

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

SENATE

Monday, March 22, 1993

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Monday, March 22, 1993, at 10.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

His Honour Senator J. J. PAYNE, (Deputy President)

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS, G.C.M., (Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)(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, G.C.M.;

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. INNIS;

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

Senator T. C. BECKLES.

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following from Her Excellency, the Governor-General Dame Nita Barrow:

"HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

Her Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that she will be unable to perform the functions of Governor-General during the period March 9 to March 14, 1993.

Her Excellency further has the honour to inform The Honourable The Senate that under the provisions of section 30 of the Constitution, The Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Prime minister, has designated the Honourable Sir Denys Ambrose Williams, GCM, to be Governor-General's Deputy during the period March 9 to 14, 1993."

There was, of course, no intervening meeting of the Senate and, consequently, this is the first occasion on which this letter could be read.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

Report on the General Election 1991;

Economic Report 1992;

1992 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Barbados;

Land Valuation (Fresh Valuations) Order, 1993;

Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Police 1990 and 1991.

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

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I wish to move the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) to enable us to proceed with the item of business for which we have been summoned, namely the debate on the Appropriation Bill, 1993.

The question that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended in order that we may proceed with today's business was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, in moving the first reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1993, I believe that it would be wise for me to indicate that contrary to a news item carried this morning by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation that the Senate was meeting to discuss the Budget, because I do not know what authority the Senate would have to debate the Budget. As far as I am aware and I believe, Mr. President, you will confirm this that we are met here to debate the Appropriation Bill, 1993. I now move that this Bill be read a first time.

The question that the Appropriation Bill, 1993 be read a first time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

**ORDER NO. 1 - TO MOVE THE SECOND READING
OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1993.**

SENATOR The HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, as is customary this time of the year, I rise to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1993 and its accompanying Schedule of the Draft Estimates 1993-94. Before getting into the actual provisions of the Estimates, I would consider it prudent to identify at the outset the goals which this Government is seeking to achieve in the coming financial year. First of all, Government through its fiscal policy will seek to maintain stability and equilibrium in the country's balance of

payments. That is every effort will be made to ensure that there is foreign exchange to support no less than between 2 to 3 months supply of imports. At the end of calendar year 1992 there was foreign exchange to support nine and half weeks of imports. This has improved somewhat since that last figure was reported by the Governor of the Central Bank who stated in a report last week that we now have about 10 weeks of imports on hand. This should not lull us into a state of complacency but rather we should consider the factors which affect the foreign exchange level or the number of weeks on hand. Declining imports and/or capital inflows and/or increases in unilateral transfers will all increase the foreign exchange position.

10.20 a.m.

In addition, exports will also increase the foreign exchange position. On the other hand, increasing imports or capital outflows would adversely affect the level of foreign exchange, so although we have an increase in the number of weeks of foreign exchange on hand, it is a direct result of the decline in the level of imports. That is, it means that there have been fewer goods and services available to the country to consume during this period.

Secondly, this Government will seek to achieve a rate of economic growth of at least 3% during the coming year. While it is recognised that most of the factors necessary for economic growth – land, labour, capital, technological know how, *et cetera* – are in the hands of the private sector, Government recognises that it can still provide the pull for economic growth by ensuring that there are adequate levels of foreign exchange to support growth, and that there is sufficient liquidity at competitive rates of interest within the banking system to finance that growth and also that there is an adequate supply, both in the quantity and the quality of the factors of production, especially labour, necessary to support that growth.

The significant increases to the economic services sector in the Estimates are to be welcomed, but we must fully realise that it is the private sector at the end of the day that must lead the way to economic recovery. Government can only provide the economic environment conducive to growth and development. To confirm this Government's commitment to the development of our human capital, there have been increases in the provision for education and health and in the provision for training and retraining of retrenched workers in this year's Estimates when compared with the last year. These increased provisions will ensure that we continue to develop both healthy minds and healthy bodies.

Estimated total expenditures exceed estimated total revenues. This means that there is a financing gap. To the extent that the gap is brought about by capital works, this would lead to investment or capital formation in the public sector. This would also lead in turn to increases in

employment, increases in disposable income to employees and generally increased economic activity. To the extent that the gap is financed through an inflow of foreign exchange, the balance of payments, or the external sector, will be strengthened and growth will also occur.

A third goal of these Estimates is to keep the rate of inflation to below 5%. An income and wages policy was in effect during the last financial year and will continue during the fiscal year 1993-94. Thus, if one's purchasing power is not to be eroded through run away prices, then the rate of inflation must be kept in check. Trade liberalisation will help, but we must be prepared to deal with the problem of price fixing. How else can we explain the price of a half pound of butter from New Zealand selling at the identical price as the same unit from the U.K. and/or from Ireland? This you will find, for anyone who does shopping at the retail outlets, that the price of butter, irrespective of the brand or source of origin, they are all retailed almost at the identical price. I am thinking here about Anchor, Belvedere and Kerrygold. I think this is an area we will need to keep our eyes on.

A fourth goal of these Estimates, Mr. President, is to ensure the restoration of law and order in this society. Lawlessness and disrespect for the laws of this country must end. Eradication of these anti-social elements require a reallocation of resources from more productive and socially desirable programmes. As a result, funding for police activities has been increased over last year's provision. However, I too must add my voice to that of the Prime Minister in the Other Place when he says that he expects to see a corresponding greater value for money from these expenditures.

We must recognise that putting more and more resources into a given programme will not always lead to greater and better results. At times what is needed is a re-evaluation of priorities, more cost consciousness and more goal oriented programming. The scheduling of operations for increased productivity must be a *sine qua non* in all our activities if we are to get back on the road to economic growth and development. We can no longer afford to squander our slender and scarce resources.

A fifth goal of these Estimates is to seek to both increase employment and reduce the rate of unemployment. Mr. President, during this coming year – and I speak here of 1993-94 – at least two major capital projects in the private sector are scheduled and we do expect them to come on stream. These are the golf courses at Westmoreland and at Kingsland. I have also been informed that another major private sector capital project is scheduled to get underway at Bushy Park and a local company in the non-banking financial sector is expected to erect a new office building complex at Sargeant's Village, Christ Church. These private sector capital works

programmes, coupled with Government's capital projects, which include the South Coast Sewerage Project, Highway 2A construction, the Coastal Conservation Project, should all combine to achieve the goal of creating employment and alleviating unemployment, while adding to economic growth through private and public gross capital formation.

The order in which these goals have been presented does not necessarily signify the Government's priority, but the goals are clear and unequivocal and I challenge anyone to dispute their desirability. A word of caution is necessary, because the goals stated are not always compatible and may even be in conflict. As is the case in the society at this time as Government seeks to maintain equilibrium in the balance of payments and increase employment by use of fiscal policy, monetary policy must therefore be so regulated and managed as to increase the liquidity in the banking system and reduce interest rates so as to induce the private sector to invest.

What would be most desirable, Mr. President, would be if we had a policy tool for each goal we were seeking to achieve, but since in this society the balance of payments considerations are the greatest, we must use fiscal policy to achieve the stability necessary in the balance of payments, for only by so doing can we hope to find the necessary foreign exchange to make available to the productive sectors in order that they can go ahead and produce goods and services not only for local consumption but also for export purposes.

10.30 a.m.

Mr. President, with your permission, before getting into an analysis of the Estimates proper I believe a word or 2 on privatisation and divestment would be in order. There continues to be gross misunderstanding of the concept and purpose of privatisation and divestment. Too often there is a call for privatisation when indeed what is being sought is divestment. Perhaps the question why Governments enter into areas of economic and commercial endeavour should be first addressed.

