.55 p.m.

We have talked about it but it has not been fully formalised with the National Assistance Board if they can come up with some programme where they can have certain coupons given to the old people in order to drive free on the minibuses and the ZR's.

I think that this loan is very timely for this country at this time and, given our parameters which I have outlined before, we would like to move ahead.

As far as the Highway 2A second stage is concerned, that is \$9.6 million being funded by the same World Bank but it has been given to the Caribbean Development Bank for on-lending to the Government. That would take care of the Highway 2A second stage, Canewood Road and the road at Clermont. We already had the pre-qualification tenders returned and the most I can tell you at this stage is that at least 9 firms, including 2 from Barbados, have applied for the pre-qualification tenders. It is expected that after the tendering process is completed a contract will be awarded, with the approval of the World Bank, to permit

construction to start some time in December or in January next year. There is also a Bridgetown Traffic Management Project for which we anticipate a loan agreement to finance and that it might be concluded some time in the future with the Inter-American Development Bank.

Sir, I think I have tried to respond to various points raised by Senators. I have appreciated the debate on this Resolution and will certainly convey to my Ministry the remarks made by various speakers in this regard. I am grateful to Honourable Senators for their contributions.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF U.S. \$500 000 FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECON- STRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, as we have heard, this Resolution seeks approval for the Government of Barbados to borrow up to U.S.\$500 000 from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, that is the World Bank, for the purpose of assisting in the preparation of an education and training project aimed at strengthening the human resources of Barbados.

The specific purposes or activities which will be undertaken to complete the preparation of the project for which the advance is required are, among other things, the following:

- (1) Prepare a policy paper summarising issues facing the education and training system and identifying options to address them;
- (2) Conduct a survey to determine the perception of personnel about the critical issues to be addressed in upgrading teacher quality at primary and secondary levels;
- (3) Carry out a survey of potential growth areas for employment;
- (4) Elaborate terms of reference and carry out an educational needs assessment survey of retrenched workers and prepare a training plan based on survey results;
- (5) Develop and fine tune technical and vocational teacher education programmes;
- (6) Establish a computerised data base of technical and vocational education and training for teachers;

- (7) Provide technical assistance to the National Training Board to introduce institutional changes; and
- (8) Provide technical advice on spatial, functional and technical requirements of library components.

The interest on this loan shall accrue on the principal amount of the advance withdrawn and outstanding at a rate equal to the cost of qualified borrowings, based on the preceding semester plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%. Qualified borrowings are somewhat analogous to what we know that obtains in the London market, the LIBOR rate, and the qualified borrowing rate is an average rate established by the World Bank at which it will make the loan and we will be paying $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% above that borrowing rate. As at June 20, 1992 the rate was 7.6%, so the effective rate, were we to have withdrawn this loan at 30th June, would have been 8.1%.

The terms of repayment of this loan are that –

1. If by September 30, 1993 a loan is granted by the World Bank for the purpose of assisting in the financing of a project for the preparation of which this advance of U.S.\$500 000 was made, then the full amount of the advance withdrawn and outstanding shall be repaid to the World Bank by means of a withdrawal of the proceeds of such loan in accordance with the provisions of the agreement provided therefor, as soon as such agreement shall become effective.

What all of this is saying is that if after we carry out these preliminary studies a loan materialises, the \$500 000, or the portion used in determining what should be financed, would be incorporated into the whole loan and would be amortised over the life of the principal.

2. If by September 30, 1993 no such comprehensive loan shall have been granted, or if by such date or at any time thereafter the agreement providing for such loan shall have been terminated without becoming effective, then –

- (i) if the amount of the advance withdrawn does not exceed U.S.\$50 000, such amount shall be repaid together with accrued interest thereon no earlier than 60 days after notification by the World Bank. That is, if we do not enter into the major loan of the U.S. \$500 000 we are now seeking, the funds utilised amount to U.S. \$50 000.

3.05 p.m.

Then within a period of 60 days the World Bank can claim or call for the \$50 000 or another alternative.

If the amount of the advance utilised should exceed US\$50 000 the aggregate of such an amount shall be repaid in 10 approximately equal semi-annual instalments of principal together with interest accrued on such aggregate outstanding amount from time to time no earlier than 60 days after notification by the World Bank. Repayment is due within 5 years.

In short, if you use \$50 000 or more but up to \$500 000 which is the amount of the loan then you have 5 years in which to repay it and the terms of repayment will be in 10 semi-annual installments.

Mr. Deputy President, with your permission, I would like to elaborate on some of the projects to be undertaken by this loan. I think this morning when Senator Fraser got into the re-training programme, as she held her fire, that her contribution would have been most timely at this point but, of course, there was a re-training aspect in the other measure that came before us and it was dealt with there. One of the projects to be undertaken is to carry out a survey of potential growth areas for employment, at this time when employment is falling, when we are undergoing actual structural adjustments. This is a term used fairly loosely without much thought being given to what it means. When we are talking about structural adjustment within an economy what we are actually talking about is training people for new jobs that do not currently exist or at least re-training them to a way to do jobs, as we recognise them as existing today, because the current methods of producing the goods and services within the economy are no longer economically viable. One has to go through a new re-training period whether it means becoming more adaptable with the use of machinery or being introduced to production lines or some other forms, but re-training would be absolutely necessary. In order to undertake this it cannot be undertaken purely as a Government measure because at the end of the day Government will not be providing the jobs. The Ministry of Labour is currently undertaking a survey with the employers in the private sector to find out from them what jobs they perceive to be coming on stream today and in the not too distant future, what sort of training would be necessary to prepare those people who are capable of being re-trained or new people entering into the workforce and how do we together, Government and the private sector working in conjunction, best prepare them for the workforce of the future.

We are also soliciting in this effort the input from the labour unions because some people who are union members will be laid off or retrenched and as a consequence we would like to know from them those people they consider capable of being re-trained for entry into the workforce.

Another aspect of the whole retaining programme which we would like to promote would be to bring what

I have always considered to be our educational plan. The schools tend to lie idle after 3 or 4 o'clock in the evening only to be reactivated at 8 or 9 o'clock the next morning and remain virtually closed for most of the summer vacation. What we are hoping to do, once we have been able to identify the programmes, is to take our various training programmes out of the various communities and undertake the training there rather than bringing people in from all parts of the country to a central area for training.

Another aspect of the funds which we are seeking for the development of programmes is in the area of introducing institutional changes to the National Training Board. What we are hoping to do is to have much closer cooperation between that institution and other educational institutions, especially, at the secondary and tertiary levels in the country. Most of the secondary schools today have departments or part of their curricula involved in training in woodwork and other facilities which are somewhat akin to what the National Training Board is doing. I am fairly convinced that we do not have quality instructors in all areas to undertake this programme and, rather than having the duplication of efforts by all institutions, I would like to see that we identify the best instructors that we have available and try to move them around from school to school using the facilities in the respective schools and at the Training Board. By so doing, I think we could maximise use of manpower and we can also reduce the amount of duplication that is currently present in using machinery or having to instal the same type of machinery in each and every institution to do the same task.

Another factor that we are looking at is the articulation of programmes between the National Training Board, secondary schools, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College. The National Training Board has been for some time looked upon as a fall back position for students who have not been able to get into Samuel Jackman. We have 2 types of programmes – the skills training and a kind of apprenticeship programme. It is my endeavour during this programme to ensure that those students who demonstrate the necessary aptitude, having gone through either the skills training programme which is about 13 weeks duration and/or the apprenticeship programme, that avenues must be opened up for them, if they so desire, to further their education through the Samuel Jackman and/or the Community College.

The National Training Board should not be perceived by anyone entering there as an end in itself. Furthermore, all education should be perceived as an ongoing process and one should not view any aspect of it to be a closed end if at some point in time that individual is so desirous of furthering his education beyond that particular point.

One final thing we are hoping to do is to enlist the support for the products manufactured by trainees within

the National Training Board. From time to time some of the products are of high quality and we are hoping that the products produced by students who are supposed to be graduating or near graduation should be at a sufficiently high enough standard that they should be able to find themselves in the retail outlets in this country. To this end, we shall be asking retailers to assist us in judging the final product and making sure of the marketability of these products to the general community.

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

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I feel compelled to talk on this Resolution and I am grateful to Senator Clarke for his presentation because in looking at this plan in its present form there were vague generalities and these generalities did not reflect a real positive plan. I am grateful to him for his clarification and for elucidating certain areas of the plan because my comprehension was a bit blurred.

I will take this opportunity, Mr. Deputy President, to express my observations on the Resolution. Some of these observations might even be applicable to other Resolutions and be very much in support of Dr. Clarke's presentation.

If we look at the Addendum, one of the phrases that catches my eye immediately is "human resources of Barbados".
3.15 p.m.

Barbados has abundant human resources which should be tapped and utilised to their fullest. There is a wide range of skills, a solid core of professional knowledge and a high level of competence in a variety of areas. Educational technology is not least among these. I fear, however, probably like many other Barbadians, that a prerequisite for foreign financing can smack too often on "he who pays the piper calls the tune."

It would be a pity, Mr. Deputy President, a shame and even a disgrace, if in carrying out this exercise and others our quality of human resources, our top people who guide our institutions, are made to surrender their powers and ability to foreign and imported people and made to appear incapable. If their thoughts, ideals – and feelings even – are explored, exploited, collected, codified and then sold back to us, that would be a pity.

I am very conscious myself of the fact that the use of on-the-spot expertise could reduce the cost of a number of projects we embark upon. We all are very loud in our condemnation of colonialism. I fear again that we are creating a new dependency, a form of self inflicted enslavement in the guise of foreign aid which dictates its terms at a price which may be costing us and costing Barbados our integrity and our pride.

Mr. Deputy President, in terms of the preparation of a policy paper, I crave your permission to make a fleeting reference to a comprehensive document titled "A Policy for Education" which was prepared and compiled in January 1945 by the then Director of Education, Mr. Howard Hayden. We have come a long way since this particular document was made public and implemented. This policy for education, if we look at it carefully, we will find is interesting to note in that not a single aspect of the education system at that time was overlooked. Even the lavatories were accounted for. This policy resulted in the implementation of changes which since then have been amplified. Much of what has been preserved over time in our education system grew out of this policy. Mr. Deputy President, let it be known, however, that Mr. Howard Hayden was a colonial officer employed by the Government of Barbados. His policy was heavily debated by our people. This product of which we are now reaping the accrued interest was paid for by us in our currency to somebody in our employ. Even now, the interest that accrued then is still ours.

I submit, Mr. Deputy President, that the preparation of policy papers, the conducting of surveys, the gathering and using of survey findings, are not beyond the bounds of local expertise and the expertise that may be found in our regional institutions, expertise that is familiar with our needs thus relieving us of the probable flood of foreign consultants, albeit those whose services we would want to recruit must be prepared to work.

On the point about upgrading teacher quality at primary and secondary levels, especially at primary, I am proud of most of the work that is being done in our primary schools all over this country. Many of our primary schools are staffed with trained minds and caring personnel who cater at great sacrifice to the human needs of our children. One example, and I can attest to this because I am very close to some of these schools, is how these teachers over the years, and of their own volition, have been using available human resources to cushion the shock of the transition from primary to secondary schools. They do it by soliciting the services of professionals to give their students that needed mental preparation for this particular transition.

In light of this proposed training project, Mr. Deputy President, I want to make a special appeal that the primary-cum-composite schools are neither bypassed nor overlooked. Through direct contact I am personally aware that even without specialist training in some cases the teachers at our primary-cum-composite schools have developed the capacity to cope and assist those students who have been branded as under-achievers, non-achievers and even delinquents in becoming persons with certain self-esteem. In spite of the age-long and ever present efficiencies existing in some of these schools, these chers spare no pains in making these schools a safe

environment for our children. I emphasise and reiterate my plea that provision be made for the inclusion of these schools in the scheme of things.

3.25 p.m.

The population which these school comprise has particular needs. These children will always be with us. Many of them go beyond the post-primary age and they are not mentally equipped to profit from what is offered at the formal secondary stage. In looking at the expression "fine tuning", "fine tuning" is a catchy phrase and very popular, almost a jargon. This could be taken to mean increase in the number of trained personnel, the intensifying of the level of trained personnel or the providing of initial training.

Senator Clarke spoke extensively on the training and re-training programme with which I am very pleased. Over the years persons have been sent abroad to be trained to teach industrial arts. All our secondary schools, as Senator Clarke has noted, have some form and teach some form of vocational technical skills. But several of the persons who may have been trained have now retired and this, as Senator Clarke noted, might be the time to re-train others who might still be in the system.

The Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic give preparation for skills at student level. There is still a need for teacher training however, training to teach, to pass on these skills. Our university does not have such a facility. As I see it, Mr. Deputy President, fine tuning cannot be in the long term. Senator Clarke himself referred to certain aspects of this indirectly. In the face of change in methods, change in technology, change in employment trends and in the face of job obsolescence, fine tuning will mean periodic even annual revamping of a plan.

Looking further down at our Addendum for ease in storage and retrieving information, the acquisition of a computerised data base is understandable and very, very timely. I was really pleased for Senator Clarke's elucidation about the National Training Board. The provision of technical assistance in that direction, Mr. Deputy President, is very, very welcome. The National Training Board is doing a reasonable job under the existing circumstances. But I fear that the effectiveness of our Skills Training Programme in general tends to be diluted by an element of fragmentation and duplication. The National Training Board caters to a different type of clientele from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. That is where we are getting a problem. The limited capacity of the Polytechnic has caused it to be very rigid in its entry qualifications.

A recent check with the authorities, less than 24 hours ago, has revealed that this coming September out of 1 865 applicants for full-time attendance there is

accommodation for only 334. Out of 1 575 applicants for evening or part-time attendance there is accommodation for only 357, a ratio of one place to 5.558 applications. I understand, Mr. Deputy President, that the number of evening classes at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic will be reduced. The Training Board cannot absorb this overflow. This situation is clear evidence of the need for another training institution. As an "off-the-cuff" suggestion and with the restructuring of our transport network in mind, it might be worth considering reordering and possibly revamping the St. Thomas School as a possibility of such an institution, purely an "off-the-cuff" suggestion, Mr. Deputy President.

In summary I should like to recommend that we look very seriously at our resources, especially our human resources. I crave your indulgence at this point, Mr. Deputy President, to look at this document which was made a document of the Senate about 2 weeks ago page 35 the paragraph that starts 3 lines down...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please name the document.

SENATOR Mrs. ADA STRAUGHN: "The International Monetary Fund, Barbados: Reform of the Direct Tax System Prepared by Eugene Steuerle, John King and William McCarten", May 1992, page 35, the paragraph which starts 3 lines from the top and 5 lines down states:

"The Mission also heard numerous stories of individuals who had retired then simply take a second job to augment tax free pension earnings."

Mr. Deputy President, in talking about human resources I should like to suggest that in looking at this particular statement consideration be taken of the fact that there are several retirees who have a very scarce resource. Walking into a job is not as simple as it sounds. What is more there are a lot of us – and I can afford to say us – who do not just walk in. We are asked, sometimes we are begged, we are implored to re-enter into the job market, the work force so that society would not be robbed of our special resources. Mr. Deputy President, that is a fact and I am proud to be living testimony of such a fact.

In addition, might I add that there are several retirees who put into these jobs and into voluntary service such a willingness, such an efficiency and such care that many members of the society are appalled when they realize that most of the work is voluntary. As an extension to that, Mr. Deputy President, I crave your indulgence to add that there are many such people whose earning power is used to subsidize many persons on whom the tax reform has impacted adversely and to make healthy contributions to organizations to which they belong. It is time that we question ourselves as to what is affordable.

In our present precarious financial situation to which we allude so often I think we should aim at finishing some of the projects that we have started. In all our decisions, Mr. Deputy President, we cannot but think of posterity. We must be conscious of what we have to show in the long run and try to make sure that we do not leave a legacy of debt for posterity.

3.35 p.m.

Note could be taken of a very popular UNICEF advertisement. The message it gives and what it very openly advocates by the action of the children in this advertisement when they tear up the debt contracts, burying the debt that past generations may have made for them. We should look at that very carefully. It gives us a strong message. It is worrying, Mr. Deputy President, to think that our nation should be made to feel bitter about some of the projects that we embark upon but there are vibrations and bitterness. People have a right to know. Questioning, Mr. Deputy President, and the expressing of apprehension and suspicion should tell us that our people are alert thinkers. They realise that accountability is vital.

My strong feeling is that borrowed money is hardly ever spent with the same prudence as earned money or money that is your own. We have got to be careful, Mr. Deputy President. Whatever happens, it is incumbent on all of us, all concerned, to strive to ensure that the greatest value accrues to the greatest possible number. Studies have been made in respect of many of the things we are talking about and reports have been submitted. Reports have been made by experts at former times. One that comes very close to mind is one made in the late 1970s by a Dr. Oxtobee, a study of technical and vocational education in Barbados. He returned since for a review.

It might be useful, Mr. Deputy President, to research some of these studies and see what they said and use them for whatever value they might have. Some of these reports, perhaps Dr. Oxtobee's, might be pigeon-holed somewhere in some Ministry. It is regrettable that sometimes the expression pigeon-holed is used interchangeably and sometimes almost synonymously with mislaid or lost.

My final word of caution, Mr. Deputy President, comes from the expression of one of our most noted local educators, written between the mid-1960's and 1970's. I crave your indulgence, Mr. Deputy President to read or to quote a verse of a poem from the timely and timeless works of Bruce St. John who says –

"Barbados education is the best, then why so many experts? Expert for salary, expert for tax, expert for teaching, expert for fish, expert for woman, expert for man.

Plans for this, plans for that, but plan with your hand in your purse for the plan in no banjan man.

But Barbados education is the best".

I submit, Mr. Deputy President, that we should not regard ourselves nor let ourselves be regarded as second and third class people nor as mendicant in these fields and hills beyond recall which we claim as our very own.

Mr. Deputy President, I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker-Welch.

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. It is very difficult to come after such an eloquent speaker as my friend, Senator Straughn who has had a very varied and very extensive experience in this line of education.

I was once a teacher and there is the saying once a teacher always a teacher, I think meaning that you are always interested in educating and what happens in educational circles. Like the colleague over there, a lot of the things she said I agree with totally because when I looked at this addendum the first thing that struck my eyes was human resources and we in Barbados have a great amount of human resources. Looking at that human resources phrase and coming down to preparing a policy paper, I too, would hope that the experts preparing this policy paper would be drawn from our own human resources because we have people here who are competent and able to do justice to preparing this policy paper and at the same time save us foreign exchange, while at the same time being involved and concerned. It would not take ages, it would not take as long as some other policy papers have taken.