Some of these reasons may be to act as an investor of last resort, that is, no other private sector individuals are willing to make the investment and Government recognising the need for the given industry or firm to come on stream will make the investment. It might be an attempt to provide capital to a given firm or industry. It might be to provide job opportunities. It may even invest in order to earn foreign exchange or also to acquire shares in companies so that at a later time they can divest them to the population at large and so achieve the objective of economic enfranchisement.

To achieve the objective which the Government desires or is most sought after at that point in time it may seek to acquire the factors of production outright or

invest in certain industries or change the ownership in an industry and hence affect the distribution of income or it may do so to promote economic enfranchisement. Such investment may take the form of 100% ownership in a new firm as was the case of the Hilton Hotel and Heywoods. It may assume majority shares in a new enterprise as was the case of shares taken in the Barbados Light & Power and BARTEL or it may nationalise an existing enterprise as was done in the case of the Transport Board. I may add this is the only instance in Barbados where the government of the day has seen fit to nationalise an existing industry.

To the extent the firm is 100% owned by Government but managed and operated by private entities then that operation is already privatised. This is the case of the Hilton and Heywoods. Government in these 2 instances only owns the assets. It does not manage nor operate them. Hence, in the case of the Hilton and/or Heywoods the only thing that we can call for is divestment, that is, the disposing of assets.

Again to the extent the Government does not own the majority shares in a given concern and that concern is already being privately managed then there can be no call for privatisation but again only divestment. To the extent that the operation is either wholly or majority owned and is managed and or operated by Government then and only then can there be a clear call for either or both privatisation and/or divestment.

Mr. President, since divestment always means privatisation we may want to find out why divestment may be pursued as a policy. It may be pursued as a policy to earn foreign exchange. It may be pursued as a policy to reduce the national debt. It may be pursued to acquire liquidity so that these very proceeds may be reinvested in new industries and here we will find again that by such an action Government would be using the funds so required to become an investor of last resort in any new industries that may be coming on stream and in which Government thinks it should make an investment.

It might also seek to acquire shares or divest itself of shares to affect the prices of the shares on the stock market and/ or to improve the total portfolio mix, that is, to provide new instruments for savings to the population. It may also seek to divest to promote broad-based ownership of enterprises, that is, to offer and to foster economic enfranchisement. However, Mr. President, in all cases divestment is a one-off deal. Once you have divested that is it.

On the other hand, privatisation need not be to the extent that Government-owned enterprises are properly and profitably managed. Then, of course, there will be a continuing income stream to be paid into the Consolidated Fund rather than the one-off approach that will take place

under divestment. Thus before any judgment can be made on privatisation or divestment we must first understand why the assets were acquired in the first place, why privatisation or divestment is now taking place and what will be the ultimate effect of any action either to privatise and/or divest.

Now we may turn to an overview of the Estimates. First of all, I would like to direct the Honourable Chamber's attention to the revenues. If we turn to Table 4 of the Approved Revenues for 1992 - 1993 we will find that tax revenues are showing an estimated decline of \$22 259 800 or 2.2% between 1992-93, 1993-94 while non-tax revenue which includes such items as revenues earned by the Auditor General, the Judiciary, the Printing Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and the property income which also includes dividends from the Pine Hill Dairy, the Barbados Telephone Company and income from the Central Bank and Government properties etc. are showing an estimated increase of \$4 332 055 or 6.9% increase.

This highlights one of the major problems in comparing percentages when we are dealing with different bases. Here we see that the 6.9% increase is not sufficient to offset the 2.2% decline since you have a larger base in the latter instance. As a consequence, total revenues are expected to decline by \$17 927,745 or 1.7 percent.

There is also a shift in the contribution to total revenue and the answer to this shift is provided in this aggregated functional classification of current revenue found at Table 5, page 3 of the Memorandum in the Estimates. It is expected that taxes on incomes and profits will contribute 30.98%, the total current revenue compared with a contribution of 27.22% in the approved Estimates of 1992-93. Taxes on goods and services are expected to contribute 38.0% in 1993-94 compared with 32.37% in 1992-93. Taxes on international trade is only expected in 1993-94 to contribute 4.85% to total current revenue compared with the 9.7% which it contributed in 1992-93. This almost 50% decline in contribution is due in no small part to the anticipated introduction of the Common External Tariff commonly known as the CET.

10.40 a.m.

Special receipts which include such items as unclaimed and unrestricted monies, exchange control fees, training, health, employment and transport levies their contribution to Total Current Revenue has also declined from 9.3% in the Approved Estimates of 1992-93 to 6.35% in 1993-94, a 32.97% decline.

Now, looking at the broader classification of expenditures at Table 7, page 4 of the Memorandum - I will get back to these later in the presentation where I will look at a few selected Heads - we find that the General Public Services category which includes the Governor-General, Judiciary, Parliament, the Civil Service,

Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ombudsman, Audit, Foreign Affairs, the Attorney General, Justice and Public Safety, has fallen from \$202 644 546 in 1992-93 to \$93 860 344, a decline of \$108 784 202 or 53.68%. Its contribution to Total Expenditure is now 7.3% compared with 16.2% in the Approved Estimates of 1992-93.

Defence and Security has also registered a decline of \$2 403 800 or 10.73% in 1993-94. Its contribution to Total Expenditure is now 1.6% compared with 1.8% in the preceding year.

Education's contribution has increased from \$202 487 673 in 1992-93 to \$216 244 448, an increase of \$13 756 775 or 6.79%. Education's contribution to Total Expenditure is now 16.9% compared with 16.2% in 1992-93.

Health's contribution has also increased from \$157 326 938 to \$174 382 576 or by \$17 055 638 or 10.84% increase. Its contribution to Total Expenditure in 1993-94 is 13.6% when compared with 12.6% in 1992-93.

Social Security and Welfare which includes the National Assistance Board, the Child Care Board and the Welfare Department has declined from \$88 665 272 in 1992-93 to \$21 785 777, a decline of \$66 879 495 or a 75.43%. Its contribution to Total Expenditure this year is 1.7% when compared with 7.1% in 1992-93. To somewhat offset this dramatic decline, Housing and Community Amenities have increased from \$16 076 875 in 1992-93 to \$17 886 372, an increase of \$1 809 497 or 11.25%. Its contribution to Total Expenditure this year is 1.4% compared with 1.3% in 1992-93. Other Community and Social Services have also increased from \$14 193 647 to \$20 676 030, an increase of \$6 482 383 or 45.67%. Its contribution to Total Expenditure in 1993-94 is 1.6% compared with 1.2% in 1992-93.

Economic Services which include Trade, Industry, Agriculture, Roads, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Lands and Surveys and Labour have increased from \$184 940 583 to \$341 202 607, an increase of \$156 262 024, or an 84.49% increase. The contribution of Economic Services to Total Expenditure in 1993-94 is 26.7%, a little over a quarter, compared with 14.8% in the preceding year. Other Purposes which is a catch-all category in that classification, includes Redemption of Public Debt and Lending, has increased from \$359 128 724 in 1992-93 to \$374 199 052, an increase of \$15 070 328 or 4.2%. Its contribution to Total Expenditure in 1993-94 is 28.8% compared with 29.2% in 1992-93.

What conclusions are there to be drawn from the data just presented? It is clear, Mr. President, that this Government is firmly committed to the development of its human capital as evidenced by the increased resources

allocated to both Health and Education. Since there can be no growth unless the economic sectors produce at or near full employment, and while recognising that most of the factors of production are in the hands of the private sector, Government continues to send clear signals of its unequivocal support to the private sector through the provision of the massive support which I just mentioned. Twenty-six point six five per cent of the Total Expenditure in this year's Estimates will go to the economic sectors when compared with 14.82% in 1993. This Government, as a caring Government, even in the face of economic difficulties has still been able to provide increased funds for Housing and Community Amenities and Other Community and Social Services to offset the decline in contribution to Social Security and Welfare.