I looked down the list of things to be looked into and I think they are very significant, for instance the upgrading of teacher quality at primary and secondary schools. Senator Straughn has commended our primary teachers. They are to be commended but I agree with the upgrading because there are areas which we could strengthen. I think right away of remedial reading which is so very important since a lot of the people in Barbados, said to be literate, do not really understand very well what they read. They would have done with a very good course of remedial reading and this would bring a lot more Barbadians into the true literacy statistic of which we boast. I am not saying that we should not boast, we certainly should because even though some people fall through the net, our standard of education and literacy are still very good.

Primary Schools: I have just attended some of the graduations of primary schools. I hope I am not straying but it is all to do with education. I was so thrilled to go to one school in St. Joseph and find that the children, for graduation, were dressed in their uniforms. I was very happy. It was the first time for many years that I have seen this. I have been talking with the teachers.

When I worked in the Ministry of Education I discussed the fact that people spend large sums of money every year to bring out their little young girls and boys, aged 11+, looking like bridegrooms and brides and it has got so bad that the merchants, and you cannot blame them, they want the money, they advertise when this graduation time is coming up. They advertise about these graduation materials and you will go and see 11 year old girl in stockings and tall shoes and earrings and the works, so I must commend that school in St. Joseph. I think I can call the name, St. Bernards Primary School, where the children looked beautiful. They were very clean and well turned out.

We find that primary schools are doing a good job but we need a little upgrading and we need more than what people see as education. We need a sense of heritage, we need to give children a sense of knowing who they are, that they don't have to put on a dress to make them somebody else. This is very, very important.

I note also there is a survey to be carried out of potential growth areas for employment and more and more times are changing. We have to look into distant areas as the Senator so ably presented to us, he talked about new ways of doing things that we were accustomed to doing before. Surveys are things that sometimes take inordinately long and by the time that the survey comes, the need has overgrown.

The next item here is to do with another survey of retrenched workers. Here again, another survey and preparing a training base on survey results. If we are going to plan for this training which is very immediate, I would think this is a short-term thing.
3.45 p.m.

We need to get cracking on it because we must get a training plan based on the survey results.

The next one is very interesting concerning technical and vocational teacher education programmes. My mind goes right to agriculture in which I am extremely interested. I think that in Barbados several of these young people who are unemployed could find gainful employment because we have acres and acres of unused agricultural land in Barbados. I know that the experts tell me that you cannot take this land in this way. But I am sure that something could be done to make sure that these lands are used. If some of the secondary schools should have a thriving vegetable garden programme, I see this as good as one who grew up with a school garden since my father was a headmaster in a primary school in the country. He was able to teach boys how to care for their gardens. It was scientifically done and they learned special methods of cultivation. Well, nowadays we have a lot of things to help us even more than in those days when the children went into gardens to work. I am very concerned when some people tell me when I discuss the subject that you cannot

expect the children to go out in the garden. All sorts of strange reasons come forward why you cannot expect children to go and work in a vegetable garden.

We depend on vegetable produce from overseas. The reason why we are in so much trouble is because we are spending millions and millions of dollars importing things that we could very well grow here. Do you think that we should be importing peas? What happened to all of the pigeon peas and black beans? All of those things were grown before. So I do not intend to listen to those remarks about nobody to do this and that. There are ways of getting things done. I am sure there is some way that we can get these things done because before we were able to eat our own peas and peas form a very good source of protein.

Sir, I am saying that the schools can have some vegetable section so that they will be introduced to that. You do not wait until they finish school and tell them about a vegetable garden. Start from the time they are in class one and class two with everybody having a patch and so on. I have seen it at one or two schools and I am sure that that can be encouraged.

We also are very happy to see that the National Training Board will be helped to introduce institutional changes. We in Barbados sometimes do not like change. We do not take kindly to change and we are going to have to change if we are going to keep up with the pressure from the outside world and our own situation. We are going to have to change.

Mr. Deputy President, I am very happy about this Resolution because by the number of suggestions that are listed here I think that I can see an overall pattern emerging where we will try to reach for excellence. One thing in Barbados we do not seem to like excellence. We are very content with mediocrity. I think that if this list here is to have the punch that it should, we are going to have to train people into doing things in an excellent way. There is nowadays in the business world, and it is coming into the Public Service because I know of at least one department that has looked at it, something called "Top Quality Management". It is not only for people who manage, but it is a system whereby everybody in the plant, be it factory, office or whatever, has the same goals and is trying for excellence. So that from the persons at the top to the persons at the bottom are all partners in this business. If Barbados is to progress and come back up, as I am quite sure that it will because I am an optimist, we are going to have to get together each one of us, the educational system, health system and all of the systems, to reach out for excellence.

With these few words, Mr. Deputy President, I support this Resolution. Thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. There are a few comments that I wish to make here in respect to this loan which provides funding for education and training. It seems to me, Sir, that there has been a serious lack of attention paid to the question as to where we want to see this country go within the next 30 or 40 years and that unless we are able to do so any kind of tinkering that is done in respect to education and training will be nothing more than tinkering in terms of the curriculum that is presently existing before us. Anybody who has recently passed through it or anybody who has recently worked with it like Senator Straughn or anybody who has contact with people who went through it will clearly see that, whereas only some of the basics are provided, there are a number of people who are leaving school in Barbados who are more than functionally illiterate and who are leaving school at the ages of 16 and 17 years. I think that something must be fundamentally wrong with the system which allows children to participate in a school activity from 4 or 5 years old to the time they are 16 or 17 years and they cannot come in here and read the front page of a newspaper. Very often those of us who particularly work in the Courts notice it increasingly because people who come before the Courts sometimes as jurors, accused people and witnesses go on the witness stand and have difficulty reading the Oath. When you start to question them as to where you went to school, they all have gone to Government secondary schools. So that it is not that just one school is guilty of it and another school is not. But something has to be seriously done to address the question as to why is it that our school system is allowing for so many people to come out without the kind of functional literacy that is necessary. This is particularly so when we examine the economy of this country and realise that, whereas we are unable to compete with countries which can attract industries that are heavily labour intensive and cheap labour, we in Barbados have to ensure the standard of education and training is always on par with whatever is going on at the world level because we have to be able to attract industries that normally would reside within the industrial world and the first world. It is interesting to note, at a time when everybody is laying off, the one industry that is taking on is the computer data services.

3.55 p.m.

Having said that, how is Government in terms of its overall policy for education and training taking that into account in terms of the long-term training of our students who are coming out at the rate of 4 000 to 5 000 a year? Very few of them even though there are computers in the schools now – I am not disputing that – have been trained to the point where they are geared for this type of industry. Many of us remember the extensive exposure of those who were employed by INTEL and the other electronics firms when those industries were here. Are we taking a decision as to what kind of services and industries we wish our economy to be based on within the next 10 to 40 years

and are we ensuring that our educational system is able to meet those needs? That is the fundamental concern of mine.

Senator Straughn and Senator Barker-Welch made some valid comments, but what I am appealing for is some kind of idea as to the overall policy that informs this Government in terms of its educational and training programmes. The other point is this: in respect of the curriculum, as it presently exists, we have been very successful in teaching people to learn by rote, but we have not been as successful in teaching people how to survive within their own society. By survive I don't mean just survive; I am talking about how to get information and use it; how does one use information to get forward in terms of life.

It is interesting to note, and this can range from as far as family life education which I see this Government is now committing itself to... I would make one comment here and that is I do not agree with it coming at the secondary level because by that stage it is usually too late. If there is going to be serious family life education it must start from the primary level. That is where the consolidation must take place. It would range from as far as family life education to as wide as how to get a mortgage, a loan, things that will assist people when they leave school, things that they have to face from day to day – how to get a job, how to go about entering and interacting with certain institutions. Too often we have allowed to subsist an educational system that wishes only to operate within a formal environment without taking into account the day-to-day realities of the person who has to benefit from that system.

I am making a strong appeal that in any restructuring of the curriculum in the schools of this country – as I said the time has come for that based on where we see our country going – serious consideration must also be given to equipping young people as to how they may interface with the system, whether in Bridgetown, the country, on a plantation, a business firm, a theatrical group or a sporting organisation, or whatever. Very often, people start to feel alienated from a system because they do not understand how to use it to their benefit. If you continue to keep them in ignorance as to how these things are done, you are going to further cause serious problems between the same young people and the system because they feel ostracised and alienated by the system and unable to become part of the mainstream. That is a serious challenge at hand. I like to refer to it as teaching people how to live in whatever regard. That must become a primary consideration of any restructuring of any curriculum in this country.

In respect of images of ourselves and images of education, education and owning a house are perhaps the 2 dearest things to any Barbadian. They are both their means of upward social mobility for nearly a century and a

half. This country, regardless of how restricted that access, was one of the few colonies that was able to provide the opportunity if the child had the ability. A black child in the 19th century could go from primary school to university level with Codrington College providing the external degree. There are very few countries in the world that can boast of that. There are also very few countries in the world that can boast of the fact that we have a strong history of exporting teachers to the region and outside of the region. Therefore if we have benefited so extensively from the strong educational foundation, not only in terms of other Barbadians within the system who are coming up, but in terms of exporting products of the system to have an influence on other people in other countries and the indirect economic benefits that that has brought, I have never understood why it is that we in the Caribbean have for the most part seen the University of the West Indies not simply as an educational institution but we have restricted it in our view as an institution for educating West Indians. I am saying very strongly and in the most forceful manner that if only because of the debt problem the region is facing as a whole it is clear that the time has come for the University of the West Indies to expand its horizons as not only being an educator of West Indians but as being an educator – full stop – regardless of where those people might come from.

In the same way the institutions in England and North America and as far as India have benefited from our foreign exchange over the years in educating our people, our institution which has a very strong reputation worldwide for its academic ability must have a strong and an aggressive marketing drive to attract students from outside the Caribbean region to attend for a fee in the same way we have to pay a fee if we go outside our institution.

When you get a law degree from the University of the West Indies, you have a law degree that is on par with anyone from England, Canada and Australia. It is highly regarded and anyone who has sought to do post-graduate work will realise this. When you get a degree in medicine from the University of the West Indies, the number of West Indian doctors who are practising on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States of America alone is testimony to the high regard with which the University of the West Indies hospital and teaching facilities are held. True, there have been some difficulties there because of the debt problem and because of the fact that that particular faculty has been able to upgrade and maintain equipment to the satisfaction of the rapid change in technology within the medical field.

Having said that, however, Sir, the engineering facility, the natural science facility, the social sciences and history... To date we have not found it necessary... In the same way we can market a product that is made in Barbados we have not found ourselves capable of marketing one of our strongest assets, the ability to educate. When you see students in North America going

to London and Paris and other universities for a semester because the universities have agreed among themselves for some form of accreditation for the time spent and the programmes are extremely popular. When I was at the London School of Economics, LSE stood among American students as, "Let's See Europe". At the end of "Let's See Europe" they were still able to gain credits for the time spent at the London School of Economics.

There is no reason why the University of the West Indies should not be aggressively marketing itself to receive similar accreditation among ivy-league universities particularly because we are looking for people who pay well, and should not be pursuing those accreditation facilities so as to enable a large number of students to come to the 3 campuses that presently exist for the whole year. They have now moved to the semester system so it makes it far easier.

4.05 p.m.

It is a question, Sir, of altering our mental environment, as I have said in here on many occasions on what we see as possible as earning foreign exchange for us and what we believe. We know we have earned foreign exchange from sugar, tourism and manufacturing. When we are looking at earning foreign exchange we may vary that slightly with the offshore sector.

It is my submission, Sir, that one of the challenges that faces us as we move into the 21st Century is that ability to alter your mental environment and by so altering, examining and determining what are the new areas that are possible for us to develop as productive sectors. Not only is there a direct benefit to the University of the West Indies which the Barbados Government now owes a substantial amount of money to. By the way, I think it is in the vicinity of \$20 million, but, hopefully, if the University is able to accept fee-paying students from outside the region, it will reduce the extent of the subsidy the Governments in the region will have to place towards it.

It is a direct economic benefit to the island because it is the creation of a niche market within your tourism product as well. If you can encourage a couple hundred of students every 3 months coming here to study, they have to find somewhere to live. They have to bring in foreign exchange to convert that to local currency to pay for where they are living. There are a whole host of spin-offs that can develop from that.

We have had the problem here and in the rest of the Caribbean that when we train nurses, for example, they go for better terms and conditions. Instead of complaining of how we are losing these people, we are training them and investing so much money in training them and they are going to New York and all about the place, let us examine the feasibility of doing nothing but re-training in terms of the nurses and those types of health care personnel.

If you have an insatiable appetite in North America and Europe for these nurses, we are going to train them. Send them. If it is cheaper for us to train, all the better still. Once again not only are you creating another product within your foreign exchange sector, but you are creating another niche market within your tourism product. What I am essentially saying in this speech is that the time has come for us to be very serious in terms of how we perceive our development over the next 30 to 40 years.

It was said, I believe, by Senator Lewis in here earlier this year in respect of the sugar industry that people who were essentially all pensioners how could it be possible for them to have a view of the survival of the industry 20 and 30 years down the line. It is my submission that if there is a recognition that there may be some difficulty by those who are presently in the positions to dictate policy in terms of their perceptions of development 30 and 40 years along, there is no stronger and more persuasive argument for you to ensure that there is dialogue with the younger members of this country who are the ones who will be around 30 and 40 years down the line and who must have some type of vision and with the benefit of those who are older in terms of their experience as to the practical difficulties, then we can come up as having some kind of idea of where we want to take this country.

I give the example, Sir, of the University of the West Indies. I have given the example of training nurses. All not as to the question of our local position but only to show you how education, which has traditionally been seen as a social sector, is not a social sector simpliciter. It is a social and productive sector. It is a productive sector for 2 reasons, (1) the indirect benefit to which both Senator Barker-Welch and Senator Straughn spoke in that it provides the human resources for the productive sector, but (2) it can be the direct productive sector by earning foreign exchange in its own right. It is a question of perception. It is a question of innovativeness and a question of application thereafter. It is my contention that I am yet to see any overall policy telling me where (1) we want this country to go in 30 to 40 years and (2) how are we prepared to lay the foundation particularly in areas such as education and training which are so critical to the success of this development plan.

Now, Sir, nearly 5 000 people have been laid off from Government and its statutory corporations alone in the last year. I find it difficult to accept, and perhaps Senator Barker-Welch put it properly but not quite far enough when she said that there should be cracking to get it started because of the numbers of people who are in dying need of it. I go a little further. They should not be cracking to get it started in July of 1992. From the time you knew you had to deal with retrenchment within the public sector and there was likely to be a loss of jobs within the private sector as well because of the types of tax proposals, for example, those that directly impacted on the manufacturing sector,

you should have ensured that you had programmes and put aside funding for the programmes for the re-training of those people who were going to be retrenched. To try and do it 10 months later when most of them have been without the benefit of wages combined now with the fact that at best you have a difficulty with work ethic in this country and 10 months off will make your job doubly more difficult in terms of the inculcation of a work ethic because I have always maintained that it is all right for anybody to go to University or be apprenticed as anything. You may have the skill how to do it but if you do not have the work ethic with which to do it it is not worth anything to you. That is a critical factor in the equation of increasing productivity in the same way as training is a critical factor in the equation of increasing productivity but also giving a man or a woman the ability to earn for himself or herself.

Sir, I am saying to Government that it has been delinquent in its delay in bringing these measures only now some 10 months and some 5 000 jobs later, certainly only within the public sector. I see Senator Lewis and Senator Clarke shaking their heads but I will say this, that when we add up the figures that have gone home from each of the statutory corporations and from central Government that is the figure we are going to find.

Certainly, when we are dealing now with just the general question of unemployment, how do we deal with unemployment in a country where you cannot get the official figures. The Central Bank will not give us. The most they will tell us is that unemployment benefit claims have gone up by 41%. I am saying that we in the Barbados Labour Party have information that suggests to us that the unemployment rate in this country now is approximately 28%. This is in the absence of figures coming from the Central Bank.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. It is a rather dangerous thing to be throwing around figures willy-nilly. I would hope the Honourable Senator, if she has data, will make that data a document of the Senate or refrain from using the figures if she does not have them rather than speculating.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: With all due respect, Sir, I believe if the Honourable Senator listened carefully to what I said there would have been no need for that intervention. I carefully said that information we have suggests to us, and we have stated this publicly on the platforms in the last 2 weeks, we have every reason to believe that nationally unemployment figures are down around 28%.

I can tell you about Bush Hall, Sir. If he wants information on that I can undertake to supply him next week with it because we have done a survey within Bush Hall alone and we know that 4.4 or 4.5 out of every 10 persons living in Bush Hall are without a job today. There

are 4 500 roughly living between Stadium Road and where Senator Barker-Welch lives, near the Promenade....just in that one area alone. So that, Sir, the question of training and education is all the more critical when you consider that there are so many people out there who are unable to provide for themselves. But what do we see as training? What do we see as the possibilities for somebody to earn money? Am I going to hear still that they must go and work at a store in Bridgetown or they must go and get a skill which is the equivalent of plumbing or whatever? All those things are valid, Sir. But the reality of the situation is, Sir, that wherever we want to take Barbados, it is going to require other services, the same way that the computer services are coming to the fore now in terms of the employment of people.

4.15 p.m.

But we passed in here a few months ago something called the Telecommunications Bill now the Telecommunications Act. Do you know what was one of the things that I commented on – and to no avail? I received no support from anybody in here – was that in there there was a clause that any new technology coming on to the marketplace had to be offered to BARTEL and BET as a first option before anybody else could participate in it. At that time I suppose a lot of people did not panic because BARTEL and BET still belonged to Barbadians. The situation is different and the grant of the licence to those who have it now is much longer, Sir. It is my contention that there is a number of small black Barbadian firms around this country who have been dealing very successfully within the field of telecommunications in terms of portable telecommunications sets whether in the form of radio sets or in phones because at the end of the day a cellular phone is only a radio. But we feel that BARTEL and BET are the only ones who are to have the rights to any sort of entrepreneurial activity in new areas in this country and not some of these same small black Barbadian firms that exist and have the technical expertise. Because when I refer to the training that a lot of Bajans received from INTEL when INTEL was here, a lot of them have built upon that.

We should not be holding on to this archaic idea – because we are so frightened for information for passing – that to disseminate information on a radio you must have a radio licence. Because there is the ability for these same small black Barbadian firms, even now technologically but, it is the licence that stops them, to have and develop a whole string of what you call personal radio services and you send out an application about your personal radio service and somebody will subscribe to it. If you want a personal radio service that is playing jazz 24 hours a day you subscribe to it and you get it. In the same way that Senator Clarke, I know, would be one of those who would subscribe to CANA Business Review on the computer. The same principle, Sir.

I am showing you that there is a whole host of other activities out there that are possible provided you train people. But the real problem which therein lies is not so much with an antithesis, taking an opposite position to that proposition. Where the real problem lies is that I do not think too many people understood necessarily the far-reaching implications of that Telecommunications Act and the fact that in terms of establishing a teleport in this country is certainly something that is worth considering, if only because once again of the importance of its potential in earning foreign exchange as well as providing employment for a lot of local black Barbadians.

Sports is another area. In the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto of last year which is still valid – unlike the Democratic Labour Party who have moved away from their Manifesto of 1991 – we pledged to build a number of mini stadia across this island so that people would have the facilities so that a number of sporting organizations would be in a position to turn professional in the same way that there is now that fledgling move by the super league and the professional league that they have moving around the Caribbean. But we were talking about it locally, Sir, and we still are talking about it locally. Because it is our contention that once you give them the facilities that allow them to be able to charge a minimum fee.... I am not talking about any big set of money. But instead of them walking from the Barbados Lumber Company on to the field next door, they would have to go through a little gate with a fence and pay \$2 or \$3, not any big set of money. So that there is income coming in there. There is income coming in from the this is the other advantage of opening up the television rights – sale of the rights to broadcast. Those people who are presently unemployed and playing football and who are good at it or volleyball or basketball can then be paid a salary. You are not starting off like a Magic Johnson or a John Barnes or whatever – but a basic salary that would be commensurate with what they would have been receiving had they been in any other form of employ, across this country. Two hundred dollars a week, maybe that is what you are talking. You are talking about 12, 13 people on a team. And between the sale of rights as well as your entrance fee for people who now presently go and watch football free on an afternoon, you would be able to pay these people. This was the kind of facilitating that we proposed and the role that Government should play as well as bringing in people to help in the training and the coaching of these sportsmen. That is what we mean in the Labour Party when we talk about training and education. In other words, Sir, we do not limit it and we cannot limit it to just the very narrow areas because the way in which the world economy is moving requires us to be far more innovative and requires us to have a far wider definition of ourselves, of what we are capable of doing.

Culture is another area. All of these are people who we say we want to re-train. I hope that this re-training

would not be limited to the formal areas that we expect it to be limited to, like crochet and handicraft and these kinds of things alone or automechanics or whatever and what the Skills Training Board presently does. There is a whole host of areas that are possible.

Within the cultural area, we are talking about training of the existing actors and actresses some of whom may already hold down jobs. But if it becomes feasible for them to act full-time then they give up those jobs freeing those jobs for other people who are presently unemployed and who do not have the ability to act or go into those types of areas.

Sir, the bottom line is this, alter the mental environment within which we operate. Understand that the one rule we must give ourselves in terms of our ability to succeed in this country is that we must have a readily re-trainable population at all times at whatever stage of their life. I must be able to pick up a boy or girl at 16 in the same way that I must be able to pick up a man at 32 and a woman at 37 and another man at 45 and another man at fifty something and take them and re-train them at every stage of their development to be able to meet the needs of a technology that is moving swiftly. We have already established that we cannot compete with the labour intensive industries which means for the most part competing in service based industries, to a large extent. We are also competing with industries that are based on a utilisation of rapidly moving technology. We are unable to do so, Sir, unless we alter the present structure of our educational system, unless we alter the present structure of our curriculum. And until we know where we want to go we cannot know what we need to do now.

One last point before I close, Sir, and this relates to the physical site of the St. Matthews School. Sir, I was appalled, ashamed, embarrassed, any of those words that you want to carry with that, that we could be allowing children from the tender ages of 4 to 10 years old to be occupying the kinds of conditions of the buildings, occupying the buildings in the conditions that they are now at St. Matthews School, Sir.

4.25 p.m.

I went back there as recently as yesterday to check on it before I came in here today to speak and nobody can tell me that I did not pass down there recently. I went back there. There are 3 buildings on the property apart from the Church. In the first building, Sir, the windows to the bottom half of the school cannot open at all, so any child who happens to be sitting in a class next to that, can forget about any circulation of wind. The amount of broken glass windows both at the normal level and those in the big high buildings that are at the top of the building that allows for rain coming into the school are numerous again.

What is worse, Sir, is that if you saw the type of bathroom facilities that those children, as well as the teachers, are being asked to use, and the fact that they can only reach them by going through the outside, and if it is raining, they will get wet both ways. Sir, top and bottom according to Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order, I made no such comment.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I never said he has made any such comment, but he made such conduct that implied such comment.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I don't think you heard the very quiet aside correctly.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No Sir, I did not hear anything at all. I saw conduct implying what he said. There is a difference, Sir. Conduct, not comment.

Sir, the point is this. It is disgraceful that at a time when we can find money to do all kinds of things and send people all over the world, it cannot cost us that much money to put up 6, 2x3s and two pieces of galvanise to create a covered walkway from the buildings to the bathrooms so that when it is raining, like it has been raining in the last few months, these children and teachers don't have to get soaked and be able to relieve themselves of the pressures of nature.

Sir, it is disgraceful and I am appealing. There are two Honourable Ministers in here, there are 2 Honourable Parliamentary Secretaries in here, Sir, and I am appealing to them because the Minister of Education is not in here, so I will talk to you all. I am appealing to them to do what is necessary to ensure that come September of this year that those children do not go back into that school and those teachers do not go back into that school under those conditions, Sir. If the Press doubts me, Sir, I am inviting them to go up there this weekend and take photographs to see what I am talking about. It is disgraceful and it is appalling.

There was some talk, Sir, for the last few years, 3 to 4 years, that a new school would have been built under the World Bank Loan for the educational project but St. Matthews School name just kept hovering and hovering and hovering and today, Sir, there is no school. Let me say this, Sir, at least the members of the community up there with what limited resources they have, have already taken a stand.

I believe Friendship Youth Group undertook the task of debushing the area because the bush was at least some 4 to 5 feet high and I am talking within 30 to 40 feet of the building. I am talking about a health risk as well, in

terms of mosquitoes etc. I am talking about the fact that they went out there at least and debushed the area, not only to prevent the health risk but at least to give the children somewhere to run about and play.

We are talking, Sir, that at least 2 to 3 years ago, the same Friendship Youth Group took it upon themselves, because of the failure of Government to deal with the maintenance of that school, to bring some paint and try and paint up the place. Sir, they can only rely on what they themselves are able to give and where in an economy, where a number of those residents up there in that district have already been laid off, they can't give in the same manner that they would have been able to give before. It becomes all the more incumbent upon Government to ensure that no child in this country is subject to those conditions in 1992. It is not fair, it is not right and it is not conducive to learning.

St. Matthews School, Sir, has had a proud history in this country in terms of the people it has produced into this community. Senator Barker-Welch went there, Sir. My grandfather went there, Sir, and taught there too.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Hear thee is right. It has had a proud history, Sir, and it needs attention and I am urging the Honourable Ministers in here to do all within their power to ensure that during this summer vacation something is done to remedy the situation there.

One last point is the physical use of school buildings. Sir, this is crop over and it is disgraceful that we have about 8 or 10 tents around this country that can't find anywhere to perform. If we truly believe in community based activity, if we truly believe in terms of exposing the arts as well as the sports to people at the community level, to get them interested in partaking in that kind of activity, it is folly to tell me that you are closing up schools when the evening and weekends come because you have an automatic belief that somebody is going to vandalise it. Conditions can be attached to deal with that. People can be employed to deal with that, Sir, but to say that you are depriving the community of the use of the existing facilities within the very district, Sir, is counter productive. It alienates the school from the rest of the community and it does not allow the community to benefit from a range of activities, whether it be plays, whether it be NIFCA, whether it be calypso tents, whether it be Barbados Symphonia, whether it be classes being conducted at a community level. To say that we are able to ignore the type of facilities that already exist because we feel that these are sacred and should not be, what is the purpose. The school is there in the first place to benefit those from the surrounding areas in terms of learning between 8 to 3. What is the problem of extending that now to 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock at night?

I am making a call, Sir, that a decision be taken that schools in districts and communities must be allowed... people must have access, not necessarily free of cost, that is not what I meant, but must have access to be able to use these school halls in terms of their ability, whether it is to put on classes, stage plays, whatever, but that the community as a whole benefits and that people have a relationship with the school because once they have a relationship with the schools they are more likely to protect it as a physical building than if they have no relationship at all with it. If a fellow knows that he can go in there and learn something about dub, he is less likely to go and vandalise the windows because he has to benefit from it when each Thursday evening comes. That is the point I make, Sir. Let us not prevent people in the communities from using the facilities that exist now among the schools, Sir.

With those few words, Sir, I wish to say that I support the Resolution but I believe the Resolution has been late in coming in so far as Government should have started its retraining programme much, much earlier and planning should have been commensurate and should have been concomitant with any decision to lay off people in this country. Not 10 months and 9 000 jobs later. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President, I have listened to 2 excellent contributions today coming from Senator Straughn and Senator Barker-Welch and an excellent political speech from the other Senator. It is most unfortunate that Senator Mottley was not in her place when I introduced this measure because had she been there she would have discovered that some of the very points raised in her contribution, were addressed specifically.

We raised the question of how the retraining would take place, that is, we were doing this in consultation with the manufacturers and the private sector to determine what sort of training we should do for jobs which they expect to be coming on stream, not only today but over the future. We are not doing this ourselves. We must get through the short term and the medium term before we get to the long term.

We also have the benefit of Senator Mottley who only went to the primary school to visit and not to the secondary school. At the secondary school she would have found in place certain guidance counsellors who are directing our young people.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, I specifically said in my contribution that I realised that Government had instituted certain types of activity, for example, the family life education in the

secondary schools, but I went on to make the point that it was needed more so in the primary schools to consolidate at that very early age. There is no dispute as to the fact that Government has those programmes and guidance counsellors in the secondary schools. I benefited from it. 4.35 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, I was addressing the point of the guidance counsellors and the point which I thought the Senator made in connection with the preparation of students for how do they present themselves when they go to look for a job. I do believe this is a role performed by the guidance counsellors in the schools. I think out of the long discourse by Senator Mottley the only point really was one of the University of the West Indies getting into the business of educating people outside of the region. The meaning of the term "university" is that you are dealing with the universe and it cannot by definition be limited to a very narrow area. Otherwise, it becomes a regional institution rather than indeed a university. I know that this side has already started exchange programmes at the Community College with a college in Canada. I think it is Ryerson if I am not mistaken. But there is an exchange programme already in place. Professor Elwyn Griffith operating out of the University of Miami has a summer programme in law with the University of the West Indies. It is not as widespread as it might be and I know that on this side we have been looking at arranging exchange programmes at the high school level during the summer months. Although Senator Mottley was the person to articulate the statement here, the point is not lost and has not been lost by us because we recognise that there are many facets to tourism. We have been developing sports tourism but there is also the question of health tourism. Throughout Europe, as Senator Mottley quite rightly said, you have that in the summer months usually when North Americans go off to universities for short summer courses. I think the first step has been taken in order to marry the two systems and that is the introduction of the semester system rather than the old time system which existed when we were firmly tied to the British system.

Senator Barker-Welch's point was very well taken and here I am dealing with her impression with the dress of the primary school which I think was St. Bernard. I share here concern of the cost of dressing up especially the primary school children for graduation and even in a country as wealthy as the United States, in order to avoid the sort of competition, all students are put in the same black robe and the mortar board of various colours. Some of them are made out of paper and tissue in order to reduce the cost so that all students will be in uniform on that given day and to avoid any over-dressing based on students whose parents had more funds and what have you. The idea of putting students in gowns and caps was to make sure that there was uniformity among all students on this particular day. I would hope that this is something that

could creep into our society and reduce some of the unnecessary cost of preparing for graduation.

Regarding the point of preparing our teachers, for too long we have failed to recognise that our assets are our people. I think that we must begin again. We are doing some of it now. Some of our teachers have been requested to go overseas to work in Africa. I am sorry but I do not remember the name of the country now but there are actually some teachers who have gone overseas to teach. I believe it is Zambia and I think we need to do more of this. When I come to present another paper I have here, I will deal with the sort of cultural exchanges and other exchanges that need to take place between developing countries. But I will deal with that in another paper but not at this point in time.

I agree with Senator Straughn in terms of the use of local expertise in contracts. But very often he who pays the piper calls the tune and the most that we can do sometimes is to ensure that at least there is a local understudy who will then gain the necessary experience so that we can begin to present our local experts as suitable people to undertake some of these contracts. The presentation of the projects which we have undertaken including primary and secondary schools also composites were also included within the framework and it is just a matter of dealing with the ends and thereby including the means.

We note your concern about entry into the Polytechnic and I believe that I talked about programmes between the National Training Board and the Polytechnic in order to facilitate this type of arrangement. We must recognise that education must be made more open ended and people are free to come in and start their education and be allowed to proceed along. Education should no longer be viewed purely in discrete terms as a two year here or three year here but as an ongoing process and people should be free to enter and leave and come back in to the educational system based on their needs to upgrade their skills and the opportunity should be there. Rather than saying that you have to do it when you are 18, 19, 25 or 30 years, the opportunity should be there for you to do it.

I agree with Senator Straughn that there are certain projects which we have on stream that we should finish and which we should not just leave hanging. The debt for posterity – I have tried to make this point in here and I will try it again now because we are outside of the Appropriation Bill. All Government's expenditure is seen as expenditure and expense as a business would look at its income statement. I have said this in here before and I will say it again. On the other hand, if a private company is putting up a building, the chances are that it will borrow the money to put up the building because the building will exceed the payment of the loan and it would be considered as an asset and not treated as an expense. When Government does the same thing, it is now treated as an

expense as though the asset will be consumed in a short period of time. If we are putting infrastructure in place or putting up buildings that will be used, take for example, the gymnasium which will be used for generations unborn at this point in time, this is an investment. If part of the cost for that has to be born by them because the facility which we will pass on to them, they will be getting it at a cheaper price and they will be able to provide it for themselves at that point in time. So our debt should not be viewed as an expense, but that part of it which has a life that will extend over years. We must recognise it as a net contribution to the capital formation of the country and not just as an expense or, as the uninitiated would have us believe, the simplistic term of squandermania. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

4.45 p.m.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – TO MOVE THE FIRST READING OF A BILL TO AMEND THE STUDENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND ACT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this is really a correction resulting from an amendment made to the Student Revolving Loan Fund Act in May 1991. On that occasion, a Parliament was invited to amend and replace Section 17(a) and (b) of the Act. Resulting amendments did not take into consideration the fact that there was reference in Section 18 to Section 17(b) and this tidying up amendment today in fact now removes the reference to (b) in the second line of Section 18 and it also removes Section 19 which is not considered to be necessary because of an amendment to an earlier section of the Act.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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.

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.

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

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

ORDER NO. 4 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF
30 MILLION RENMINBI YUAN FROM THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, the bringing of this Resolution dealing with the borrowing of the equivalent of 30 million Renminbi Yuan from the Government of the People's Republic of China, that is, BDS\$10.8 million affords us an opportunity to appreciate the types of cooperation and to recognise the granting of financial and technical assistance and the possibility for cultural exchanges between developing countries.

For too long we have looked to the North to be our benefactors for financial and technical assistance and, to a much lesser extent, as a yardstick by which we measure our own cultural achievements. I do believe that the time has come for us in the developing world to emulate the People's Republic of China by moving from mere rhetoric to more action between the developing countries or, as it is commonly put, to have greater South to South dialogue.

We in Barbados have played and continue to play a small part in granting technical assistance in the area of policing in Namibia. We have teachers on assignment in Zambia and we have also assisted other developing countries in terms of preparing voter registration lists over time. Not only have we given assistance in terms of technical assistance but from time to time we have also granted financial assistance, albeit small, to those developing countries which have been smitten by natural disasters.

Mr. Deputy President, we, in the developing world, shall never make the transition to developed country status unless we recognise there reside vast untapped opportunities for trade, tourism and cultural exchanges, transfer of technology, capital transfers and investment opportunities. The People's Republic of China has been in the vanguard of developing dialogue between developing countries. The evidence of this is magnified here in Barbados not only through this Resolution and the others which preceded it but in such areas as the building project at the Barbados Community College.

This Resolution seeks to approve the borrowing by the Government of Barbados of 30 million Renminbi Yuan the equivalent of BDS\$10.8 million. This facility will be the third interest free loan that the Government of Barbados has received from the Government of the People's Republic of China. The first was received in 1986 for a similar amount of 30 million Renminbi Yuan which assisted in financing the construction of the gymnasium at Wildey. This gymnasium is a reliable sports facility providing facilities for basketball, netball, badminton and volley ball

among other sports. The seating capacity will be approximately 3 997 persons. It is now completed and will be handed over officially to Government sometime this month.

Mr. Deputy President, for the benefit of the Senate, and Ministers of Government had the opportunity to visit the facilities about the middle of June.
4.55 p.m.

I would strongly recommend that the Deputy President make some arrangement, if it is in order, with the gymnasium people to look at the facility. I really think it is an outstanding bit of work. It is designed not only for the 20th Century but well into the 21st Century. It is possible to see from any part of the seating arrangement within the hall. You would not be blocked by impediments. There are electronically controlled scoreboards, conference rooms and all the modern facilities necessary to operate the gymnasium. I really think some trip should be made by the Senators to see the facility.

This gymnasium has been designed along with other sporting facilities already completed such as the swimming complex. Now there are some additional facilities which are planned such as the indoor cricket academy to take our sporting facilities well into the 21st Century. It is designed to satisfy the demands already made to further strengthen sports tourism. It will be a major source of foreign exchange earnings through the sponsoring of professional boxing title fights, international volleyball tournaments, international table tennis bouts, basketball – I believe the Harlem Globetrotters are on schedule to visit Barbados some time this month to market the opening and such other events.

Perhaps, some of us here might be concerned about the seating facility of 4 000 whether or not it will be adequate to host an international prize fight. The answer to that is "Yes". It has been done in North America whereby they do not rely on the live gates but on the television rights that will accrue for televising such an encounter. Consequently, the facility here will be quite sizeable to be used. I understand part of the equipment and funds that will be made available will be used to provide a championship boxing ring which will be collapsible and could be taken down and put up as the occasion warrants.

The second interest free loan from the People's Republic of China came in 1990 and was in the sum of 20 million Renminbi Yuan or just over BDS \$13 million. A part of this loan was used for balance of payments support and to finance the further development of the Wildey Sporting Complex.

The third loan which this Resolution now addresses which, again, will also be interest free, will be repayable in annual installments over a 10-year period beginning on

October 1, 2002 or, in short, with a grace period of about 10 years before we start repaying the principal.

This loan will be used primarily to complete the gymnasium plant, provide technical assistance and equipment for its management and operations respectively. A part of the loan may also be used by the private sector to assist firms in that sector in setting up joint venture. The provision of technical assistance for the management and operation of this facility is mandatory if the plant and equipment are not to be abused because it is a highly technical operation. I do believe that over a period of the first 2 or 3 years we will need to have someone trained locally to properly man and service the equipment we have in place.