Government's flexibility in discretionary expenditure is severely limited when it is considered that Wages and Salaries account for \$395 350 742 and Salaries Related Costs such as NIS, Health and Transport Levies account for \$28 278 682 and Debt Servicing \$346 400 174 for a total of \$770 029 598 or 60.14% of Total Expenditure. That is, the Government, even in the best of times confronted with these fixed and inflexible expenditures can only control about 40%. That is, it only has discretionary control over 40% of its expenditure.
10.50 a.m.

We have seen that the debt service provision for this year is about \$346.00 and I think that this will be an appropriate time to make a comment about the public debt. Mr. President the share, size and composition of the public debt demands that more attention be paid to its management. In 1993/94 debt servicing, and I am not dealing with the level of the debt or the total amount of the debt outstanding, I am dealing with the servicing of the debt in any given year because this is the area in which you must provide funds in any one given year to service that debt. Although meaningful it is not as important and pressing as the servicing in a given year.

We find that in 1993/94, debt servicing will be \$346 400 174 or 27.1% of total expenditure. More than a quarter of the budget is being allocated to servicing the public debt. This is the second largest expenditure category under the economic classification which we have at Table 8. Of this \$157 690 000 will go towards servicing the foreign portion of the debt and \$188 000 towards the domestic portion. The impact of servicing the debt will vary, depending upon whether it is being held locally or by foreigners.

There can be no doubt that our current balance of payments problems were brought on in part and compounded by the magnitude of our foreign debt service in 1989 of \$210.7 million, a debt service of \$303.0 million in 1990 and \$298.9 million in 1991. In 1992 the debt

service has been estimated at \$247.7 million and it is expected to fall further to \$213.8 million in 1993.

The servicing of the foreign debt in 1989 through 1992 represented net capital outflows not matched by foreign exchange inflows or a reduction in demand for foreign goods and services. Because of these factors those years, 1989 through 1991, resulted or caused a deterioration in our balance of payments position. It is clear that the full impact of servicing the foreign portion of the public debt is felt in the balance of payments.

But what about the domestic portion? Is it just sufficient to say that we owe this to ourselves? It is commonly felt, Mr. President, that the local portion of the public debt does not present a problem but this is only true to the extent that these moneys are owed to the citizens of Barbados, after that we must look at the distribution of income effect of the local portion of the debt, that is, which economic sector of society owes the debt, which economic sector of the society benefits from the expenditures of the proceeds of the debt, and which economic sector of the society is called upon to service the debt. Also, which economic sector receives the proceeds from the debt servicing.

The answers to these questions will determine the extent and level of the distribution of income, the level of savings that will occur within the society and savings then will provide liquidity in the banking system and then be used for investment or at least will become available for investment.

The level of demand for all goods and services including imports and the timing of borrowing and/or the retirement of the debt will also affect the liquidity in the banking system and also the cost of money, that is, the rate of interest.

Finally, Mr. President, there is a cost in preparing debt instruments and the more frequently new instruments are issued or the more the debt is rolled over the greater will be the cost in managing the debt.

Recognising these implications of debt management the Government is considering the introduction of new debt instruments to reduce the cost of managing the public debt and to attract foreign exchange.

An instrument used in foreign currency but redeemable in local currency from those Barbadians resident abroad who might be thinking of returning home or foreigners who may be considering settling in Barbados may be induced to buy instruments and be redeemable in Barbadian dollars and these would reduce neither foreign exchange or capital outflows.

A new debt instrument that may also be considered is the Consol. This is a debenture without a maturity date but which carries a coupon rate on the face. This instrument would only be redeemed if Government wants to affect the rate of interest and the distribution of income.

The instrument could be made fully negotiable and listed on the securities exchange of Barbados. Such an instrument will reduce the cost of issuing new instruments whenever debt falls due.

Mr. President, it becomes clear that management of the public debt has implications for fiscal policy. It will determine how the debt is financed or how any surplus will be disposed of. It will also determine which economic sector will be asked to finance the deficit or which will benefit if the debt is being retired.

We have also recognised, Mr. President, that it can be used as a tool to attract foreign exchange without the necessary corresponding outflow at maturity.

Management of the public debt will also have great implications for monetary policy because the timing of the retirement of debt or the issuance of new debt will affect the cost, that is, the rate of interest and availability, that is the liquidity or supply of money.

If we are to avoid the debate which began in 1987 when external debt service was \$267 million, reaching its maximum in 1990 at \$303 million and falling slightly to \$298.9 million in 1991 and \$247 million in 1992, a period which required the repayment of bullet loans incurred in 1986 and 1987 and the other loans with maturities of ten years or less which were obtained in the early eighties then more attention will have to be paid to the overall debt management strategy.

11.00 a.m.

I do not think, Mr. President, that we should get into the various Heads before we take a look at what is happening in the private sector. By chance, Mr. President, I have some information on the performance of 10 companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Barbados. In spite of the dire predictions that we have been getting, I will give the findings to this Honourable Chamber as to the performance of these companies. Of the 10 companies for which results are available through 1992, a comparison with 1991 will show that 9 of the 10 companies showed a profit and only one stated a loss and the loss was \$28 000. All the 9 others showed profits and 4 of them showed profits as a percentage of sales over 10 per cent. That is 40 per cent had net profits as percentage of sales. You might look at what was paid in the savings accounts for that period if you were holding shares in those companies.

Three out of the 10 companies had a 6 per cent net profit over sales return and two companies had over 2 per cent. Six of the 10 companies registered increases in sales and all 10 companies showed positive retained earnings. Only one company showed a minor decline from the year before. What is interesting in this presentation is that the one company that is in the export sector, the West Indies Rum Refineries, showed an increase of 17.4 per cent and their sales increased by 4.8 per cent.

Sir, this is saying that for those companies which are looking more and more to the export market that, although there might be an economic down-turn at home and by being able to penetrate the external market, they will be able to increase their sales. At the same time, they will increase their profit margin as the West Indies Rum Refineries which have been producing primarily for the domestic market.

What I would like to do with your permission at this point, Mr. President, is to look at a few Heads and see what has taken place last year and see what is projected for the coming year. We are looking now at Head 19, Economic Affairs. We find that this Ministry has an allocation of \$5 886 209 for the year 1993/94 compared with nearly the same figure \$5 897 887 in 1992/93. This Head includes the major revenue collection agencies of Inland Revenue, Customs and the Land Tax Department whose allocations are \$4 807 352, \$9 646 033 and \$2 924 275 respectively. The major expenditure of that half billion dollars allocated to this Head is debt management. That is Programme 3, Sub-programme 4 of \$346 400 174 followed by Programme 9, Sub-programme 1 Pensions, Gratuities and Other Benefits of \$69 million. Other major allocations under this Head include General Management and Co-ordination Services of \$22 261 875, lending of \$26 798 878 and contributions of \$8 481 238. Of the sum of \$22 261 875 provided under Sub-programme 1, \$16 382 278 or 74.3 per cent has been allocated for grants, subscriptions and contributions. This allocation is further broken down as follows, that is of the \$16 382 270 - \$13 million of that will be going to the Barbados Sugar Industries to assist with its structuring programme and \$382 270 has been earmarked for subscriptions and contributions relating to the Barbados' membership in regional and international organisations such as CFC, the Latin American organisation Alatin, Customs Co-operative Council, *et cetera*.

Under Programme 11 Lending, Sub-programme 1 Loans and Advances, the sum of \$26 798 878 has been provided for 1993/94 and of this sum \$3 330 824 has been made available for loans to individuals which comprise vehicle loans to parliamentarians of \$200 000, Student Revolving Loan of \$3 098 824 and a small provision of \$15 000 for write offs. The bulk of this provision of lending will be going to agencies and the total allocation is \$23 485 054 of which the Barbados Sugar Industries

Limited will receive \$17 900 000, Industrial Credit Fund \$4 million, Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation \$1 million and Caribbean Air Cargo Limited \$525 000 and the West Indies Shipping Corporation \$60 054.
11.10 a.m.

What is of particular import here is the amount of loans which are going to the productive sector and here again, as I said, the sugar industry. Much has been said that this Government has not been doing much, if anything at all, for the sugar industry and we have seen that in terms of a grant the industry will be getting \$16 million and in terms of a loan \$17.9 million, a total flow of funds of about \$33.9 million going into the industry. The Industrial Credit Fund, which also makes provision to the productive sector in terms of financing raw materials and finished goods, the sum of \$4 million has been provided for that group.

Under Programme 10, Subprogram 1 - Contributions, the sum of \$8 481 238 has been allocated to cover membership in such organisations as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In the 1992-93 Estimates there was a subprogram included under the caption of Investment. At that time the sum of \$44 689 749 was included for the purpose of making contributions to the Arawak Cement Plant and the Barbados sugar industry. The contributions to the sugar industry have been made in other areas and Government plans to divest itself of the assets of the Arawak Cement Plant during the coming financial year, provided a suitable buyer is found.

Turning to Head 34, the Ministry of Education, Mr. President, the objectives of this Ministry are -

to provide a sound basic education to every citizen in Barbados,

to equip him or her to recognise and realise his or her potential for personal development,

to provide a wide range of higher education and training in technical skills,

to enable those best able to avail themselves of those facilities,

to develop the professional, technical and other skills they can use to further their careers and contribute to the development of the Barbadian economy and society.

The objectives are also to provide special educational facilities for the disabled and the disadvantaged to

enable them to lead full, active, interesting and productive lives to the maximum extent possible.

A total sum of \$216 244 448 has been allocated in 1993-94, compared with \$202 478 673 in 1992-93, an increase of \$13 765 775. Under Programme 1 – Direction and Policy Formulation Services, the sum of \$5 833 338 has been provided, of which subprogram 1, the general management and co-ordination of all educational services, has been allocated \$5 045 897 in 1993-94, compared with \$4 863 915 in 1992-93, an increase of \$181 982, while subprogram 2, the Project Implementation Unit, whose functions include the administration of the IADB and World Bank assisted projects, allocation was decreased from \$1 089 511 in 1992-93 to \$787 441 in 1993-94, a decrease of \$302 070. Under subprogram 3, Basic Educational Development, the sum of \$63 384 493, or about 29% of the total education budget, has been allocated. This includes the sum of \$900 908 for pre-primary education, which is now being provided at three nursery schools – Erdiston, Government Hill and Eden Lodge. Additional places have also been provided at 60 primary schools for pre-primary pupils.

Out of a population of 27 883 children in the primary sector, 3 436 were attending Government nursery schools and the infants departments of primary and composite schools. Approval has also been given for the further expansion of pre-primary education by the provision of two additional nursery schools and the addition of nursery units to some of the existing primary schools.

Under subprogram 2, Primary and Composite schools, the sum of \$58 990 063 has been provided for 1993-94, compared with \$46 993 816 in 1992-93, an increase of \$11 996 247 or over 25%. This sum is to provide primary education in 89 schools ranging from nursery to composite. Pupils who are not allocated places in secondary schools, because of their poor performance in the Barbados Secondary Schools Entrance Examination, and who did not seek admission to private schools, are allocated places in senior schools and the senior departments of composite schools, where suitable curricula are devised to accommodate them. There are six composite schools in the total 89 primary schools. There are two senior schools, St. Giles' Senior and St. Philip Senior, while special education is offered at one vocation centre and two units attached to primary schools, in addition to the School for the Deaf and Blind.

The primary school system is divided into four districts, each of which is supervised by an Education Officer. In addition, there are two other Education Officers assigned specifically to nursery and infant school education. The entire primary system is being reorganised in order to achieve greater efficiency and more effective management.

To this end, some schools were being closed and others amalgamated. Eighteen primary schools are slated to be amalgamated into 10. This reorganisation forms the main strategy for improving primary school plant. During the year 1992-93 the Black Bess-St. Boniface School was upgraded and amalgamated to form the new Gordon Greenidge Primary School, along with the Hillaby-Turner's Hall Primary and the St. Stephen's schools. There are currently 470 students registered in special education and the demand continues to be high although an additional 50 places were provided as a new facility in St. George. The annual unit cost of providing instructional staff for a mentally retarded child is \$2 368 while the cost for a deaf and blind child is \$4 935 annually.

11.20 a.m.

Programme 4: Secondary Education. The sum of \$72 609 640 or about 34% has been allocated in 1993-94. This includes the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic which was allocated \$4 085 071 compared with \$4 066 431 in 1992-93. The sixth form secondary schools received an allocation of \$11 740 334 compared with \$11 398 776 in 1992-93 and the other secondary schools have been allocated \$52 306 781 in 1993-94 compared with \$50 866 628 last year. The assisted private schools have been allocated \$2 million in 1993-94 compared with \$2.7 million in 1992-93, a decline of \$700 000. I believe this decline is due in part to the Government providing more and more places in the Government secondary schools and also the closure of one of the private secondary schools.

There were 21 146 students enrolled in the 22 Government secondary schools and there is a staff of 1 203 to service them with a ratio of 17.7 to 1 at October 31, 1992. There has also been an expansion in the curriculum of some schools with the introduction of remedial education, family life education. Some schools have ongoing work experience programmes with selected businesses in the area of tourism, banking, agriculture, oil refining and handicrafts.

The Textbook Loan Scheme is undergoing some changes and at the primary level upgrading of a stock of books is being pursued while standardisation of text to be used at both levels, that is, primary and secondary is being reviewed by specialist officers in the Curriculum Department Unit.

The School Meals Department continues to provide school lunches for all children attending primary, composite and senior schools in addition to children attending 2 private schools, the Challenor School and the Roman Catholic School.

Program 5, the tertiary level. The sum of \$49 200 000 has been allocated in 1993-94. Of this sum the University of the West Indies will receive \$35 million compared

with \$22 million in 1992-93. The Barbados Community College will receive \$7.8 million the same as in 1992-93. The higher education awards for scholarships, exhibitions and UWI awards, 4H awards and enabling grants will receive \$5.5 million compared with \$5.8 million in 1992-93.

Other institutions such as the Barbados Labour College, the Extra Mural Department, the Barbados Astronomical Society, the Girls Industrial Union, the National Union of Public Workers, Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and the Barbados Employers Confederation will receive \$900 000 down from \$1 163 000 in 1992-93.

The tertiary institutions are continuing to make positive contributions to the national education and training effort through active collaboration among them. They are not only promoting efficiency and minimising duplication but maximising the use of the scarce resources allocated to training. Erdiston College is expected to continue to play a key role in providing trained teachers for primary and secondary education, specialist teachers for the system and training in class room management discipline, record keeping, guidance and counselling and administration.

The programmes that will continue to be offered at Erdiston are the secondary in service 2-year programme on a full time basis in Business Education and Industrial Art. There will be a post-certificate programme which will be offered on a part-time basis in such areas as Early Childhood Education, Remedial Education and Educational Measurement and Evaluation.