I would like to repeat that this third loan, in addition, to serving to complete the gymnasium to provide the necessary equipment such as the boxing ring I talked about and also to provide technical assistance to manage the plant while we train local Barbadians, part of it will be made available and can be used by the private sector to assist firms in setting up joint ventures.

Mr. Deputy President, we should note the other facilities proposed for this area of Wildey. What we are trying to do here is to make a total sporting complex in the Wildey area. We already have the swimming complex and the gymnasium is coming on stream. The other facilities that will be coming are an indoor cricket academy. Here it is we are talking about training people to provide other things. We have been the leading cricketing nation in the West Indies up to quite recently. We have produced some of the best cricketers in the world. But yet, if we wanted to train our cricketers we sent them to England to learn from the Al Gower Training School, or such like which is utter nonsense. To rectify this situation we will have this indoor cricket academy. I do believe that with the Sir Garfield Sobers Tournament we will have the youngsters coming here who would be familiar with this. These things are all tied in and are part of a plan which the loyal Opposition is not always in a position to see.

There will also be cricket and soccer pitches put in place which will be used primarily by the combined schools. There will also be an exercise hall. There will be tennis courts. There will be headquarters for the Barbados Olympic Association and just as the swimming complex has within it dormitory facilities, there will be dormitories provided for the contestants.

Mr. Deputy President, I have taken some time to present this Resolution. The reason for that is I think all Barbadians should be aware of the special and favourable features of these 3 loans from the People's Republic of China. I really want to go over them because earlier today we introduced a resolution from the World Bank. It is true it was more money, but even the one for \$500 000 the

conditions or conditionalities and all these other provisions if you do not take it down there is a cost of commitment fee and all these.

In all 3 of these loans coming from a 3rd World country they have all been interest free. There has been an absence of the numerous conditions or conditionalities you normally find surrounding other loans coming from the multilateral organisation. These 3 loans have also carried a measure of flexibility, that is, there have been many uses to which the loans could be put. I was at pains to point out the private sector even being able to access this third loan for joint venture purposes. A long moratorium of 10 years is given before principal is required to be repaid in addition to its being interest-free. I think we should note these significant contributions.

I am also happy to report that for the handing over of the gymnasium, which will take place during this month, a delegation from the People's Republic of China headed by Luo Gan who is the Secretary-General of the State Council will be visiting Barbados from July 25 – 29 to discuss matters of further technical and economic co-operation and also to hand over the gymnasium and sign this new loan agreement. I am quite sure, Mr. Deputy President, that a warm Barbadian welcome will be awaiting that delegation. I now move that this resolution do not pass.
5.05 p.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPANIES STABILISATION TAX BILL, 1992

Order No. 5 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the imposition of a Stabilisation Tax of 5% on companies.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this Bill which seeks to bring an Act into operation on the 1st April, 1992 and for that Act to cease to have any effect on the 30th June, 1992. This Bill makes provision so that the company, save for those exempt, should pay a Stabilisation Tax at the rate of 5% on the total insurable earnings of the employees of the company.

This Bill was primarily designed to raise revenue but had severe adverse implications for the maintenance and stimulation of job creation or on employment.

During the debate on the Appropriation Bill in this Chamber in March 1992, I had the pleasure to indicate that this Stabilisation Tax would have been removed in June of this year. The Bill before us now seeks to give effect to that statement. Mr. Deputy President, I would be failing in my duty if I did not remind this Honourable Senate that this Government, the Democratic Labour Party Government is one that keeps its word. When this surcharge was

imposed for one year, also a revenue raising measure, the other side indicated that it would not have been removed. My Government removed the surcharge at the end of the financial year, as promised. In April of this year we said that the Stabilisation Tax for corporations would be removed by June 30, 1992. Today we seek to make good on that promise. We recognize that we must seek to create new jobs and facilitate employment. The removal of the Stabilisation Tax is consistent with this objective. You would have noted, Mr. Deputy President, that further steps were also being taken to provide training for the new jobs which will come on stream in the Twenty-first Century by means of the resolution seeking approval for the Government of Barbados to borrow US\$½ million from the World Bank. That resolution passed this Honourable Chamber earlier today. So great is our emphasis on training and re-training for new jobs and employment generation that these borrowed funds, as the resolution which passed today, will be used to provide assistance to the National Training Board for institutional strengthening, carry out an educational needs assessment survey of retrenched workers and prepare a training plan. That is the loan from the World Bank, the resolution which was passed today must be seen in conjunction with the removal of the Stabilisation Tax which was a tax on the payroll and by definition a tax on employment within the company. The re-training programme for those people who have been retrenched and for new people entering the work force and also the removal of this disincentive to the hiring of people together should act as an incentive to improve the overall employment position. These measures, the re-training programme and the removal of disincentives to the hiring of people by the private sector must all form part of the structural changes which must be undertaken if we are to launch this country on the path of sustainable growth and development.

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

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Bellamy.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Mr. Deputy President, I listened with interest to the way in which Senator Dr. Clarke introduced this and particularly to the terms that he used to the effect that it was with great pleasure that he rose to introduce this Bill.

First of all, Mr. Deputy President, let me say that the Companies Stabilisation Tax was originally introduced to come into effect on the 1st December, 1991 and at that time when it was introduced, it was specific to be in place for 4 months to be retired on 31st March, 1992. It was one of the measures that were deemed to be necessary to enable the Government to allow for certain provisions to be made in respect of the manufacturing sector and to release the imposition of additional duties on the importation of raw

materials and machinery inputs into the manufacturing sector up to December 31, 1991. This measure was one of the revenue-earning measures that was introduced to assist with offsetting the loss in revenue by not introducing the originally proposed manufacturing duties.

During the debate on the Estimates in March of this year I made mention of the fact that I sincerely hoped that this tax would in fact end on the date stated and would not be continued. One of the reasons for this is because the Stabilisation Tax was applied to the payroll cost of a company at the rate of 5% of National Insurable earnings and this combined with the extremely large increase in interest charges that also occurred during the same period. Probably when added together the greatest detractor from the advancement of any company or any business in Barbados and certainly would have contributed in no small measure to unemployment and the lay-offs that occurred.

Unfortunately in the Budget presentation of March 31 this year which was deemed to be a no tax Budget, it was not a no tax Budget because this was one of the measures that was rolled over on that date to continue. And therefore having originally been promised to end on March 31 and having been rolled over on March 31 to continue, it meant that additional revenue would be earned, as a result of this measure.

It is therefore certainly with pleasure that we now understand and accept that this measure has been stopped as of June 30. As I understand parliamentary procedure what we are really doing here on July 15 is passing enabling legislation which would make it legitimate for the Government to have collected this tax between April 1 and June 30 of this year.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I did not mean to interrupt you. I think in fiscal matters coming up from the Lower Chamber especially tax measures, I think we have about 4 months in which to bring legislation. I do not think it is quite right the way you have phrased your statement.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: I appreciate what Senator Dr. Clarke has just said, Mr. Deputy President. I am well aware of that. But the thing is that the measure must be brought within the time period whether it is 3 or 4 months. The only point I was making was that this is well within the time frame but it just so happens that what we are debating is a measure that has in fact come to an end even though we are within the time frame. And therefore that is why I am referring to it as enabling legislation because if it were brought outside of the time frame then Government would have operated illegally by collecting this tax. That is the point I was making. So we are really validating the collection of the tax. However it is late in the evening, Mr. Deputy President, and I just wanted to make a few comments in respect of this because I

certainly think that it will be a measure that will be most welcome by all businesses in Barbados.
5.15 p.m.

Earlier this afternoon when I heard Senator Mottley, who unfortunately has left the Chamber, referring to the direction in which we should look at training individuals coming on to the job market for the future, she specifically referred us to a recent press article. Caribbean Data Services have announced that they are going to increase their employment and we should take note of this.

Of course if all the businesses in Barbados operated under the tax advantages of Caribbean Data Services, I don't think we would have an unemployment difficulty in Barbados since they operate as an IDC under Offshore business sector conditions. So we should also take note of that. At this point of time the removal of this punitive tax on business, because I can only refer to it as a punitive tax on business since it came off above the line, it has to be most welcome.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister in announcing the removal of tax and at the same time announcing the increase in corporation tax from 35 to 40 per cent has computed that the removal of this tax would probably result in a shortfall of revenue of \$21 million, whereas the increase in corporation tax to 40 per cent would realise approximately \$8 million which theoretically produces \$13 million moving back into the system.

Of course since we were always notified from the time that this tax was first introduced from the 1st December last year, even though it was rolled over on March 31 this year, we were always under the impression that this was in effect a surcharge like tax that would be short lived in nature. To compare the increase in corporation tax with a release of the stabilisation tax, I don't think it is entirely a fair comparison since we were expecting the stabilisation tax to be removed anyway and the increase in corporation tax is going to remain with us indefinitely.

However, we are dealing here this afternoon specifically with the stabilisation tax and with those remarks by way of consideration as the business sector will consider it, it is with great pleasure that I support the Bill which effectively results in the removal of this tax. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, I have noted the comments of Senator Bellamy and I am sorry we had to carry it on as long as we did, but taxes from time to time serve many purposes. Sometimes to raise revenue and there was a time when we were constrained to raise revenue and the casualty had to be some loss of jobs. We are now happy to report that we are in a position to remove it and we should hope that

advantage will be taken by the business community to begin once again the process of rehiring.

Many things have been happening here today. We have the bright outlook in terms of the loan that is coming on stream for the highway. We have the Resolution being passed for the additional injection of funds for the gymnasium project, equipment and technical training. I think between these that they do recognise and do emphasise that the international community is completely ignoring the utterances which have been emanating from the other side of the room and by their actions have continued to demonstrate the confidence in the management of the Barbadian. Not only the management but the prospect of the Barbados economy because no one but no one deliberately sets out to make a loan unless the individual or country or institution sees some likely hope, or at least they have the belief that their moneys will be recoverable. This is a matter of confidence and I do think that we, in Barbados, should take heart that in spite of what we see reported on a daily basis that the international community looking at this country, its management, its institutions, looking at them all, objectively, have seen fit to continue to support us. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

COMMITTEE

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: I beg to move that the Senate go into Committee on this Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is certified as a money Bill.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy President, since this Bill has been certified as a money Bill, I beg to move that this Bill be read a third time.

The question that the Bill be read a third time and cited as the Companies Stabilisation Tax Act, 1992 was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Order No. 6 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the sale of land at Coverley, Christ Church, to Isolene Roach.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks approval for disposal by sale of 2 parcels of land at Coverley Plantation in Christ Church to Isolene Roach who presently occupies these 2 lots at Coverley Tenantry. As you are probably aware, Coverley Tenantry is part of the Coverley Plantation which was acquired by the Crown in its right of Government in November of 1978. The tenantry is specified under the

First Schedule of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and under normal circumstances, persons who occupy these lands would be entitled to purchase the lands at \$1.00 per square foot or \$300, whichever is the greater. But Mrs. Roach does not have a house on the premises and therefore fails to qualify under the Tenancies Freehold and Purchase Act.

The 2 lots which consist of 437.3 square metres and 401.5 square metres can be sold to her under the Agricultural Holdings (Options to Purchase) Act, Cap. 221 and the proposal is that these two lots which are valued at \$7 200 by the Commissioner of Land Tax be disposed of by sale to Mrs. Isolene Roach for the sum of \$7 200. I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question that the Resolution be passed was put to the Senate and agreed to.
5.25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Sir, that takes care of today's Order Paper. I beg to move that this sitting be now adjourned *sine die*. In doing so, Mr. Deputy President, I would suggest to Members that it is very likely that we would wish to meet on July 29th. I do not wish to adjourn to that date because I am not certain what the Order Paper will be like for the day's sitting of July 28th, but you will be notified.

I beg to move that this sitting be adjourned *sine die*.

The question that this sitting be adjourned sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the sitting accordingly.
5.28 p.m.

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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

SENATE

Wednesday, August 05, 1992

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, August 05, 1992, at 11.15 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 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 Dr. E. A. SIMMONS

Senator J. J. PAYNE

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

Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT, S.C.M.

Senator W. L. INNISS

Senator J. G. BELLAMY

Senator J. A. F. COLE

Senator T. E. BARKER.

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5) Order, 1992;

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 6) Order, 1992;

The Health Services Hospital Fees (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1992;

National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1992;

The 7th Actuarial Review of the National Insurance Scheme;

The Transport Levy (Amendment) Order, 1992;

The Land Tax Rebate Order, 1992;

The Land Tax Rebate (Revocation) Order, 1992

The Land Tax (Rate of Tax) (Amendment) Order, 1992.

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

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I wish to move that the Final Appropriation Bill be read a first time and also a Bill to amend the Pharmacy Act, Cap. 372D, a Bill to amend the Landlord and Tenant (Registration of Tenancies) Act, a Bill to repeal the Employment Levy Act, Cap. 69 and the Transport Levy Act, Cap. 92A. I beg to move that these four Bills be read a first time.

The question that these four Bills be read a first time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Sir, I move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the duration of today's sitting.

The question that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the duration of today's sitting was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I also beg to move that Senator Joseph Payne be appointed to perform the duties of Deputy President for today's sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and was agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE FINAL APPROPRIATION BILL IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR WHICH ENDED ON MARCH 31, 1992

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, the Constitution of Barbados provides in Section 109(5) the following:

"In respect of all supplementary expenditure voted on by the House of Assembly in pursuance of Section 4, the Minister responsible for Finance may, at any time before the end of the financial year, introduce into the House of Assembly a Supplementary Appropriation Bill containing under appropriate Heads the aggregate sums so voted and shall as soon as possible after the end of each financial year introduce into the House of Assembly a Final Appropriation Bill containing any such sums which have not yet been included in any Appropriation Bill."

Mr. Deputy President, in the past, many questions have been raised in this Chamber about the effectiveness of the Senate in the debate on the Final Appropriation Bill since requests for supplemental funds have already been debated and approved by resolution in the Other Place and invariably spent by the time this instrument reaches us for consideration. At those times, I have sought to indicate to this Honourable Chamber that it had a golden opportunity to review how well the Government was able to implement its programmes based upon its approved Estimates of Expenditure as presented in the Appropriation Bill.

In March 1991, Mr. Deputy President, this Honourable Chamber debated the Appropriation Bill 1991-92 and approved expenditures for the sum of \$1 350 318 441. Today, we are being asked to provide for the grant out of the Consolidated Fund the sum of

\$5 766 403 and for the appropriation of that sum for the services and purposes specified in the Schedule.

Before getting into the purposes for which these funds were sought and expended, I would wish to highlight two very important achievements which attest to the efficiency of my Government, especially the Ministry of Finance. The first important achievement is the promptness in bringing this Bill before us. It is now less than five months since the close of the financial year 1991-92. Mr. Deputy President, the records will show that before 1988 such Bills did not reach this Chamber until well over nine months and sometimes nearly a year after the close of the financial year to which it referred. The second and by far the most important achievement is that this Democratic Labour Party Government has been able to so properly project its expenditures and to so skillfully and efficiently manage the implementation of its programmes that we have seen the smallest total request for supplemental grants since financial Appropriation Bills came before us. As a matter of fact, we are seeking today, in the Final Appropriation Bill, to ask for a mere \$5 766 403 out of a total actual expenditure at 31st March, 1992 of \$1 276 197 292, with a margin of error of less than 1%, somewhere around $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%, which is negligible.

11.30 a.m.

This achievement, Mr. Deputy President, becomes even more compelling when it is realised that preparation of the Estimates begins well in advance of 6 months before the start of the financial year, that is, some time around September for the financial year actually beginning in April.

With your permission now, Mr. Deputy President, we may now wish to review the Schedule to this Bill to see the purposes to which these funds have been put. Under Head 28 – Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, this request for supplementary provision totalling \$800 000 was to meet expenditure for payment to the contractor, Nehaul Construction Company Limited, for work done on the Hometown Complex Project.

This arose because on the recommendation of the Tenders Committee the contract for this project was awarded to Messrs. Nehaul Construction Company Limited in the sum of \$7.5 million. The estimated period of construction was stated to be within 64 weeks and work actually began on June 10, 1991. The sum of \$1.9 million was provided in the 1991-92 Estimates of Expenditure under Head 28. Expenditure on the project as at 31st December, 1991 was \$1 898 465, leaving a balance of approximately \$1 535 000. The Quantity Surveyor has stated that the value of work completed and the materials on site is in the vicinity of \$3 million and the amount required is to meet the outstanding sum due to the contractor.

Failure to provide funds on a timely basis would have meant a cessation of work on the Hometown Complex Project with completion being later than originally estimated. In addition, it may have meant that the contractor would have sought additional funds to restart work and for any loss of profit. The total cost of the project would have increased due to rising prices of materials and labour. Furthermore, the location of this site at Hometown exposes it to the effects of wind driven salt air and any steel or iron rods left unprotected would have been subjected to severe erosion caused by rust. It was therefore prudent to provide these funds to prevent significant cost overruns on the project.

Turning to Head 36 – Ministry of Health, the rationale for the supplementaries under this Head is as follows. Under the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Object No. 12, Operating Expenses, the expenditure here was a direct result of treatment under the Medical Aid Scheme and we are now seeking an additional \$480 150 to take care of what would have been natural overruns under this Head.

Under the Item – Supplies and Materials, there has been an increase here because of an increase in the number of beds in the Hospital going from 530 to 592.

On the question of the Drug Service, Supplies and Materials, the provision originally voted in the Approved Estimates proved insufficient mainly as a result of the increasing cost of imported drugs.

Turning to the Capital items, the sums of \$1 636 848 and \$148 580 were required for Object No. 623 – Structures and Object No. 626 – Professional Services respectively. A major programme of refurbishing and upgrading the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was initiated in 1986 with 65% of funding provided by the Inter-American Development Bank. This project was originally scheduled for completion in December, 1989 but several delays in the construction programme have resulted in the project being extended to December 30, 1991. The Inter-American Development Bank has extended the period of disbursement to December 1991 and has indicated that that would be the final extension to the programme. However, final payment had to be made to the contractor, Kier Limited, and the request for reimbursement of U.S.\$ 545 875 submitted to the IADB by November 18, 1991 had not been honoured. As a result, there are no funds available to meet the outstanding commitments and it is not now possible to re-submit the claim for reimbursement to the Bank. The supplementary provision of \$1 636 848 was therefore required to meet the claims from the contractor to cover the period through the end of the contract. Because of this increase for the contract of \$1 million, the increase of professional fees amounting to \$148 580 is required because the professional fees are

generally levied as a percentage of the total cost of the project. Those are the major reasons why the supplementaries were sought and why it is necessary to bring the Final Appropriations Bill before us.
11.40 a.m.

This Government is currently reviewing the whole area of presenting the Final Appropriations Bill, and has given, and is still giving some consideration to ensuring that when money resolutions are introduced in the other Chamber this Honourable Chamber is given an opportunity to debate them at an earlier period so that there is some freshness at the time when the funds are being voted. We have not yet determined the appropriate method of so doing, but there can be no doubt of our good faith as we have demonstrated by shortening the period by which the Final Appropriation Bill has been getting before this Honourable Chamber. We can assure you that, based on the greater efficiency within the Ministry of Finance in terms of estimating expenditure, we shall have fewer supplementary requests and a falling off in supplementary provisions over time.

Mr. Deputy President, with your permission, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I had no intention of speaking on this Bill but when I heard the Honourable Minister congratulating himself I thought I had to put in my 2 cents worth.

The Minister said, quite rightly, that this is the quickest time that we have been able to get the Final Appropriation Bill before Parliament. For that, Sir, the Government must take full commendation from this Honourable Chamber because given their record of handling legislation we are glad for any improvement and we hope that it will be transferred to other more important areas of Government activities.

With regard to the second point that he made about the size of the supplementary vote, you may recall that, since 1988 we, in the Barbados Labour Party, through our spokesman in the other place have been calling upon Government to be more prudent in its management, especially when it comes to spending the taxpayers money. For 4 years, they have totally ignored our pleas. We highlighted to them the likely results of their over-expenditure. The Honourable Minister sat down in Cabinet in an important post as Junior Minister of Finance where he would have been bringing his enormous skills to bear on financial matters and, for years and years, he did nothing about curtailing Government expenditure. It took people from Germany and the United States, with a different colour of skin from ours, to come in here and bring Government to its senses. All along, Sir, we

have been saying that it was spending too much and it would run us into trouble.

Sir, if you read the records of the other place over the years, you will see we have been constantly castigating Government for overspending. Now, Sir, this morning we are hearing the Minister say that the Government is to be praised after overspending rapidly and bringing the country to its knees between 1987 and 1991. Now that the country has been put in the hands of the international receivers they are to be praised for only bringing a supplementary of \$5 million.

That statement alone caused me to get up and speak. This reduction in the supplementary this year cannot undo the harm that our country has suffered, especially, in the past 2 years as a result of Government's over-expenditure. We, on this side, cannot join the Minister in self commendations because we know that it is only because of the international vice grip, not put on by the people in Barbados, because what we say does not cut any ice with them, but it has to take somebody from overseas...

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order. I didn't mean to interrupt my good friend, Senator Barker, but I believe under the Constitution of Barbados that all financial matters are under the Minister of Finance and nobody from overseas or anywhere else can determine what our expenditure should be.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Letter of Intent which the Prime Minister so proudly presented to this nation had in an agreement reached between the Government and the IMF with regard to expenditure targets and all sorts of targets. I am quite right to say that it is only on the IMF insistence that Government has curtailed its expenditure. I am quite justified in saying that. There is a reason for this because, if you remember, elections were held in 1991 so, obviously, given their history, we would hardly expect them to curtail expenditure just before elections. Thankfully, elections are now over, and they are now seeing the folly of their unwisdom - to coin a word.

Sir, I now turn briefly to some of the items in the Schedule. The Senator mentioned that more money was spent on the Hometown Complex. I take it for the new police station and Magistrate's Court in Hometown which, unfortunately, have had to be abandoned. As far as I know, work has stopped on that project. Perhaps the Minister could tell us what plans Government has for restarting and completing this project. If it was not an important project, I know Government would not have started it. Since it is so important to our national psyche and economic well-being I hope that Government will assure us that, as the Minister said, we will not have the steel rusting for too much longer as in Sherbourne; that we will not have the

massive cost overruns which would result from the stopping and starting of projects. We can do with some reassurance on this side since we are not privy to Government's inner circles officially.

Sir, I am always more than happy when the Government spends money on health. I was disappointed that Government has planned to cut back, especially areas like the Drug Service where we notice that this year there has been a reduction in the grant under the Bill that we discussed in March. There was a significant decline in the amount of money spent on health, and I want to caution Government that there are 2 areas on which it has to think twice when it comes to cutting expenditure, that is health and education.

All of us would agree that a lot of the prosperity we have is a direct result of the money we spent on our social services. It is money well spent. So just a word of caution to Government: be careful how you are tampering with the Budget for health and education. These 2 Ministries take the most of the money while the feeling is that all Ministries should have cuts, you have to be careful because when you cut the services in health, when you cut services at the polyclinics and at the Hospital, you will see the results in more days lost from work and that sort of thing. We have to be careful that our preventative programmes are well funded because in this Island we cannot tolerate any such diseases, given the very fragile nature of our tourist industry.

With those words, we take note of the fact that Government has brought this Bill in 4 months.
11.50 a.m.

Sir, I hope that the Honourable Ministers present would not in the future, wait until the situation is too far gone before they do prudent housekeeping, because I am sure, and I am sure my good friend, Dr. Alleyne, would agree with me that if we had taken steps 2 or 3 years ago we would not be in the position that we are in today. I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Simmons.

SENATOR Dr. A. E. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this Bill and I just want to make a few comments on it and I have to respond to some of the statements made by the Member because I find that there is certain amount of insanity in this island because they keep referring to what happened before the elections.

Within the last year this world has gone through a revolution that has never been seen before in the history of the world. If you look to the biggest country in the world, the United States, those of us who will recall the

elections of the United States will see that the person who is now the President of the United States said at that time he would never raise taxes in the United States and as a matter of fact the famous words "read my lips" are very well known. However, after winning that election he recognised that there were circumstances beyond his control and he did have to raise taxes but when we talk about IMF Programmes and restructuring of economies, Barbados is not the only country where economies are being restructured. If you go back to the United States again there is great restructuring of the economies in the United States. If you look at the inner city and you look at the withdrawal of social services within the United States, in New York, in Los Angeles, in fact it is because of the restructuring of the inner city that we had the riots in Los Angeles triggered by the police situation, only a few months ago. So when we start talking about restructuring of economies we have to analyse what is taking place in the world.

If we are to look at what is going on in the major countries in the world, look at Australia. Australia is a country of approximately 3 000 000 square miles with 16 000 000 people, less than 6 people per square mile and they find themselves in a situation where their unemployment rate today is over 11 per cent. Yes, we have a population of 250 000 in a land space of 166 square miles with a population density of over 1 500. In Canada with a land space of another 3.5 million square miles and a population of 25 000 000 less than 7 people per square mile, their unemployment rate is up to 12 per cent and that is a developed country. So when you talk comparatively let us bring some commonsense and balance to what we are saying because people get up without analysing what is going on in the world and they just let words flow out of their mouths without understanding what is going on in the world.

The point I am making is that if developed countries in this economic turmoil that is going on find it difficult to maintain employment rates, and you only have to turn on the television and you see in Japan today the unemployment rate is going up. Their economy is under stress. Major companies are closing down. Within the last year and a half four airlines have collapsed in the United States - Eastern, Continental, Pan Am and Braniff, but the standard of living in Barbados is as good as in any developed country and I challenge anybody to question that. If you say the economy has collapsed how come we maintain the standard of living? If you look at what has just happened in the recent Crop Over festival, people spent more money on this Crop Over festival with the collapsed economy than they ever spent in the history of Crop Over in Barbados. So when you talk about the economy collapsing I don't know what you are talking about.

Now you talk about suspension of projects. We like within our system to make sure that when a project starts

that we get it to completion but the fact of the matter is that there are times when you start projects and things happen that you cannot finish them. Let me tell you about one of the greatest projects in the world, that is the building of the underground tunnel between Paris and London. A major project which started some 30 years ago and it was interrupted time and time again and France and England had projected that by the end of this year 1992 they would have finished that underground tunnel which would have brought tourism and revenue earnings up for both countries. The fact is, that although it was almost close to completion they have to suspend it again. This is what the world situation is like and you are talking about a multi-billion dollar project. So let us put things in perspective. Don't let us believe that we are some place on Mars or Jupiter and that we are not affected by what is going on in the world. We have to be realistic about what we are talking about.

With respect to health, I agree with you that we must try to maintain as high a health standard as we can but we are going through serious economic times and there has got to be cuts. Let nobody fool you we have one of the best deliveries of health care in Barbados any place on the planet earth and we can be a model, not only for developing countries, but for developed as well. The only country in the Caribbean who has a better delivery of health care system than Barbados is Cuba. There is no other Caribbean country that has a better delivery of health care. When I am in the international forum and I say to people from Europe, the developed countries, that in Barbados you can go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, whether you have money or not and lie down in a private bed and have free medical care, they tell me that is not possible any place on earth. There is no system such as that. They cannot believe that any country, let alone a developing country, provides free medical care for all of its citizens, provided you want to go in a public bed. The point is, very often we have to go to these same international agencies who do not deliver as good a health care as we do in order to ask for loans and when they look at the system and they recognise that our system is better than theirs, of course it makes it very difficult for us to get the money. So we have to understand what is happening. A bit of criticism is good but let us praise the things that are working properly as well because people in this country get the impression that everything is falling apart, that nothing is working, and it is up to us, who are supposed to be the leaders in this country, to let people know that there are systems in this country that work and they work very efficiently because if you have a population who only have negative impressions of itself, then that community is doomed to failure. If children grow up in this country, listening to people who are supposed to be responsible in this community, telling them that they are living in the worst country in the world, they will start to believe

it and within a few short years it will definitely be the worst country in the world.

As I said we need to be critical of ourselves and we need to analyse what is happening and whenever we see things go wrong we need to make comments so that they are improved but this concept of crying ourselves down, of tearing down all of our institutions, will do us absolutely no good because people are very quick to criticise but the things that are working and the people in this country, who are prepared to go and put 2 days work for one should be lauded for their dedication to the system and institutions that work. I think that there comes a time when you do not necessarily have to pat yourself on the shoulder, but you have to be realistic and say when things are working.
12.00 noon.

I rose to support the Resolution and just to make a few comments in response to what Senator Barker has said. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, this is the Supplemental Appropriation Bill and I just want to make a couple of points in respect to it. In his contribution, Senator Barker spoke of over-expenditure since 1988. When one speaks of over-expenditure, it is clear you have a benchmark. You have to have some kind of benchmark if the concept of over-expenditure is going to make sense. Senator Barker clearly did not establish what his benchmark is. You cannot have it both ways. The Opposition has been in Parliament and outside of Parliament saying that the Government is spending too much. On other occasions, they are saying that the Government cut back and put people out of work. You cannot have it both ways. I submit, Mr. Deputy President, that those persons who attempt to have it both ways are speaking with forked tongues and therefore you have to dismiss them. I think, however, on this allegation of overspending which Senator Barker makes we have to be a bit more technical in understanding the problem. It is not simply a matter of overspending. It is a matter of how the level of expenditure is financed. We have to understand that. That is the key to the problem.

I need to remind Senator Barker that his own people have made that point. It is how that deficit is financed. You can finance it by borrowing from the commercial banking system. You can finance it by borrowing from the public or by borrowing abroad or you can finance it by borrowing from your Central Bank. The critical thing is how that deficit is financed. So overspending in a vacuum does not make sense. It does not make sense.

I think what we in Barbados have got to recognise is the importance of this entire restructuring process and I fully support the efforts of the Government in so far as the

restructuring of the direct tax system. It makes sense but I hope that the Government will go further and restructure the other side of the expenditure side. That is absolutely critical because for a long time in Barbados we have operated on ground rules of expenditure which are fundamentally flawed.

Regarding this notion of a Ways and Means Facility which is available to a Minister of Finance to bridge that gap in timing differences between flows of expenditure and revenue, there is something which is fundamentally wrong with the way in which it operates in Barbados for many years, not only in the life of this Government but in previous Governments as well. Quite quickly, Mr. Deputy President, that Ways and Means is tied to projected revenue and I submit that any Ways and Means instrument which uses projected revenue as the base in an economy like ours is fundamentally flawed. It is fundamentally flawed because our capacity as an economy to contain a given level of expenditure is not critically determined by revenue. It is our capacity to pay for imports and therefore the balance of payments is our critical constraint.

I respectfully submit, Mr. Deputy President, that in the restructuring process we need to think again about the fundamentals and throw out the window this notion that we must link the Ways and Means facility to projected expenditure. We have to tidy up the model and do some projections of export earnings in the fiscal year that we are looking at and link our Ways and Means to that. If you get a mischievous Government, and this Government certainly is not a mischievous Government because it is a responsible Government, it can project a revenue level or encourage technocrats to do that which is unrealistically high and therefore the absolute level of the Ways and Means will be correspondingly high. That is dangerous particularly when your export sectors are in trouble. I would like to think that in the restructuring of the expenditure side of the Budget very serious attention will be paid to the conceptual basis of our expenditure approach.

Senator Barker also made passing reference to the Hóletown Complex and he said that unfortunately it was abandoned. I am not aware that the Government has abandoned that. My recollection is that the Government has gone through a rephrasing of its projects precisely because of the difficulties coming from the balance of payments which this economy is facing. But I certainly want to plea to the Government at the earliest possible time to bring the police officers into the modern era in Barbados. I have had a chance to visit some police stations within the last two or three weeks and the physical conditions under which these policemen work are worse than the conditions which my father enjoyed and that is 44 years ago. He died at that time. You cannot put people in subhuman conditions

and expect them to perform properly. This is not only a problem in 1992 but it has been a problem for the last 30 or 40 years in Barbados. You go down to the Bridgetown Police Station and see the atrocious conditions. Go down to Central Station and see those conditions. It is absolutely ridiculous. When I hear people talking about over-expenditure, I am going to reject it. If you are telling me to concentrate on cost effectiveness and make sure that we get value for money, I am going to go along with you. That is what I say to the Government. Make sure that the taxpayers get value for their money.

I am not sure what Senator Barker was saying about unemployment, nor am I sure what the Leader of the Opposition in the Other Place is saying about it either. I noticed some caption which is given by some establishment. The Press never fails to amuse. I noticed something they said about an established economist. I do not know anything about an established economist and, whenever I give a comment to the Press, I give it as Frank Alleyne. I do not hide behind any foolish name and I always say to them do not refer to me as any established economist or leading economist. I am a trained economist. That is what I am, nothing more or less. I noticed some comment about 21.5 per cent which Senator Barker *sotto voce* repeats this morning. I would wish to say this point, Mr. Deputy President. In an economy like Barbados, the critical factor in determining whatever level of unemployment we have at a particular point in time has to do with the performance of the export sectors. To put it in a nutshell, no balance of payments performance.

I think it is common knowledge that in Barbados since 1967 sugar has been on a downward slide, not yesterday but since 1967. I believe that the Labour Party Government tried since 1982 to prop it up but propped it up foolishly with price support. You take short-term initiatives to deal with a long-term problem. It is a joke. Manufacturing is practically dead since 1986, certainly export manufacturing. Given what has happened in the world today and the softening in tourism, and I am focusing on the three main foreign exchange areas in the economy, what does one expect to happen particularly when you have an external debt service ratio of about 21 per cent of your export earnings? Tell me what do you expect to happen. I expect somebody who went to school at the pipe to get up and talk about unemployment in a vacuum but not somebody with training. Therefore, much as I am concerned about the level of unemployment in the country, I think we have to try and understand why the level of unemployment is what it is. It is only when we approach it that way that we can start to take the kind of initiatives which Government must take to bring a long term solution to this problem.

12.10 p.m.

Since the early 1970's, and certainly since 1974, action should have been taken to implement a fundamental

restructuring of the Barbadian economy. While the economies and the Governments of industrialised countries in Western Europe and North America took serious action, we sat down and believed that we were part of God's own kingdom and the Lord will take care of us. Mr. Deputy President, I have always been told that the Lord takes care of little children and fools. We are not little children, so we will have to be fools to believe that. I am saying we have waited too long, and when we wait too long the medicine has to be rough.

I respectfully submit today, Mr. Deputy President, that irrespective of which Government was in office in 1992 this country and economy would have to face restructuring. There is no easy option. We would have had to face it. I am not going to indulge in escapism and push my head in the sand and say we only have to face restructuring because the Dems are in office. That is foolishness. It makes no contact with objective reality, that is why it is foolishness.

Mr. Deputy President, in closing just let me say quite briefly that I believe there are certain lessons of experience to be gained from any situation, and the country has to put itself in a position to benefit from the lessons of experience. I believe that the last 6 years in our economic and political life should provide us very important lessons of experience, particularly with respect to economic management. I believe I have said before in this Senate that I am somewhat amazed that the Barbadian economy and the exchange value of the dollar survived as long as it has. Barbados has been subjected to some of the worst bad mouthing I have ever known any country to experience, and it has been subjected to it by its own citizens, not by outsiders, and it is time that we start to learn you cannot approve and reprobate at the same time.

Mr. Deputy President, my understanding is that the most the Senate can do is delay this Appropriation Bill. I certainly would not wish the Senate to do that. To all intents and purposes it is a *fait accompli*. I support this Bill, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, just a few comments on the contributions made by Senator Barker and on my side by Senator Alleyne.

Senator Barker indicated that he noticed that there has been a reduction in the allocation for drugs. At the time we presented the Estimates back in March of this year, I believe it was made quite clear that the service would not suffer, because what was being considered at that time was that there would have been a reduction in the over prescribing of drugs that was taking place, a

greater management of the whole system which led to the reduction in the actual allocation. I thought Senator Barker would have complimented the Government again on another feat of efficiency, but again I was hoping for much too much to come from that side.

My good friend, the learned Senator Dr. Alleyne, and I have a running debate on the Currency Board versus monetary policy. I notice that Dr. Alleyne is suggesting that the Ways and Means Account should be somewhat tied to the level of exports and his concern was that, should we do that, then of course it is a more realistic approach rather than looking at revenue, because we could over estimate revenues and hence by so doing we could over estimate the absolute level. Although the percentages remained the same for the Ways and Means level, the absolute level of funds could be inflated. I dare say that if we are in the area of estimating the same problem would arise if we tie it to export, because again we could over estimate exports in a given year.

There is a general feeling afloat at this point in time that we should revert to the Currency Board because it enforces greater monetary discipline. It removes from the hands of the policy makers the ability to accommodate the economy through discretionary monetary policy. I think that, given the experience in Barbados, should we revert to the rigidity of a Currency Board the rate of growth, the rate of development, the ability of the economy to respond to changes taking place, either locally or externally, would be greatly hampered and frustrated. I therefore think that we should resist any attempt to return to a Currency Board, although with good reason and coming out of our recent experiences with monetary policy there are abuses, but I would prefer to entrust the economy to the discretionary management of those who have responsibility for it, primarily the Governors of the Central Bank, than to revert to the blind and cruel, ruthless effects of the Currency Board.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, I believe this Bill has been certified as a money Bill and as a result I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: I beg to move that this Bill be now passed and be cited as the Final Appropriation (1991-92) Act, 1992.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to. 12.20 p.m.