Turning to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic which now accommodates 1 629 students in full time, part-time, day and evening sessions, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and special *ad hoc* programmes. The 2-year courses offered at the Samuel Jackman include automechanics, welding, carpentry and joinery, cabinet making, basic engineering, craft, refrigeration and airconditioning, electrical installation, electronics, cosmetology, clothing craft, home economics, commercial studies. The 1-year courses include masonry, autobody repair and spray painting, plumbing, agriculture and sewing machine operation.

The institution also offers assistance to secondary schools on a day-release basis and students from the Alleyne and Parkinson Schools have benefited from these day-release programmes. In addition, courses are also offered in industrial arts. The St. Michael School students have also benefited in CXC courses in electricity and electronics.

The institution also provides training for students from senior and composite schools in woodwork, masonry

and shoe repair and it provides practical and theoretical training in several trades for apprentices recruited by the National Training Board. This is a classical example of the sort of cooperation between institutions that was mentioned earlier and through such cooperation we have an opportunity to reduce the cost of offering given services to the students.

At the Barbados Community College this institution is currently offering courses through 9 divisions and 2 teaching departments. The divisions are as follows: the Division of Commerce which offers an associate degree programme in accounting, economics, law, government and politics and business studies. Students may also opt for the GCE Advanced Level in Accounting, Economics or Law or the Certificate in Para-Legal Studies or Secretarial Studies.
11.30 a.m.

The Division of Fine Arts offers the Associate Degree in Fashion Design, Art Education and Graphics, Advertising Art and also the GCE Advanced Level course in Art.

The Division of Health Services offers the Associate Degree in Public Health Inspection, Medical Records Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Pharmacy, General Nursing, Rehabilitation Therapy and Technology. It also offers post basic programmes in Inspection of Meat and Other Foods, Midwifery and Cytotechnology (for Senator Barker's benefit) which is the medical technician trade in the identification of cells and other cellular abnormalities such as in cancer. There is also a one-year programme for Nursing Assistants and a 2-year shortened Registered Nursing Programme.

In the Division of Hospitality Studies, there is the Associate Degree Programme in Hotel Catering and Institutional Operations, Tourism Reception and Sales. It also offers 2-year full-time programmes in Food and Beverage Operations, and 6-month evening courses to upgrade personnel currently employed in the Tourism industry.

The Division of Language Centre offers the Associate Degree in Applied Arts with majors in Spanish, French and German for Business and Tourism. It also offers General Conversation and Communication in French, Spanish, Italian, German and Portuguese in evening courses, also English, Senator Barker, as a foreign language on a one-year full-time programme, or as a summer programme. The Language Centre also has additional special courses offered in French, Spanish and German for Hotel Catering and Bar Technology and Secretarial Services. It also offers French for Fashion Design and Spanish for Bar and Restaurant.

In the Liberal Arts Division it offers the Associate Degree in English Literature, Spanish, History, French,

Geography and Sociology. While the GCE Advanced Level is offered in English Literature, French, Spanish, Geography, History and Sociology. There is also a one-year in-service Library Assistant Programme.

The Division of Science offers the Associate Degree in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics also the GCE Advanced Level in Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

The Division of Technology offers the Associate Degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Building and Civil Engineering and Electronics. The Ordinary Technicians' Diploma, OTD, is offered in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Building and Civil Engineering.

There is also the College Diploma and the Barbados Land Surveyor's Licence in Land Surveying. There is also the Technical Teachers' Training Programme which is offered in collaboration with Erdiston and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. There are courses in Telecommunications for Technicians and a one-year Certificate Course in collaboration with BARTEL.

In the Division of Journal and Continuing Education there is also the Associate Degree in Mass Communications. This programme is an example of the sort of cooperation between the private and public sectors because this programme is partly funded by BET. This Division provides courses for all Associate Degree Programmes which include English and Communication, Ethics and Good Citizenship, Caribbean Politics and Society. It also organises all of the elective courses for all Associate Degree students.

The Department of Computer Studies offers also the Associate Degree in either a 2-year day programme or a 3-year evening programme. There is also information technology for "A" Level students as a 2-year day programme or a one-year evening programme. There is also Word Processing in association with the Secretarial Department and short courses in Computer Awareness, the Principles of DBase 3, *et cetera*.

The Department of Physical Education offers the Associate Degree in Physical Education. This is done to upgrade the training of teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools.

There are new programmes planned for 1993-94. It should be borne in mind that these new programmes will be offered at the level of funding which the school had last year. These include Associate Degree Programmes in Music, Dance and Drama, Public Administration and Agriculture. There will also be the Dental Assistants' one-year programme. A new programme will be the development of programmes in the Institute for the Study of Democracy. There will also be new courses in

Conversational Japanese and Chinese. There will also be Programmes offered at the level of the Higher Technicians' Diploma and part-time courses in Print-making, Screen Printing, Leathercraft, Drama and Acting.

At the University of the West Indies the following new programmes have been, or will be adopted during the 1993 Triennium: At the graduate level there will be the BSc. Programme in Crop Production and a BSc. Programme in Livestock Production. There will also be a Post Graduate MSc. Programme in Tropical Commodity Utilisation and MSc. in Planning Studies.

I am turning now to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce. During the coming fiscal year, Mr. President, Government will pursue a programme of trade liberalisation. The details of this programme have already been set out in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals of March 15, 1993. An anti-dumping capability will be developed within the Ministry to, among other things, gather information on subsidies and other forms of assistance given to industries in other countries and also to decide on any countervailing measures that may be necessary to protect producers.

Financial and technical assistance will be provided to ensure that industries are able to compete on the world market. Specifically the assistance will aid manufacturers to retool and also to meet the requirements of pre and post-shipment finance. We have already seen that provision of \$4 million has been made available under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to finance the programme.

The regime of fiscal incentives will be restructured to be based in favour of export activities and to encourage greater efficiency in the manufacturing and service sectors. Exporters and efficient import substitute activities will be granted duty-free importation of raw materials and other inputs and machinery to allow them to become more competitive.

During 1992-93 the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation and the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation were dissolved and the new institution, the Barbados Investment Development Corporation was established primarily to become a one-stop shop for business services. It has as its major functions to:-

- (1) Promote and facilitate the development of export trade;
- (2) Conduct and facilitate research into investment opportunities;
- (3) Engage in the export of such goods and services as the Corporation thinks fit;

- (4) Establish, expand and encourage the establishment and expansion of enterprises which engage in production of goods and services;
- (5) Encourage and facilitate the development of the indigenous manufacturing sector;
- (6) Provide financial, technical and other assistance to enterprises engaged in the investment and production and export of goods and services and develop strategies for improving efficiency and productivity in the existing enterprises both great and small.

11.40 a.m.

- (7) To foster and promote the development of the offshore financial services sector. And to finance these programmes the sum of \$8 751 170 has been provided.

The Barbados National Standards Institution's programmes during 1993/94 will continue and consist mainly of:

- (1) the standards formulation in the required areas of food and food products, building components and consumer products,
- (2) it will actively participate in the formulation of Caricom standards for Caricom trade,
- (3) to promote quality management standards within the private and public sectors,
- (4) organise two national courses, one for the export of goods and the other for control of services with the assistance of the regional project on quality control programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean,
- (5) initiate a Barbados National Standards Institution training course on quality control for industry,
- (6) monitor the technology for industrial development in Barbados, and
- (7) assist in the development of agro and other industries, and in order to undertake these programmes for 1993/94, the sum of \$1 100 000 has been provided to finance these programmes compared with \$1 084 463 in 1993.

The Standards Institute has a critical role to play in the years ahead especially now that we have trade liberalisation and if we are to ensure that the consuming

public in Barbados gets what it is paying for, then we must rely on the standards institution to set standards so that the country is not burdened or saddled with inferior goods coming in because the prices happen to be lower and/or because price fixing may be evident.