ORDER NO. 2 – SECOND READING OF A BILL TO AMEND THE PHARMACY ACT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this Bill seeks to amend the Pharmacy Act to permit pharmacists, graduate pharmacists or interns to compound, dispense or sell drugs. The history to this lies in the fact that the Pharmacy Act replaced the former Druggists Act which was promulgated in May 1986. Sometime after that Act came into being it was discovered that section 27 of the Act prohibits the sale over the counter of drugs such as aspirin by persons other than pharmacists. However, there was no real intention that the Act should confine the sale of non-prescribed drugs to pharmacies. However, it was agreed that no action would be taken against persons who sold these non-prescribed drugs, and agencies such as supermarkets have therefore been selling.

It was decided that the Ministry would seek to have the Act amended so that these non-prescribed drugs could be sold at outlets other than pharmacies without the supervision of pharmacists. It was also recognised and recommended that the compounding, dispensing and selling of drugs listed in the Schedule of the Act should not be restricted to pharmacists and it was agreed that there should be provisions for interns and graduate students in pharmacy to be able to compound, sell or dispense these drugs under the direction of pharmacists.

What the Bill before us seeks to do, Mr. Deputy President, is to amend section 27 which will provide for the compounding, dispensing and selling by retail of the drugs by graduate pharmacists, intern pharmacists under the supervision of a pharmacist registered under section 16 of the Act, and in compliance with the Health Services Act and Regulations made hereunder. That amendment also provides a definition of graduate pharmacist, intern pharmacist and internship, and the Act is further amended by renumbering the First Schedule and adding in a Second Schedule a list of those drugs which shall be compounded, dispensed or sold by a pharmacist under the supervision of a pharmacist. These are set out in section 3 of this amending Bill.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Just a short intervention. Mr. Deputy President, I have no difficulty with this Bill primarily because I believe that the technocrats in the Ministry of Health would have gone through the implications of this proposal. There are 1 or 2 things that I want to speak about.

Sir, we notice that health care is becoming extremely expensive, especially with the recent increase in hospital and other fees, and private health care is becoming out of the reach of the ordinary man. The cost of drugs is an important component in this cost. Most people can find the money to go to their own private doctor, but they are uncertain as to the cost of medication. Drugs are such that you cannot shop around. If you have to go to a pharmacy, you are not going to leave Knights to go to Collins to check on costs. You tend to go to one pharmacy and get a prescription filled at that pharmacy. The consumer is not in a position to shop around. It is not like biscuits or something like that.

Therefore, Sir, we have to set mechanisms in place to ensure that the cost of drugs remain within certain bounds. In this regard, I think Government might look again at the duties and taxes that are placed on drugs. There is an important reason for this. If the average person cannot by virtue of cost seek private medical attention, he will go either to the polyclinics or to the hospital and the result will be that we will find the amount of drugs prescribed by the public institutions are going to rise so that in a sense the Government will pay more. If you go to a polyclinic or a hospital then the drugs that you get are provided free of cost.

I wonder if the time has not come for Government to look at this area and bring about a reduction in the different duties and taxes that are paid, noting that most of them are imported. I am not sure of the implications as far as the Budget goes but it is something we can look at. I do not believe that the public health system can handle the whole of Barbados. We still need the private element where a person who does not require hospitalisation can go to a private doctor like my good friend here.

While Government might lose something by way of taxes and duties it will recover it by the fact that more people will remain with their private doctor. If the cost of drugs are out of their reach then they will have no choice but to go to the public institutions. This is something that Government should look at in the light of escalating medical costs. I hope Government will look at this and see what can be done in this regard. Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy President, I just wanted to share some thoughts on some of the things said by Senator Barker. I think that earlier in the day he talked about allocating more money for health care. Now he comes back and admits that the cost of health care is escalating and he is talking about protecting the citizen from the escalating cost of health care which, of course, will be an extra expense to the Government.

We have to be very careful because we have a limited amount of finance. This problem is a problem in an open economy that is very complex. Today in the United States

of America, probably, the number 1 issue in the presidential election is the whole idea of the cost of delivery of health care. As I said earlier, Barbados has one of the best deliveries of health care any place in the world, but there is a price to pay.

Furthermore, we are going to an area where we are talking about privatisation. We have to talk about it because the world is putting pressure on you to do that. The major countries are privatising so we are part of the world and cannot escape that. We don't live in a vacuum by ourselves. What I am saying is that the existing system has been able to buffer the cost of health care but we know that the cost of medications are going up every day and that is why I said before, in places like the United States there is an outbreak of Tuberculosis in New York city because people cannot pay for their medicines. We have to analyse the situation very carefully; we have to see what is going on. The point I want to make is that we have to understand, just as there is a structural adjustment for the total economy there will have to be adjustments made also in the delivery of health care. We have to analyse it. We have to see how best to do it but it cannot be business as usual.

I personally feel that people who can pay for their health care should be made to pay for it but that does not happen in Barbados. People who can pay for their health care can go and use the Government services free of cost. I feel that is something we have to look at. That is something we have to analyse because if you talk about the Government just lowering the duties on pharmaceutical profits, are you telling the pharmacists that their mark up must be a limited percent as well? If you only lower the duties of the pharmaceutical product and then the pharmacist can sell it at whatever price he likes there is no benefit to the patient. As you have said, you can go to one drug store and the medicine is for 5 cents and you can go down the road and find it for 10 cents and you can go to another drug store and find it for 2 cents. So the private entrepreneur can sell as he sees fit to make the most profit but that is not necessarily any profit to the patient who has to take the money out of his pocket. What I am saying is that we have to look at the total system and in this period of rapid change throughout the world, we need to analyse all systems, including health care. So, on this we are at one.

12.30 p.m.

Sir, I am glad to see that Senator Barker has now come home and we are all speaking with one tongue. I just wanted to make those comments that we have to understand that within the health care system there are going to be changes and we have to monitor very closely what is happening and I support this Bill. I thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the other side to the coin that Senator Barker needs to understand is that you cannot expect Government to lower its duties, give up the duties and also face up to the cost of the increases, which according to Senator Barker would fall on the polyclinics and on the other health institutions. You cannot have your cake and eat it. The fact of the matter is, as was just said by Dr. Simmons, one has to recognise that in these changing times Government has to ensure that it produces its delivery of health care to satisfy the needs of the citizens of the community and that is what is paramount for Government.

With that very brief remark, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

COMMITTEE

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported 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 and cited as the Pharmacy (Amendment) Act 1992.

ORDER NO. 3 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING OF A BILL TO AMEND THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (REGISTRATION OF TENANCIES) ACT, CAP. 230A

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: This Bill which seeks to amend the Landlord and Tenant (Registration of Tenancies) Act, provides for the deletion of a provision of section 14 which was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of this country. The existing section 14, Mr. Deputy President, makes provision for a tenant who pays rent to a landlord in respect of premises not registered under the Act, to be refunded the entire amount paid as rent during the period that the premises remained unregistered and the tenant may recover such amount as debt in the civil proceedings before a Magistrate notwithstanding that the amount sought to be

recovered exceeds the normal monetary limit under the jurisdiction of a Magistrate. That particular provision was deemed unconstitutional in the case of Gulf Rentals Limited vs. Bryan Evelyn and Harold Carvallo.

Section 13 of the same Act makes provision where premises may be let in contravention of the Act for the tenant to have security of tenure for a period of 2 years from the date on which the landlord seeks to terminate a tenancy and after that period has expired the tenant may only be ejected by virtue of an order of the court. A landlord is not even entitled to costs incurred by him in obtaining an order for ejection of a tenant. It is proposed to delete that existing section 13 and to substitute a new section which makes provision that no court shall entertain an application by a landlord for a warrant of ejection against a tenant unless the landlord produces to the court a certificate of registration issued to him under this Act, in respect of premises sought to be recovered. So it is proposed to delete sections 13 and 14 and to substitute a new section 13.

In addition, Mr. Deputy President, it is proposed to delete the existing section 12(2) of the Act and to substitute a new Sub-section 2 which provides that a Court may in addition to any penalty it imposes in respect of a breach of that sub-section can order the accused to pay to the Court on behalf of the Commissioner of Tax an amount due under this Act. These amendments, Mr. Deputy President, are tidying up measures which it is recognised have become necessary partly because of the High Court decision which was taken in 1982, but also because of certain other inequities which were found to be contained in the Landlord and Tenant (Registration of Tenancies) Act, Cap. 230A.

12.40 p.m.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, this Act deals with landlords and tenants and it is not surprising that some parts of it would have given the Court some difficulties, because you were basically in a balancing position where you are balancing the rights of the landlord against the rights of the tenant. It is not surprising that this Act came in 1977 when the party which I have the honour to represent was running the affairs of this country. It is not surprising that we tilted it in favour of the tenant because we have always been noted for making provisions for those who are less fortunate in the society. I am not surprised that in an area like this our great party came out more towards the rights of the tenant than the landlord. Thankfully, we have an independent judicial system and no doubt in the very near future they will rule unconstitutional another Act that we have passed in this Chamber. This will happen time and time again. It is nothing for us on

this side to have any difficulties with because the Courts are there to do their job. We in here are not acting as lawyers but as citizens. Some of us may or may not have legal training, but that is besides the point. We do things to the best of our ability and what we think is the correct judgment. So I have no difficulties with the Court in overruling the provision in the Act and I think it is a credit to our system of Government in Barbados where our Courts act above politics and where they have the courage knowing that the Constitution is behind them to bring about changes in the legislation.

Sir, I want to go a little bit further on this. I have difficulty with the whole idea of landlord and tenant because I like most Barbadians would like to own the house in which I live. This is something that people from other countries do not understand. That is why I am very annoyed that we allowed the International Monetary Fund to come down here and make us change the way how we have been doing things which has served us tremendously in the past and which has been to our benefit.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Can I on a point of elucidation explain to the Honourable Member that the International Monetary Fund does not go into anybody's country and make them do anything. The International Monetary Fund has to be invited to come to a country. The International Monetary Fund indicates what it would recommend and the country takes its decisions. Either it agrees or disagrees and the Member is aware that the Government of Barbados has not taken the line of the International Monetary Fund in a number of matters.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I do not know what point of order the Honourable Senator was speaking on. But anyhow I will ignore his intervention.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He did not say it was a point of order. All right. Proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Barbados Labour Party believes that the citizens of this country should have the opportunity to own their property where they live. No doubt, Sir, one of the greatest pieces of social legislation that has passed through Parliament in the last 15 or 20 years has been the Freehold Tenancies Act. Sir, I know the others have great difficulty with it because they have changed some of the provisions in the Act. I am not surprised that they are not responding to me on this point. But this is one of the greatest pieces of social legislation because it enables people who for years their families were living on plantation land. It allows them now not to be perpetual tenants but rather to be owners of the property on which they live. The result has been in these areas a tremendous upsurge in building activity and the improvement of the houses in the tenancies bears

testimony to the far-sightedness of my great party in respect of owning properties. Not only that, Sir, but we further encouraged people to own their own house and stop becoming tenants by the concessions we gave to builders like Ideal Homes and so on who specialise in producing houses for low income people. The result was that they were able to bring down the cost of their houses as a result of the tax concessions that we gave them. We know that these companies have done a tremendous amount of work in providing affordable housing for our people over the years. That is why I am so distressed that in 1992 when we should be going forward we are coming back to landlordism, because we are putting in place measures which will operate against the majority of people owning their own houses. I speak, Sir, of the proposed succession of the mortgage interest allowance. That is a wicked piece of legislation and I will speak more about it next week.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, this has nothing to do with that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with your permission, I am making the point that that piece of legislation will make...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, that has nothing to do with the Landlord and Tenant Registration Act.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I bow to your greater wisdom. But I will just make the point that we should be encouraging less tenants and more owners. That is the point I want to make. We see a lot of legislation that this Government is bringing forward is for the protection of the rights of the landlord. Sir, only a few months ago the Land Tax Act was amended in spite of all the cut-backs and revenue measures in this very Chamber to allow people who rent out their houses to pay land tax at the same rate as those who live in their own houses.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: On a point of order, Sir. That is a misconception, Sir. That is a clear misunderstanding of the matter because the provisions which existed before for persons who occupy their own houses to get a rebate remain. That has not and has never been specifically mentioned in the legislation that he is talking about. But there has not been a change of that and persons who interpret it otherwise clearly do not understand what they are talking about.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I know he is saying that I do not know what I am talking about, but I know that a piece of legislation came here which removed the distinction between owner occupied and non-owner occupied housing as far as the Land Tax Act goes. I stand on this and I know that I am right in this regard.

The legislation was passed in this very Chamber because the other side said that it was a Manifesto pledge. I am not wrong on this. I am right on this.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Barker, let us debate the Landlord and Tenant Registration Act.
12.50 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: So I am saying, Sir, that the Government is always providing measures in the interest of the landlord class in Barbados, and their record on this is clear. They are for the landlords, but I hope that the day is not going to come when we go back to the pre-1977 days, before this and other Acts were brought in, which would see the right of the tenant, which would see as we used to see in the past where people's belongings were just leaning up by the side of the road without legal recourse. In this society we have to protect those who are less fortunate, and I will for ever be on the side of the under-privileged. I will always be on the side of the unfortunate. I may not have lived as long as you have, Sir, but I have seen countless tenants in Barbados with little or no rights and they have to suffer the embarrassment of a bailiff coming and removing whatever possessions they have and putting them by the side of the road.

The removal of some of these other provisions – not the one the court ruled on, like section 13. I am not sure that the court ruled on section 13. I was under the impression that the court ruled on section 12, but we see that section 13 has been deleted. I could be wrong, but the court ruled on section 12, so I am not certain why section 13. It is interesting to note that section 13 has a heading: "Special rights of tenant". That is what section 13 deals with and has been watered down.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I must say that I did hear the Honourable Leader of this House explain the reason for the removal of section 13, but maybe you were not listening.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am of the impression that the reason had nothing to do with the court.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: But does it have to do with the court, Senator Barker?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, be that as it may, I still believe that with the removal of section 13, which dealt with special rights of tenants, we can find a way of making sure, without breaching the constitutional rights of the landlord, that we make better provision of the tenants. As I said, Sir, it is a balancing act and we in this Chamber have to be more concerned, in my view, with the right of

the tenant, so even although you may have problems with section 13 it was not sufficiently clear exactly which portion of section 13 the court had difficulty with.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Can I assist the Honourable Member? It is section 14 the court pronounced on, not section 13.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I rest my case. The court pronounced on section 14, but we here are removing section 13.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I do not quite understand your point. Is there something illegal about that?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the court ruled on section 14.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, and we are debating the removal of section 13.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: But section 13 has been deleted and a new section 13 put in which does not have the detailed protection that section 13 had.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are you saying that there is something illegal about that?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: No, Sir. Parliament can do what it likes, but I am just saying that I am interested in the rights of the tenant. Where the court ruled on section 14 we see other changes in section 12 and section 13. Anyhow, Sir, I will end on this note because....

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Barker, address the Chair.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, in closing, as I said before, we know that we have to do a balancing act between the rights of the tenant and the rights of the landlord. I want to go further, Sir, and ask Government to make sure that we have less tenants in Barbados by desisting from removing the important concessions that over the years have helped people in this Chamber to own their own houses, because that is the bottom line of it. I want to see as soon as possible every Barbadian, as far as is humanly possible, owning the house in which they live. That is my goal, Sir, and I think it is a commendable goal, but we have to make sure that the people on the other side also share that particular goal, because the evidence is that they are not with it.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the amendment to the Act, but certainly I could not allow some of the statements made by Senator Barker to be indelibly written into the history of this country without putting the facts straight, because I have a sense of history and we must bring a sense of balance.

Senator Barker has been at pains to articulate what he called the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party, and I want to say this, because in the year 2092 when students are reading the history of Barbados and they refer to the Senate debates of Barbados I feel there are certain things that should be written into that history.

It is a fact that the Tenancies Act was written under the time of the Barbados Labour Party and the then Attorney General was the same individual who went to court and argued that the clauses which were in the Landlord and Tenant (Registration of Tenancies) Act were unconstitutional. That same gentleman is now the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, so if we talk about the philosophy of the under-privileged, the landlord class and the tenant class, it is now the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party who went to court and argued that those clauses were unconstitutional.

It may be possible that the present Leader of the Barbados Labour Party can detach himself from his political philosophy and his legal philosophy. I want to remind the last speaker that it was not somebody on this side who argued that it was unconstitutional and out of favour with the tenants. Furthermore, the newspaper reports on the debate may have been incorrect, but I read that in the debate in the Other Place a former Attorney General of that side said that the laws were stacked against the landlord. A former Attorney General of that side said that the law should have gone further to favour the landlord, and now I am hearing that the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party is to make sure that the tenants have their full rights and that what we are doing now is taking away the rights of the tenant. But it was the Barbados Labour Party who put this legislation on the Statute Book and then went and argued that it was unconstitutional.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order. I am not sure that the Member is correct in saying that we said that this legislation was unconstitutional.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Which legislation are we talking about?

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Well, if the Honourable Senator...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We cannot have cross talk like that. You would perhaps wish to withdraw your point of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I withdraw it, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy President, the point I am making, which is a more fundamental point, following upon what I am saying, is that the Senator who is speaking in this Chamber does not understand the philosophy of his own party. If you look at the factual information that has been presented over the years, you will see that what he is talking about as the philosophy of the party cannot hold water, because the main spokesmen for that party are the ones who have argued against the same Act which he says was in favour of the tenants. You cannot have it both ways; you have either argued it in the court that it is unconstitutional, despite the fact that in your Ministry as Attorney General you brought it to Parliament and had it passed... You went back afterwards and said: "It was a mistake, I have changed my mind, it is unconstitutional," and then in the Other Place a former Attorney General said it did not go far enough to protect the landlord. So you cannot say it is the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party; it cannot hold water because you argued against it in the court and in the highest court of the land, which is Parliament.
1.00 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Dr. Simmons, maybe the philosophy in the Lower House is different from the Upper.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy President, I think that is possible, but it certainly does not go along with what I hear coming from the other place.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That's a possibility.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, I will be brief. I think Dr. Simmons, in making the observation that Senator Barker apparently does not understand the philosophy of his Party, is mistaken. Dr. Simmons does not understand that Senator Barker is on the tail end of his Party.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, tail end? I object to being told I am on the tail end of anything. Will you ask the Honourable Senator to withdraw that remark?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes. Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, tail end is a technical term which we use

in economics. I believe the Senator knows you are either at the tail end of the issue or leading on the front. My own assessment is that he is on the tail end of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I take it therefore that tail end was used in a technical sense, not a derogatory sense.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir, but if that is so, it is still incorrect. I am not on the tail end of "nothing". I am in the forefront.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: The Senator confirms my submission. If you are not on the tail end of nothing then 2 negatives make a positive therefore you are on the tail end of something. Be that as it may, Mr. Deputy President, I have a difficulty with Senator the Rev. Barker. I give him his full title. He is a Reverend.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, that cannot go into the records, with all due respect. I am not a Reverend by any stretch of the imagination so could you please ask the Honourable Senator to address me properly, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are saying that that is inaccurate?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Very much so.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you. Will you please correct that title for us?

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: I will withdraw it but he gave me that understanding. Senator Barker said that he is interested in the rights of tenants, but he has also said that he is a fair man. How on earth can you be a fair man interested in equity and you are only interested in the rights of tenants? You have to make sure that what happens is fair in the relationship between the landlord and the tenant.

I want to submit, Mr. Deputy President, and history will show that I am correct on this, the problem with the landlord and tenant class in Barbados originated with the meddling of the Barbados Labour Party Government. What did they do? In Barbados there was over the years a certain climate of confidence and trust which was built up between the landlord class and the tenants. It was a common thing that if someone had a vacant spot of land and somebody wanted to put a house on it, he would make arrangements and pay a couple of shillings a week or a month for it. That confidence was built up because the landlord had the clear understanding that only an unscrupulous government would come and try to put obstacles in the way of the landlord from accessing his property when he so desired.

The Barbados Labour Party did just that. They came and modified the legislation relating to tenancies. A particular area became a tenancy when there were 5 tenants on that lot of land. The Barbados Labour Party modified it and reduced it to 2 so that overnight many people in Barbados and particularly small people were denied...

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker do not interrupt.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: The record will show, Mr. Deputy President, that I am absolutely correct. I have written about it on a number of occasions. I researched it. They upset that balance of confidence by reducing overnight the minimum criteria for a tenancy from 5 houses on a lot to 2 so that many small people in Barbados were denied the opportunity to pass on spots of land to their children and to the people they wanted to pass them on to. That created a lot of distrust.

When you go and upset that kind of equilibrium, it is very difficult to restore it. That is the genesis of the problem. What happened in the past was that when people got older and went through the final stages of the life cycle where they could not be very active, they planted out some tree crops and rented out a couple spots. They knew that when their children or grandchildren came of age and wanted to build a house they could require the tenant to relocate and they could pass on the spot to their children. That became very difficult with the new legislation. What happened in Barbados was that you found people were prepared to allow their lands to lie fallow and go into bush rather than rent to anybody. The argument was that they couldn't trust the Government any longer since the Barbados Labour Party came along and almost took away their property. If you cannot have access to it then it is no use to you. That is essentially what happened.

I want to submit, Mr. Deputy President, that the argument which Senator Barker is leading on this matter is fatally flawed. Yes. There is a shortage of decent housing in the country. This is not to say that Barbadians are not some of the best housed people in the third world. We have to face objective reality. We live in a real world. If you look at the United Nations Social Report, you will see that Barbados is among the best housed nations in the third world.

I submit, and it is generally conceded, that Government with the best will in the world does not have access to resources to provide decent housing for all the people who need housing. It cannot do it. Therefore, Government has to put in place the kind of policy that will encourage the private sector to provide that housing. You cannot create confidence in a climate of mistrust among

the private investors or at the same time expect them to go and invest in housing. The more sensible approach to the housing problem which Senator Barker is concerned about is for the Government to put in place the right policies which will encourage private investors to provide decent housing. You cannot solve the housing shortage by regulation. That is a very shot-gun approach to it. In the long run, the only way you can solve it is by increasing the supply of decent housing and you cannot do it by bullying people and by passing laws. Put the right policy initiatives in place.

I believe it was an oversight on the part of Senator Barker; owning a house does not mean that you solved the problem shared by tenants and landlords. When you have a house, particularly if it is a chattel house, you still have to look for a spot to put it on. I want to make sure that we think through the issues rather than getting them all muddled up.

1.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy President, experience has shown that if a Government does not handle, very carefully, the relationship between landlord and tenant the entire country suffers, whether it is in agriculture and people are renting agricultural lots or whether there are residential lots. On the level of legislation Government would be certainly ill-advised to believe it has the monopoly on common sense. The wise thing to do is to draw on the vast experience of people in the society so that you get a handle on the real problems which complicate the relationship between tenants and landlords because in the final analysis whatever model you work out has to successfully resolve those problems. So it is just not a matter of haves and the have nots: the entire society has to pay for that problem whenever you get that conflict between the tenant and landlord class.

This notion about protection of tenants. Any Government which sets out by legislation to protect tenants and is solely concerned with the protection of tenants is an unjust Government. Government by definition should be holding up the scales of justice and therefore whatever legislation is brought down should protect both parties. What you are trying to ensure is that you set up a legislative framework where both parties can have justice and they can have confidence in the system.

Mr. Deputy President, I reject as totally unfounded, the allegation made by Senator Barker with respect to the role of the Democratic Labour Party Government and this Landlord and Tenant Act. The culprits who undermined confidence are now the very people who claim that they are interested in restoring confidence. You can't approbate and reprobate at the same time. You can't have it both ways. Mr. Deputy President, I support this Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes.

SENATOR Y. V. WALKES: Mr. Deputy President, just to clear up some of the statements that I have heard here this morning, I am wondering, and I am asking for correction if I am wrong. I thought that the unconstitutionality of this section of this Act came about more so because of the problem that existed. If it was discovered that landlords had not registered their rented houses and a tenant, owing money to that landlord was brought to court by the landlord, then the landlord had to forfeit the amount of money that was due to him.

Say for argument's sake, if it was a whole question of the tenant owing 3 years' money to the landlord then he did not have to pay that because it was not registered. I thought the question came up as to the whole aspect of 2 wrongs not making a right. Therefore if the tenant owed money the Act would allow for the tenant to pay the amount of money due and then any other penalties that would be imposed by the court rather than allowing the tenant to continue, either to occupy the house for the 3 years that would be due and the landlord having to forfeit the amount of money owing to him.

I thought the question came up around that whole aspect of trying to make the landlord have a right to the money that is due to him or her.

Aside.

SENATOR Y. V. WALKES: And that is the one now that has been removed? So that clears up the whole question that Senator Barker raised this morning. I thought that I would bring some light to that.

The question around the Barbados Labour Party introducing this grand Act in the way that they did in the very early period, brought a lot of questions to my mind when Senator Barker talked about how he believes in the poor man and the tenants and he is going for the people at the lower end. I am wondering how the Barbados Labour Party could look at this area in the way that they did when in the very early period, the early 1980s, you will find that a landlord was allowed to have 2 tenants on a piece of land and call it a tenantry. Then it was recognised that a number of people were not allowed access to the land and the landlord decided not to allow people to place their houses there. This brought a number of problems where people could not have land for their houses and it was brought out that you can build a house and have nowhere to put it. This is why the law was amended so that you can have more houses on the land before it becomes a tenantry. Now you will find that people are freer to rent land. I find that this is true in the country side, so I don't know where Senator Barker lives and why he would look at it in that light.

You cannot have such a limited amount of people on the land and call it a tenantry and expect that the landlord will allow this and have himself bound in a situation where he can't get out quite easily.

I am saying that is the wrong end of it. Therefore that is no great feat by the Barbados Labour Party. Actually it was a downward trend and if we are talking about the trickling down effect, that they believed in, in terms of their philosophy, then you would understand when the tenants would get there. You should not come and pronounce the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party when you do not understand really what they are doing because really and truly they were supporting the other end more so than any tenants. I know that is not true so let's not go down that line.

In terms of housing, if we are looking at the whole question of trying to develop decent housing for our people then we can look at a number of areas where this can happen and the same Opposition Party is trying to make a great hullabaloo about it at the moment. Even if you look at the same area of the golf courses you will realise in terms of housing, this in itself is a big question with them, and you are still talking about having a number of houses being provided for people. I don't understand the kind of double talk. You can't be shouting on one end that you don't want to have proper housing for people and then you come back and say that you want to have housing for people that there is a need for housing, and then when housing is provided you quarrel about it.

I am saying that within the golf course then there must be room for housing development and there is provision for proper and decent housing. If you are saying you are looking for ways and means of providing that, then when it is provided one should not start quarrelling about it in the way that you are doing. I just thought I would clarify the unconstitutionality of that area, Mr. Deputy President. I thank you and I want to support the Bill. Thank you.

1.20 p.m.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, it is indeed discreditable for any member of the Labour Party to speak about the Landlord and Tenant Act as I have heard the Honourable Senator espouse here today. Sir, that Act was working very well when we were in power and we had given a measure of protection to tenants under the original Act, whereas you had a tenantry consisting of five or more houses it was regarded as a tenantry. You could not eject people in any manner as you like in those days. That is one of the most distressful things you could ever come across. Previously, before that policy was enunciated, people had to take up their chattel houses at short notice and by the time they had moved 3 or 4 times the house

was not in a fit condition to put back up and we tried to solve that problem.

After the Labour Party had provided a certain amount of provisions for the estate owners who at that time had large tracks of land which they had relegated their workers to and which they did not feel like paying rent for, they brought in a Bill to sell the tenancies to the agricultural workers. That was more done in an effort to relieve the plantation owners from paying taxes on those same properties, which was the worst part of the plantation anyhow and which the labourers had to work and could not leave that plantation to go on another plantation.

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you will refrain from these loud asides.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: After the Labour Party had ensured that the large landlords were out of the way, they came down with an iniquitous policy of two houses which would consist of a tenantry. It was one of the worst things that ever happened in the history of this country where two houses became a tenantry. That hit at the small landlord who at that time had been able through the enlightened policy of the Democratic Labour Party to acquire a piece of land between 1961 and 1976. Those small land owners, who had given somebody a spot in order to live while their children were in England or America who would be waiting to build in years to come, realised that the spot which was given for rent had to be sold to the tenant by signing a form from the Ministry of Housing. There is a lot of lands which have become abandoned because of that policy which you all enunciated in those days. So I do not see how you can come in here and talk about anything concerning a housing policy or a land policy. The Labour Party actually snuffed the life out of all small landlords who became landlords for the first time in their lives, because it was the policy of the Democratic Labour Party that we figured everybody should own a piece of land in Barbados. When we had accomplished that, we saw all of those gains being whittled away in two or three years of the Labour Party's rule from 1976 to 1979. The Labour Party had already made sure that the big landlords who owned plantations... When the agricultural workers got the land from the landlord, they had already worked for that land years gone by and they had given yeoman service to the plantations.

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Morrison, please do not respond to the asides of Senator Barker. Senator Barker, if you do not desist from that, I shall have to take more stringent measures.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, the policy went further. The ones who were fortunate enough to build a house on their lands and by chance rent it out were also in danger of losing their house. We had an incident in Durants Development where a particular small landlord who rented to a big white man from St. Thomas his house. Because of the registration procedures at the time, the tenant actually went to Court in order to own all of that man's life savings which went into building a house in Durants. The man almost had a heart attack at the same time. He said that he only had to kill this man because he would die anyhow. That man did not pay rent for three years. He refused to pay rent because the fellow did not understand that he had to register his property. After three years, he did not know that the man would have to refund him even the previous money that he had paid before. That meant something like \$36 000 or so.

That was a lamentable situation which that party brought to this country under that iniquitous Act which was more designed to hinder the progress of poor people in this country who unfortunately for them had just owned land for the first time.

Sir, I do not know how the Labour Party could get up with any degree of seriousness and try to debate an issue like this. The famous Colis King's father who worked so hard playing cricket in England and bought some land...

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do not call names please.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: He bought land in Bush Hall and put a few little houses on the spot and that land was being taken from Colis King's father. There was a history of woe and suffering which that legislation brought on poor, innocent, and small landlords in this country. The Democratic Labour Party has always been in the forefront of making...

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Not protecting the landlord, but we try to be just. We are trying to find a path which would be good for the tenant and also we do not want to unfair landlords because after all it is their property. If you will look at the history of the whole thing, you will see that our policy which has been enunciated over the years is a more enlightened policy and one which is more designed to help the landlords but also to protect the tenant from some unjust landlords who would like to ride roughshod over certain tenants without any regard for their chattel houses or other things.

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

SENATOR W. L. INNIS: Mr. Deputy President, I really did not intend to speak on this particular matter before this House. But I was a little surprised about one or two comments that I heard earlier today. In truth and in fact, we are working on a misconception if we believe that Chapter 230 was ever passed to do anything with landlords or tenants in the traditional manner. This Act has nothing to do with landlords or tenants traditionally. We have an Act, Chapter 230 of the Laws of Barbados which deals with landlords and tenants. Chapter 230A is a tax measure. The Prime Minister of the day had a way of making every citizen of Barbados a tax collector. That is why there was legislation, for example, that was passed that, if you go to your barber and he did not show you a certificate, you could have refused to pay him for your haircut if you were foolish enough not to remember that he had a long razor in his hand. But the legislation was such that if a carpenter repaired your house and he could not show you a certificate his payment could be refused. Does that have anything to do with employer and employee or worker where the person receives the benefit? The only thing that it was designed to do was to force people into the tax net. This iniquitous legislation is a good example that legislators must recognise that, when you have one object in view, you must look beyond the particular object and see the spin-offs of the particular policy which you are enunciating. 1.30 p.m.

If you look at the entire Act, Cap. 230A, you will see that what it did was to frighten landlords into registering their property so that the Government would know who has land and who has apartments and buildings so that you can go for them for taxes. While there is nothing wrong in coming behind persons for taxes, the legislation made criminals in a sense out of honest people, and in truth and in fact if it was carried to its logical extent it might have made murderers out of citizens of this country.

The worst bit of all was the one which the clause that has been repealed today, the clause which stated that if you did not register your premises, not only did you not have to pay the money, but the tenant would have to be given back every penny he had ever paid a landlord. That is why, thank God, when we find short-sighted legislators we still have to rely on the courts to correct the mistakes of the legislators. I can call a case by heart where Mr. Henry deB. Forde was the attorney-at-law who appeared on behalf of the landlord who went to court, dealing with some property on Broad Street, the Gulf Rentals case, a famous case now, and Mr. Forde got the court, correctly, to declare - I cannot remember who was the Attorney General at the time when the Act was brought into force, but I know that Mr. Forde was the attorney-at-law who appeared in the law courts - when the court correctly held that the law was unconstitutional because it confiscated people's property. If I buy my property and when I expect rents the tenant

lives free in my house and does not pay rents, my property is now no use to me.

We have one of these strange feelings that landlords are rich people and tenants are poor people. Very often some poor little girl goes to the United Kingdom or the United States, works for her money and sends it back to her old mother in Barbados, and the old lady is too afraid of the big house the child has built, she puts it on rent and some big rich man comes down here from America and rents it, but he is the poor tenant and the old lady is the rich landlord. We have to stop this folly in Barbados that every landlord is rich and every tenant is poor. If you are green you are rich, if you are blue you are poor. We have to stop this business, and when we are passing legislation we must look at what is equitable to every Barbadian citizen, whether you are a landlord or a tenant, because some people are both landlords and tenants. You are a landlord because of a little rented house, but you are a tenant because you rent an office. Must the law protect you in one capacity and fail to protect you in the other capacity? I am saying that we have to look at fair play and too many bits of legislation in this country I find are being passed with one object in view. I think the motive of just catching for taxes has gone nowadays, but another one is how many votes you will get for legislation. Pass the legislation quickly and get some votes. That is nonsense. Let us forget vote catching when it comes to legislating people's lives and be fair and equitable to all of our citizens.

I will say, finally, Mr. Deputy President, that what we have to do now is to forget this 230A legislation, because this is not the important thing about true landlord and tenant legislation. We have to look at Cap. 230 which really deals with the landlord and tenant, examine it closely to bring it up to date with modern thinking about balancing the rights of landlords and the rights of tenants, and have a new piece of legislation where both parties are protected and then we can say justice has been done.

Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour, and that we resume at 2.35 p.m.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I believe that the concerns and misconceptions of Senator Barker have been adequately answered by members on both sides, but there is one matter which I wish to ensure that the record shows and it is relating to his comment that the Land Tax Act had been amended so that persons who occupy houses as owners pay the same rate of tax as persons who do not occupy their houses.

I therefore wish not only to set the record straight, but to have it written in the records that the correct situation is that on the improved value of each parcel of land on which there is a dwelling house that is occupied by the owner or his immediate family, the rate up to \$100 000 is .05% of the improved value, followed by .95% of the amount of the value that exceeds the first \$100 000.

Whereas in the case of a property that is not occupied by the owner, on the improved value of each parcel of land it is at the rate of 0.95% of the improved value, which is 0.95% of the total value of the property.

Whereas in the case of an owner occupied property, it is 0.35% on the first \$100 000 and the other rate, 0.95%, is applicable over \$100 000.

In addition, my understanding is that the rateable value is going to be based still on 70% of the improved value for persons who occupy their own homes, and in the case of arable land it is .5% of the rateable value. Certain built-in arrangements will therefore continue to exist and what I have just indicated are the correct rates.

With that clarification, 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.

• Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
2.45 p.m.

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

ORDER NO 4 – THE EMPLOYMENT LEVY ACT AND THE TRANSPORT LEVY ACT

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, this Bill seeks to repeal the Employment Levy Act and the Transport Levy Act. As this Honourable Chamber may recall, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in his Supplemental Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals made on July 7, 1992, dealing with the reform of the direct taxation system stated among other things

"the elimination of levies (apart from 1 per cent training levy) in two stages, January 1, 1993 and January 1, 1994 the reduction of 2.25 per cent."

Mr. Deputy President, before I go further into this, I was hoping that we would have been able to deal with the Income Tax Act today which would have added to the overall debate. However, this is coming next week and the Bill which was circulated today supersedes the Bill which was handed out before. This now takes precedence over the other one.

It is always heartening, Mr. Deputy President, to hear, read and be beneficiaries of any tax reductions. In this case, it is particularly gratifying because these levies were very regressive forms of taxes which bore most heavily on those on the lowest socio-economic brackets. Although people were exempted from taxes up to \$15 000 all people regardless of how much their income was, were required if they were working to pay these taxes.

I am happy to report that the Minister of Finance is now removing part of the regressiveness of the tax system by phasing out these levies. The Health Service Levy will be reduced by 0.5% and the Transport Levy by 1.75%. This was for the employee. By January 1, 1994 the health service contribution will be reduced by 1% and the Employment Levy by 1%. For the employer, the health service contribution will be reduced by January 1, 1994 by 1% the Employment Levy by 0.5% and the Transport Levy by 0.25%.

This is particularly gratifying especially from the point of view of the employer and at a time when we are trying to stimulate employment, because these taxes bore heaviest on the level of employment and acted as a drag or a deterrent to the employment of people because the more people you employed the higher was your wage levels and the greater would have been the tax burden. I am extremely heartened to see from both the perspective of the employee which removed the regressiveness of the tax on the lowest socio-economic group and also from the point of view of the employer with this deterrent to employment of people being removed.