Now, turning to cooperatives, the Cooperatives Department has 3 main functions:

- (1) The legal which includes registration of societies and their by-laws, inspection and liquidation and the supervision and settling of disputes,
- (2) The audit function. It either conducts audits of or prove the auditors cooperatives, and
- (3) Educational. That is, it trains the officers and members of the cooperative societies and promotes the overall cooperative philosophy.

The programmes for 1993/94 will consist of maintaining the dialogue with groups in the area of industrial cooperatives such as cottage industries and handicraft, continued collaboration with the National Training Board, foster and strengthen farmers cooperatives and other non-credit union cooperatives, provide training and workshop sessions for staff of the cooperative movement, bring into effect the provisions of the new cooperative legislation, assist societies in the implementation of policies and proper utilisation of resources, work towards implementation of a cooperative course on the curriculum of community colleges' continuing education programme, conduct research into non-functioning cooperatives with particular emphasis on industrial and housing cooperatives.

An analysis of the format of cooperatives. We find that in 1992 there were 46 credit unions, compared with 48 in 1991. Transport had 5 credit unions and the same number in 1991. Farmers credit unions fell from 7 in 1991 to 6 in 1992. Consumers cooperatives remained constant in both years at 5, so too did fishing, savings and school thrift.

In terms of membership there was a slight decline of 307 members or 0.7% and savings declined by less than 1% from \$153 474 979 in 1991 to \$151 979 671 in 1992. So, in spite of the down-turn in the economy neither the savings decline nor the loss in membership within the cooperative sector was as great as the overall decline in economic activity.

Now, turning to the foreign sales corporation, provision for this appears in US Tax Reform Act of 1984 and the provisions of this Act require foreign sales

corporations to incorporate and locate either in a US possession or in a foreign country, which has an adequate agreement for the exchange of tax information with the United States of America. The United States Reform Act stipulates that FSC's as they are commonly called must comply with the following requirements: demonstrate that 50% of the operational expenses are incurred outside the U.S., they must be managed outside the U.S., they must maintain an office in the host country, and they must maintain a permanent set of books of accounts and principal banking accounts outside USA.

Barbados qualified as an FSC in 1984 and from 1985 to December 31, 1992 there were 752 licences issued to FSC's. Of this number, that is, of the 752 licences issued, 217 are now inactive, that is, they have either been dissolved or licences have not been renewed. Total fees collected during 1992 were \$779 800 and the projection for 1993/94 is expected to be \$1 million rounded.

Turning now to the Ministry of Tourism and Sport – Head 43. There can be no doubt, Mr. President, of the total importance to the overall economic and social well being of Barbados. In terms of its economic contributions, it is a major earner of foreign exchange, a provider of clean jobs, a major contributor to Government revenues, a major generator of both direct and indirect employment, and it has, of all the other industries, the greatest potential for linkages between all sectors of the economy; agricultural, manufacturing, printing, sports and athletics, health, education and informatics.

11.50 a.m.

However, Mr. President, if the full benefits of this goose that has the potential for laying the proverbial golden egg is to be protected, nurtured and preserved and not plucked, then we as a people must be prepared to provide more value for money while reducing the incidents of harassment and crime and actually seek to woo more tourists to our shores through more aggressive marketing of our tourism product. Recognising that the need to travel is as basic and as old as man himself and accepting that if he fails to travel to Barbados he will need to travel to some other destination, the Ministry of Tourism is developing the Barbados Tourism 200th Strategic Plan which is now before the social partners for final comments before submission to Cabinet for approval.

In addition, Sir, there has been international strengthening in the establishment of the Barbados Tourism Act, 1993(1) which was debated in this Honourable Chamber and proclaimed on March 15, 1993. The Board of Directors of the Barbados Tourism Authority and the Tourism Advisory Council have been appointed. I think that the appointments came out in the weekend newspapers.

Mr. President, we cannot afford to overlook the growing importance of the cruise ship business. To this end, Sir, every effort will be made to get more cruise ship passengers to increase their expenditure in Barbados through improved duty-free shopping facilities and product offerings, lure more cruise ship passengers to take more trips around the country and to pay more visits to places of interest such as Harrison Cave, Gun Hill, Villa Nova, Farley Hill, *et cetera*, attract cruise liners to register in Barbados and use this country as their home-base, and seek to obtain more employment on cruise liners as stewards, waiters, chefs, *et cetera* and also as entertainers.

In order to ensure, Mr. President, that the Barbados Tourism Authority which has the primary responsibility for the general management and direction of the industry carries out its mandate, the sum of \$29 455 363 has been provided in the Estimates. This is an increase of \$9 102 607 or 44.7 per cent increase over the Approved Estimates in 1992-93. Such an increase is a clear reflection of this Government's interest in, reliance upon and commitment to the tourism industry to get this country moving again. But money alone will not do it. We need total commitment and cooperation from a caring and a concerned citizenry.

Turning to sports, Mr. President, the gymnasium was officially opened in the last quarter of 1992. This ultra modern facility has the potential to enhance our tourism product. Already the swimming complex next door has been attracting its share of visitors including college students from North America who come during the winter months to train. No doubt the gymnasium will be marketed to attract North American basketball teams to do some of their pre-season training here and also to attract world rank professional boxers to do their training and sparring here and accommodate championship bouts. It also has the potential to be used as a centre for most recently sponsored CARICOM games that require modern indoor facilities. In order for the National Sports Council to not only stimulate and facilitate the development of sports and the development and maintenance of sport facilities but also to enhance sport tourism, the 1993-94 provision has been increased to \$5 470 607 from \$4 395 762 in 1992-93, an increase of \$1 074 845 or 24.4 per cent.

With your permission, Mr. President, I would now like to deal with Head 39, Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment for which I have responsibility. This Ministry is committed to the task of finding and creating new job opportunities in the coming year. This will be achieved through training and re-training of new job seekers and retrenched workers. To this end, legislation to establish the Technical, Vocational and Educational Council will be introduced early in the

new financial year. For this programme, the sum of \$2 432 500 has been provided under Programme 5. This represents a modest increase over the Approved Estimates 1992-93.

In addition, our efforts will be redoubled to find employment overseas and in the cruise line industry. We must bear in mind that our programme now on the Canadian Farm Labour Programme is generating over U.S.\$7 million and such unilateral transfers contribute significantly to the enhancement to our overall foreign exchange position. To facilitate these efforts, the sum of \$275 000 has been provided. This shows a modest increase over the 1992-93 provision where \$221 800 was provided.

Under Sub-programme 3, Productivity Board, this has already been set up and will be at the heart of Government's incomes and wages policy. If increases in incomes and wages are to be based on productivity, gains and profit sharing, then this Board must define what the levels of productivity are in each industry and within firms in the individual industry. The sum of \$210 000 has been allocated and this is a new provision. Staff are already in place which were redeployed from other areas in the Ministry to get on with the task of launching the new Productivity Board.

Mr. President, here I would like to take the opportunity to ask the general public to give the new Productivity Board its full support. From time to time if the Board is really to perform the function for which it has been established, of course, we need information from individual firms. I want to reassure the firms who will be written to from time to time that all information supplied will be treated in strictest confidence and no information will be used for tax information or no information on any company will be shared with any other agency of Government.

I hereby make this appeal to these firms. Survey forms have recently been sent out to the hotel sector and I would wish that they give us their wholehearted support. What we determine to be the levels of productivity can only be as good as the raw material that we have fed into us formerly which we have developed for measuring our productivity. New legislation will also be coming during the year to give further effect to this Board.