I don't think there should be any comments from the other side except for them to join in congratulating the Government for taking steps to remove this burden from the backs of the poor – that he says he likes so much – and also by encouraging employers. I hope that employers will now be heartened to find it possible to employ more people since there will be no greater tax burden incurred. As a matter of fact (and I really don't want to get into the Income Tax Act at this time) to the extent that any wages paid will be a reduction of the base for taxes at the new rate of 40% it should act as a stimulus to the business sector to employ more people. I hope that they will take measures rather than allowing income to be taxed at the 40% rate. That burden could be reduced to the extent that you employ an additional person increasing the expense and reducing the income before taxing.

Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, the levies have always been a sore point and a cause of much concern in many sectors of the community. I am not sure exactly what is going on, because I am reading from the Supplemental Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals presented on July 7, 1992. I suspect that this is a document of the House. On page 20, it says:

"(14) The elimination of levies (apart from 1 per cent training levy) in two stages, January 1, 1993, and January 1, 1994."

I don't understand the language here – 2.25%. I cannot get it read.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: What is intended here is that the Transport Levy will be reduced in the first year by 1.75% and the Health Service Levy by 0.5% and if you add the 2 of them together you will get 2.25%.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Therefore some of the levies will come off in January 1, 1993 and the rest, apart from the 1 per cent Training Levy, will come off the following year. I am wondering why at this time we are bringing this legislation.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am sure the Senate would not mind an explanation.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: A point of elucidation. There is a requirement that when there is a budget presentation and the Minister makes a pronouncement within a period of not more than 4

months the measure has to be put into proper legislative form and it was done in July. Since the House and the Senate are to go into recess shortly, it is necessary to do it now rather than let 4 months pass and have to do a validation Bill.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I wonder when we will get legislation to deal with the Health Levy and the Unemployment Levy. One would have thought you would bring all 4 since you are going to repeal all 4. I am not sure why you are bringing in 2 now and then come back here on another occasion. Because, apart from the Training Levy, according to the Minister of Finance, all of the others are going to be out by January 1, 1994 so I am not sure why you are bringing 2 now and then bring us back here some other time to do the other 2 when all 4 could have gone on the same Bill but I suppose there is a reason for it. I don't know what the reason for it is.
2.55 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please address the matter in hand. Those comments are unnecessary.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: With all due respect I feel that those comments are valid.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That we are wasting your time is not valid at all.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: With that explanation I have no difficulty in supporting the repealing of the Act although I wonder why to repeal an Act in December 1993 you are bringing it now in August 1992. Some thing in there ...

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: You finished now?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, if you will please address the matter in hand ... You will please continue with the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: With all due respect, Mr. Deputy President, the Honourable Senator ...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I repeat, continue with the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: If I am allowed to.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Well you are allowed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you very much. Sir, the levies came on in 1982/83 year and at that time, Sir, in the 1982/83 year the levies could have collected \$23.8 million of which \$12.4 million was collected out of

the Transport Levy and at that time, Sir, there was no Employment Levy. The Employment Levy came on in 1987. So the \$12 million was taken in Transport Levy and it stayed around that figure until 1987. By 1987 it was \$13.6 million. By 1987 the takings of the transport levy increased from \$13.6 million to \$21.9 million.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I take it you will let us have the benefit of the source of this information.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, figures can be found in the Annual Statistical Digest of the Central Bank.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right, thank you. Will you continue with the debate?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: What happened, Sir? It is important to know what happened around that time because 1986/87 was an interesting year in the fiscal history of our country because what happened then is that the 1986 Budget which I am going to say is the source of most of our troubles, the reduction in tax was so significant as a result of the giveaways of July 1986 which were supported by every member on the other side, that by 1987, in order to stay the haemorrhage on the Treasury it was decided not only to increase the Transport Levy but to introduce a new levy called the Employment Levy and during that year the Transport Levy brought in \$21.9 million and the newly introduced Employment Levy brought in \$8.8 million and the 4 levies intake increased from \$48 million to \$67 million.

Sir, what made it worse (and this is something that the Democratic Labour Party will go down in history for) was that the levies for the first time were not written off for income tax purposes so that in effect you are paying a tax on a tax. The levies were in effect a tax so we were having a tax on a tax where previously it was not treated as income because you never got it in the first place so it was not treated as income and hence for finance purposes it was an allowance.

The Democratic Labour Party changed that so that in effect you are paying a tax on money that you never received in the first place. So the Government must be congratulated for seeing the error of its ways, albeit 5 years late, and bringing out measures to repeal this Act in 1½ years time by then it would be 6½ years of inequity.

To me a tax on a tax is unjust. You never got the money in the first place so why should you pay a tax on it. It was taken at source. I hope, Sir, that never again would we be subjected to this sort of tax because it ...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke on a point of order. Will you give way, please?

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir, I would like the Honourable Senator to make it quite clear that it is the Barbados Labour Party Government that instituted these levies. I want to say it again for the record and stop speaking in these evasive tones and measures. This Government is taking action now to repeal them, so if you want them to remain on the book look at the Press and tell them that you want them to stay on the books. I have no problem with it.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, that is no point of order because I said from the start that we introduced the levies so if he was not listening that is his fault. I said that we introduced the levies in 1982/83 and I also said that in 1987 you increased the take from \$43 million to \$67 million. That is what I said and that is a matter of record. You know the facts as well as I do because you were in the Ministry of Finance. I was never there yet. No wonder the Prime Minister had to fire you. No wonder you got fired.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will you withdraw those remarks, please?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Which remarks, Sir? That he got fired?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes. You will withdraw that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I withdraw them, Sir, and say, no wonder the Prime Minister removed him. Sir, he was removed from the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That has nothing to do with this debate. You will continue with the subject matter of this debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: All I am saying, Sir, is, am I supposed to withdraw the remark that he was removed?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have said that you will continue with the subject matter of this debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: With all due respect, Sir, you are asking me to withdraw something.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am making it very clear that you will now continue with the subject matter of this debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: So that matter is settled as far as you are concerned? I have no problem with that.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If you have nothing further to add or contribute then you may sit.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, please allow me to continue. You are stifling me and I have an hour to speak and I will speak for an hour if I so desire, Sir, without going over the same ground of course and within certain bounds.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Well, I wish you would continue with the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: If I am allowed to, Sir, I will.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please go on.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you very much. Sir, the elimination of these levies is not a simple matter because in the 1992/93 fiscal year these 2 measures are supposed to bring in \$42.5 million and while on this side, I support the withdrawal of the levy, one has got to be very careful because we do not want next March or April that we hear that Government did not foresee, because the Government never foresees anything, and come with some other tax, like they did when they brought the stabilisation tax and then when they brought the surcharge. The point I am making is this, Sir, it is normal and good to remove taxes but in removing a tax you are removing a substantial amount of revenue.

Now, Sir, the income tax changes we are told were revenue neutral which means that they are not supposed to bring in any more revenue, it is just a case of redistribution. If that is so, how then is Government planning to make up for this \$42 million that they will lose as a consequence of the repeal of these levies? It is a delicate balancing act. While on the one hand, we are saying "yes", on the other hand, we have to say that we know how much trouble Government has found itself in at present. We have to get out of the situation but we have to be careful because we do not want to reintroduce instability into the system. Sir, a word of warning is never out of place and I am sure that the Honourable Minister appreciates the warning, especially in light of the fact that the income tax changes are revenue neutral. One has to be very, very careful. It is okay to have things sounding good in theory. In practice, these levies are supposed to bring in about \$96 million in this fiscal year. Removing them in a year and a half, except for the one per cent Training Levy, could mean a \$85 to \$95 million revenue shortfall.

Sir, I have not heard of how the Government is planning to deal with the increase in the land tax and so on, but what was mentioned was in the region of \$36 million. They are only going to get \$10 million and this is as a result of the land tax. In other words, they are losing about \$82 million in my opinion by the time they have

finally phased out all of the levies but they are only going to recover about \$10 million. So that will be a shortfall of about \$72 million.

3.05 p.m.

Sir, I would like the Minister to give an assurance that in the next year or so we will not have to see the reimposition of another tax. I am sure that, if the removal of these taxes is going to bring back a lot of instability in the fiscal affairs, as far as I am concerned they can stay. I have no problem with that. If the removal of these taxes is going to bring back the same instability that we had last year and that is continuing now, then we have no reluctance to say let them stay. In the final analysis, we want stability in the country. I want to pay less taxes as I am sure all of us do, but at the same time what is more important is that the country regains economic stability. So I am not sure that I am going to offer any accommodation for the Government removing the levies until I am sure that they know what they are doing. In the year and a half that I have been in here, it has been made patently clear that they do not know what they are doing. I hope that this is not another example of their continuing incompetence.

Sir, I will talk about the Transport Levy a little bit because that was brought in primarily to help. Remember, when it was first brought in by the BLP in 1982-83, it did not go into the Consolidated Fund but it went into a special Transport Levy. I think the bridge there at Bridge Road was financed out of the Transport Levy. Yes, certain special projects were financed out of that, but from 1986 or 1987 the money went back into the Consolidated Fund. The Transport Levy was primarily designed to help the Transport Board as well as the Government in its public works. Now what is going to happen to the Transport Board? We are hearing a lot of conflicting signals. I spoke about this in the last sitting and unfortunately I was not here for the reply. But I am told that the Parliamentary Secretary said words to the effect that there will always be a Transport Board at whatever level. I hope that I am not misquoting but I am only going on reported speech.

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We must not have that sort of cross talk. Continue with your debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Transport Board is critical in the economic and social life of this country. I spoke about it the last time and I will speak about it again that Government needs to reassess its thinking on transport. Sir, I am not happy with what is happening in the transport services. The minibuses, in my view, could never take the place of the Transport Board because they operate with different motives and therein lies the problem. As far as running buses late at night, that will eventually disappear

because the minibuses will only operate when there are lots of people.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I think you are straying quite a bit from the actual matter which we have to debate and you are now debating something else.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I beg to differ respectfully, Sir, because the Transport Levy was designed to assist the Transport Board among other things. Sir, it is now about to be repealed. In the original Act, that was part of the reason for having the levy in the first place. The question that I want to ask is this. Now that the levy is to be repealed, what is going to happen to the Transport Board. I am putting a case for the retention of a viable Transport Board and, in my view, viable does not mean profit making. I will argue, Sir, that in order to have an efficient transport system, there is always going to be a measure of state subsidy. That is my contention. While we may welcome the repeal of the Transport Levy, we are left to wonder about what is going to happen to the transport services when the levy has been repealed. What is going to happen to the road works programme? All of these things we have to consider. We must ask ourselves if Government is repealing that it must be replacing. We must have a level of infrastructure in order for us to maintain a proper rate of development. Without proper working social services, we are not going to get the sort of development that we have had in the past. That is why, Sir, I am very annoyed when I hear people who should know better argue cases for the privatisation of the Transport Board. There is no justifiable case for having a completely private transport system. Very few countries in the world operate a proper system. In Jamaica, there is so much chaos in their transport sector as a result of the dismantling of their public transport system.

Aside.

Sir, I am reminded that the United Kingdom is selling off some of their transport system. I am not sure that we should take example from other countries. Sir, we should be using our abilities to try and bring a solution to our unique problems.

Sir, the Employment Levy is also going to be repealed. It was put there in 1987, as I said before, primarily to deal with training and related measures. Sir, the question is this. How are we going to fund the National Training Board?

3.15 p.m.

It is true, Sir, that at present a lot of our artisans are out of work because of the current economic situation, but it is not always going to be so, because the DLP will not always be in Government. The time is going to come a

few years down the line when we are going to need our artisans again and when the National Training Board is cutting back on training, not only are you frustrating a lot of young people, you are going to find that when the country needs its tradesmen there is going to be none.

Sir, I am not sure that the Government is doing the right thing with regard to training. I am sure that some on the other side may say, "but training for what?" What is the alternative? Is the alternative to have thousands of our young fellows with no jobs, no training? Even if you train them, I am sure they might not be able to make full salaries, but a plumber would still be able to get a job here or there. He might not be employed for 5 or 6 days a week, but at least for a day or 2 he might be able to find a job here or there to help him in a certain way. But you are sending him out there, he has left school, there are no jobs and he has no skill. I prefer if the unemployed have skills, because at least they would have a sort of discipline, a sort of mentality. When a person has no skill or no job, that to me is the worst combination, because you are looking at a fellow who has no hope and the result would be that his life would be on a slippery, greased pole. So I would want Government to do everything possible to make sure that the National Training Board is given the necessary funds to continue training our young people, because we are going to need them tomorrow. Not only that, we would remove hopelessness from our society.

Sir, with those words of caution (and I hope the Minister takes them in the spirit in which they were given). I am glad that the two Acts are being repealed, although I am still at a loss as to certain aspects, but nevertheless I am glad they are being repealed and I hope that, as the Minister said, now that the employers have got a little break, or will get a little break in a year and a half, they can see what they can do about retooling and resuscitating their plant so that in a couple years' time we will get moving again.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, there are just a few comments I should like to make about what Senator Barker had to say. I am not quite sure that this Chamber is clear where Senator Barker is. Does he want the levies to remain? If so, I wish he would say so in an unequivocal manner.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of elucidation. I am clear on where I stand. I am all for good fiscal and financial management. I will repeat what I said, Sir, in case he did not hear. If the removal of these levies will bring about instability in the system, I do not want it. That is all I am saying.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, I think I can say without any contradiction that Senator Barker is stating that he would rather see the levies remain.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I said if it is going to bring about instability I would prefer to see them on. Would you please advise the Honourable Member to stop deliberately misquoting what I said? I said if it is going to bring instability, then they should be on.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Would you like to state then whether you would like to see them on or off?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, for the record, I have said already that if the removal of the levies will bring about instability in the system, then they should stay on. I never said that they should stay on.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All I am saying is, Senator Barker, to make it very simple, would you just at least state then....

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I do not have to state yes or no, I have stated my position.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Oh, you do not have to state yes or no. All right, then you will continue to be ambiguous.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with all due respect, it is not ambiguous. The Honourable Member is deliberately making it ambiguous, but it is clearly unambiguous.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right, thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, when I introduced this Bill I said that we should all be happy (or implied that) that we were removing what I consider to be an imposition on the people in the lower socio-economic bracket because of the regressiveness of the tax. This is the divide between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party.

I recognise the difficulty in being separated from your own creation. I would like to point out again that it was the Barbados Labour Party that imposed these levies. There is no wonder then why Senator Barker wants to see them retained. Having taken paternity for the levies I can understand, but I understand the problems with parents even when they recognise the waywardness of their offspring. I know you would rather let them stay, and I can sympathise with that.

On the question of his concern about the diminution in the intake, having accused us of collecting every-

thing, we are saying now, "People, you know best how to spend your money, we would rather see it in your pocket." To offset this, what we are planning to do is to introduce greater efficiency in Government. One of the ways to introduce greater efficiency in Government is to reduce the losses or the subsidies which you give to State enterprises which have been incurring losses. One of them has been the Transport Board. Yet Senator Barker would have us believe that we should continue to subsidise the Transport Board at the level of about \$25 million a year.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, I never said it should be subsidised at the level of \$25 million a year. I believe that the Honourable Member should be truthful.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are you suggesting that he is not being truthful?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir. I am suggesting that he is not being truthful, because I never said...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am sure you cannot impute improper motives. You must withdraw that. You cannot suggest that the Honourable Member is not being truthful.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Honourable Member heard what I said. I never mentioned a figure, I never said \$25 million and if he is going to say that I subsidise it at \$25 million, then I am saying he is untruthful.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, he did not mention a figure. What he is saying is he did not mind us continuing to subsidise a losing proposition. Correct me if I am wrong, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. Deputy President, if the Member is going to quote me, he should quote me correctly. I never mentioned a losing proposition. I am begging you, Sir, ask him to behave properly and decently in this Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Oh, please, now I cannot have that. If you mean to be as accurate as possible, that is my job. I shall certainly ask him to try to recollect as clearly as possible what went on before. That I can do.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, Senator Barker is on record in this Chamber, a short while ago, as saying that the Transport Board should be retained, even if it means giving them a subsidy....

Aside.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You do not have to cross talk now. You will be silent and allow the Honourable Member to speak, Senator Barker.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: I am saying, since we also raised the question of how we will make up for the taxes lost is by reducing subsidies to losing Government enterprises. That is one way. Mr. Deputy President, taxes are not levied for their own sake but to support certain Government programmes to the extent that you form the Government of the day you determine. There is no wonder why some of us never learn anything. It is because we never listen although there is much to be learnt.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right. This is not the lecture room.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: This is part of my presentation, Sir. I am here trying to educate and I take that attention for those who will not learn because at the end of the day there is a passing mark that is given.

Taxes are not raised to maintain levels of revenue but to support certain programmes. Given your priorities that you are raising enough taxes to support the programmes that you want to implement then of course there cannot be any argument of enough of too little taxes. It is a matter of programme.

On the question of the National Training Board I believe the Honourable Speaker will remember that all levies were paid in to the Consolidated Fund and while they retained the name they were no longer earmarked for any special programmes but actually formed part of the general revenues of the country. To that extent there was no fund going anywhere. Having raised the question about the National Training Board I feel it is incumbent upon me to explain to this Honourable Chamber, Mr. Deputy President, that the National Training Board we are embarking on a new training and retraining programme not only for jobs as we know existed yesterday or even today but also in conjunction with and in consultation with both the Labour Unions and the Employers' Association we're currently developing programmes to train people for jobs which don't now exist but which will exist in years to come. We are not only training people for jobs that existed yesterday because tomorrow there may not be any opportunity for those jobs. We are looking in conjunction with those people who employ people and with the workers' unions to fashion meaningful programmes that will benefit the society of Barbados not only today but also tomorrow.

It is most unfortunate when we continue to pay lip service to terms like "restructuring the economy". Restructuring does not mean doing more of the same thing over and over again but also to look at finding new ways of doing old things and also to target and identify the new types of employment opportunities coming on the market in the years ahead.

Some of us become arrested at certain levels of our development and that is why we tend to view training as we knew it yesterday as being appropriate for the opportunities which will become more available. I want to reassure this Honourable Chamber that the retraining programmes will be meaningful because they will not be drawn up by any government agency in isolation for jobs which we believe to exist today or may exist tomorrow but in close consultation with the employers and their associations and with the other social partners, the workers' unions.

Mr. Deputy President, in spite of the resistance of the lone representative from the Barbados Labour Party to have the levies removed, it is the firm conviction of this

Government that we should move ahead to have them removed and I think we should make it abundantly clear that this is the line of divide between the 2 parties. We recognise that these types of levies are very regressive and they bear heaviest on the lowest socio-economic bracket and we are today removing them.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this takes care of our business today and I wish to move that this Senate be now adjourned until Wednesday, August 12, 1992.
3.35 p.m.

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