Under Programme 3, we have environmental and recreational. The Government is committed to sustainable development, bio diversity, and the enhancement of the environment including the marine and coastal areas. Although the provision of the National Conservation Commission for 1993-94 is but \$6 150 000 or \$83 125 less than the Approved Estimates of 1992-93, this does not necessarily represent a reduction in the operations of that

agency since it is expected that it will increase its revenues by operating longer hours and developing other eco-tourism related programmes. To facilitate the increased earnings, longer hours of operation at Harrison's Cave and more aggressive marketing of that facility will be undertaken. To this end two new trams have been ordered and should arrive about June of this year.

12.00 noon

During the year 1992 legislation governing returnable containers was in force and Government is currently developing comprehensive environmental protection legislation and it will be on the Statute Book during the financial year 1993-94. I would also like to add that the United Nations will be sponsoring next year a conference on sustainable development for small island states. We expect about 77 small island states to participate in this conference.

Price control, Mr. President. In light of the action taken in the recent budgetary proposals to do away with the entire licensing system and the negative list, there has been much rumour to the effect that the staff will also be going. When I assumed responsibility for the Ministry I was at pains to point out to the staff that their work will consist more and more in the future of consumer protection work, that is, in monitoring the quality of goods coming in, looking at price control, ensuring that customers get their deal, rather than the licensing arrangement. I want to reassure the staff at the Price Control Division that there are no plans by Government to reduce their numbers. I want to reinforce that, because the mischief makers are out there trying to give the impression that workers will have to go home. This is not on the cards as far as I am concerned and as far as this Government is concerned at this point in time. There is enough work to be done in terms of ensuring that the new consumer protection legislation is adhered to and that it is well policed, and that prices do not get out of line if we are not to vitiate the wages and incomes policies which have been enunciated by the Minister of Finance.

I also want to touch, Mr. President, on the question of occupational safety and health. There has been a shift in recent years in the types of industrial accidents being reported, and more and more of the industrial accidents are not occurring in the factories – there are few of those – but more and more in the services sector, especially within the hotel sector. Accidents that are occurring are misuse of cleaning chemicals and also people slipping and falling on floors. To this end the National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health has been resuscitated and in order to give it more teeth legislation is being looked at so that they can enforce the decisions taken by that body. It will also work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, as that Ministry deals with pesticides and other chemicals, and also the Ministry of Health.

I am happy to report that the Council is comprised of some very dedicated and enthusiastic individuals, and I am sure that with the renaissance of this agency we will see some meaningful results coming out of it. Some time this year it will launch officially an education awareness programme not only to alert the public to its existence, but also to make them aware of some of the dangers – things like transporting gas cylinders on buses and that type of thing, the location of storage tanks in residential areas and all of these other things – which are of concern.

In addition, Mr. President, during the new financial year the National Employment Bureau will play a more active role in the delivery of its services both to job seekers and to employers alike. There will be an upgrading of the physical facilities at Verona, with landscaping of the premises, painting and a more professional approach to the dispensing of services. People who have to seek the services at that agency should not have to feel that because they are out of jobs they are really down in their luck, that a face lifting and a more sensitive approach to the servicing of people will be the order of the day at that institution. In addition, rather than the passive role it has played in the past, it will now be going out to employers to find out what jobs they have on stream, what jobs they are likely to have in the future and, in collaboration with the National Training Board, seek to have people trained and screened for jobs in the work place.

The whole image of that Employment Bureau will be changed during the coming year. It is not a place where only people seeking low end jobs will be expected to go, but all jobs as they become vacant in the community, or new jobs that become developed or will be coming on stream, this Bureau will be in the vanguard of identifying those opportunities and ensuring that this information is passed on to the relevant training authorities to ensure that adequate and pertinent training takes place. In addition, the agency is seeking to decentralise its operations, that is, rather than having those people seeking its services come from all parts of the country to Verona House in Bank Hall, at great cost to themselves and an additional burden to the public transportation system, we are seeking to take our services out to the people in their respective districts, and to this end we have already set up a depot at Oistins, one at Six Cross Roads and we are currently negotiating suitable accommodations for the north and the west, that is, somewhere in Speightstown and also in St. James.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President, Government is the largest employer on the Island. Some 205 of the work force is employed by

Government. Government is the largest provider and user of services in the Island and Government's contribution to GDP is about 14%. I say this to highlight the important role that Government plays in our economic activity.

As a result, Sir, this exercise this morning is of special significance to this country. It is not only a case of Government deciding how much to spend and where to spend but we must bear in mind that everything Government does impacts either positively or negatively on the economic life of the country. It is the major actor in the whole scenario. That is why Parliament – I mean both Houses – is given the constitutional responsibility to critically analyse Government's operations, both in terms of its spending and its revenue, even before it is allowed to spend one cent. So this exercise is of tremendous importance and one that should not be taken lightly because it represents in a sense our future. In large measure the way how Government spends its money determines what the year 2 000 will hold for us. So strong is the impact of Government's activities on the economy as a whole. I view this exercise very seriously because of the role that Government has to play in getting our economy back on track.

Before getting into the Estimates *per se* I just want to look briefly at the whole economic situation which should inform Government's decision on its spending and on this revenue activity. This is the second estimates that have been presented under IMF control because you must remember that it was in 1991 that Government entered into an arrangement commonly called the stabilisation programme but in effect a destabilisation programme. This is the second year where the IMF has a direct say in how our affairs are managed. It would be good to step back a little and see the results of the IMF hand on our economy.

First of all, we must remember...

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order. I hate having to interrupt the Honourable Senator. He did not interrupt me during my presentation but it is not accurate to say that these Estimates were presented by the IMF or under IMF control. These are the Estimates of the Barbados Government, a sovereign state.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I will bear that in mind in my analysis that the IMF had nothing at all to do with these Estimates. So any criticism I make I cannot criticise the IMF. I have to criticise the Government. I am very glad that the Minister has given me the go-ahead to be critical of him personally and the Government as a whole.

Sir, what is the result of the Government's so-called stabilisation programme which is almost at an end because we are told that by the end of May just 2 months away the 18-month programme would have come to an end? I can

categorise them for you. I have written a few notes so I am not really reading them, just referring to them. I have to be very careful.

Our unemployment is the highest it has ever been since records were kept. At the end of last year the unemployment rates were at 25.1% of the labour force. That is what we got as a result of spending 16 months under an IMF programme, record levels of unemployment.

Sir, we must not only look at unemployment as a sort of numbers scenario because whenever you send home a worker he alone is not going to bear the effects of this loss of income but he or she would have dependants, children. Sir, I am being heckled.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not aware of that, Senator Barker. Will you please continue?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Sir, I just want you to know that I am under pressure. The point is that we must never think of the unemployment in terms of numbers, in terms of 20% or 25%. We must look beyond the statistics and look at the human suffering that results from this high level of unemployment. Indeed, in spite of what people on the other side would say and are saying there is a great deal of human suffering resulting from this extraordinary high level of unemployment.

Sir, you only have to go through the country of Barbados and see the level of deprivation that has been visited on our people by this Government. Note I cannot blame the IMF but the Government which decided in order to stabilise we have to destabilise. I think the Prime Minister was reported to have said that in order to build we must destroy. He has put his words into good effect. He has destroyed the lives and the hopes of thousands of people around this island of ours.

Many children, and I am not exaggerating, are showing the first signs of malnutrition. Heckle me as much as you like but contradict this! Many children are beginning to show the first signs of not being able to eat a balanced diet and I know Members on the other side are going to deny this but I want one of them to get up and contradict me in this regard. For the first time we are seeing signs that all is not well as regards to the nutrition of our children. That is a result of spending 16 months under the Government sponsored stabilisation programme. Records levels of unemployment.

Sir, Members on the other side are always quick to point out that IBM laid off 50 000 but little do they realise that 50 000 in the United States of America is equivalent to 50 persons in Barbados given the relative size of our 2 countries. We cannot tolerate these high levels of

unemployment. It is putting strain on our social fabric. A lot of men in Barbados are suffering the indignity of not being able to look after their children. Many men are losing their manhood because they are unable to provide for their families. I am very clear on this because when a man is put in the position where he sees his children and he is unable to do anything about the suffering they are going through I want to contend that he has lost his manhood. He is no longer a man.

Members can heckle as much as they like. They know it is true. That is a result of the stabilisation programme that this Government has put us through. Not only have they created record levels of unemployment but the safety net in terms of the severance payments. They have severely reduced the levels of severance payments and the unemployment benefits. They have severely reduced the level of unemployment benefits payable to those workers who through no fault of their own but because of the action of the Government, not the IMF... All the benefits they were accustomed to in the past this Government has taken away and left the workers helpless and defenceless. That, Sir, is a result of the stabilisation programme this Government entered into.

12.20 p.m.

Not only that, Sir, this Government through its policies which some of us in this Chamber told them were ill-conceived, has caused industrial production in this country to decline by 15% over the last 2 years. You only have to look at the index of industrial production and see a 15% decline between December 1990 and December 1992, a 15% reduction in the index. Sir, this is the February edition of the Economic and Financial Statistics published by the Central Bank. On page 84 it shows that the industrial production which was 119.1% at the end of 1990 and declined to 101.9% at the end of 1992. That, Sir, is what we get for being in a Government sponsored stabilisation programme.

Not only that, we see decline in agriculture production. We see decline in tourism all along as a result of the policies of this Government. This is what we are getting a decline – in almost every major sector and a decline in construction. The only thing there has been an upsurge in is criminal activity. In all other areas of activity there is a decline. This is what we get from the Government sponsored stabilisation programme and it had nothing at all to do with the IMF, according to the Minister.

Not only that, Sir, one of the most damning figures in the whole scenario is when I look at the GDP figures. This is the Economic Report. It shows whereas investment – we are talking about tomorrow now, Sir, because people do not mind sacrificing today if they are promised a better

tomorrow – but the investment activity of a Government determines what is going to happen tomorrow and down the line. The figures are here. At page 55 of the Economic Report where investment activity otherwise called gross capital formation is in 1990 totalled \$648 million, 1991 – \$580 million and in 1992 – \$268 million. That is an indictment on this Government for carrying us into a programme where if you are saying that you want to shift people's spending from consumption to investment, I have no problem. This is an indictment that at a time when we should be planning for tomorrow we are getting a dramatic decline in investment activity. It is not a 1% or even a 10% decline. You are talking about a decline of more than half because from \$580 million to \$268 million is more than a 50% decline. This has to be madness of the highest order. But the Minister said this is not an IMF Programme. This is a Government sponsored programme so Government has decided that they are going to put in place measures to show this record decline in investment.

Sir, I am thinking of my 2 daughters because the investment we make now will determine what sort of future they are going to have when they grow up. Some of us are thinking of our grandchildren. The decisions we make today, the lack of investment we make today is going to negatively impact upon them 15 and 20 years down the line. Our fathers, in spite of the fact that they may not have left us much they made sure the investment they made in this country in terms of schools, hospitals and so on, is helping us now. You invest today and reap the benefits down the line. When you do not invest now down the line the opposite will happen because whatever you sow you are going to inevitably reap.

Sir, this Government, not the IMF has mortgaged our future and sold us like Esau. They sold our birthright for a bowl of soup. They are going to pay for it because when this figure hits, I said this had to be gross stupidity of the highest order. I was here blaming the IMF when the Minister said that it is the Government. I must apologise to the IMF. It is the Government, not the IMF that caused more than a 50% decline in investment activity in this country of ours.

Sir, the 16 months or so in the IMF Programme has also brought a decline in consumption activity. Again on the same page consumption declined from \$2 261 million to \$1 716 million. This is consumption by private persons. We are always talking about people spending too much and living too big. I hear so on the other side and they are quick to say how Barbadians should live, that they do not deserve better. It is not a small matter when you get a \$540 million decline in personal consumption. I am talking about one year. When I stop consuming the matter does not stop there. Some other person who depends on my consumption for his living is also seriously affected. To bring about this

drastic decline in consumption must have severe effects for employment down the line.

Sir, the poultry plants are complaining and one fellow says he has 1 million pounds of chicken in the cold storage. People do not have the money to spend because you have decreased their income both by cuts in wages and also by the fact that you are sending home thousands and thousands of persons. When the processing plant suffers this massive decline in sales they will inevitably have to send home people. The farms that supply the processing plant will then have to cut back on their activities so all around you are losing jobs all because of a decline in consumption activity. Maybe some will say there is a case for a decline. I do not know. We can argue about that but a decline of this magnitude in one year can only spell havoc and doom for our productive sectors. That says why, as I have said before, output in the industrial sector had declined so dramatically in the last 2 years because of the lack of spending power within the economy.

Our economy reminds me of the English in days gone by when Napoleon referred to them as a nation of shopkeepers. In a sense our economy is like that. We strive on buying and selling where the wholesale/retail sector is about 20% of GDP. That is where a lot of the economic activity in the Island comes from. When you put the clamp too tightly on that sector you would be affecting 1/5th of the economy and you must be bringing down economic growth because 1/5 of the economy depends on buying and selling, the wholesale/retail sector. The downfall in consumer spending is another result of the Government imposed stabilisation programme. Then, Sir, the export of goods and services. In the same way the export of goods and services have declined again for the third year running. It seems as though every activity is showing serious decline. Sir, another result of the Government imposed stabilisation programme is part that for the third year running we have economic decline.

12.30 p.m.

Sir, my figures, not the Central Bank's indicate that the decline last year could be in the order of 10%. I am saying, Sir, and I want to repeat this, that in my considered opinion the economy declined by about 10% last year in real terms and, Sir, I am waiting for a contradiction.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, this is not done in this Chamber. I am not having somebody jumping up and what not and you are disappointed. We do not have that. You will continue your presentation. That is all. Go right ahead.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I will go ahead.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Go ahead and make your presentation.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I will go ahead at my own pace, with all due respect, Sir. As I was saying, economic activity could have declined by 10% in 1992. Added to the heavy declines in both 1990 and 1992. Sir, why am I saying 10%? And why, Sir, the Government side is not willing to challenge me on this? Sir, it is because they know that the figure of 4% that has been put out by the Central Bank is a figment of somebody's imagination. Sir, we have never had the situation where nominal growth exceeds real growth and to say that the economy declined by 6% in nominal terms and 4% in real terms, is to say, in effect that there was never this inflation. But, Sir, the Prime Minister himself said that inflation was 6% in 1992 and even, although, Sir, in the estimation of the deflator, we can use the wholesale price, yet I fail to see how wholesale prices could have fallen and yet retail prices increase by 6%. Sir, I am sure that the firms in Barbados are not that unconscionable that in the face of declining wholesale prices that they will increase retail price by 6%.

Sir, I am sure that Senators on this side, who are actively involved would never do such a thing to the people of Barbados. So, Sir, I am on good ground and that is why I was not challenged. Sir, I am on good ground when I say that the real decline in the economy has to be greater than the 6.9% nominal decline. Sir, I want the Members on the other side, when they get up to speak, to challenge me on this. I have no problem at all. I will debate this from now until tomorrow but there is no way, Sir, that in the face of rising prices that you can get a 6% decline in nominal terms and only a 4 per cent decline in real terms. It cannot happen and I challenge them, when they speak, Sir, to debate that point with me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you said that about 3 or 4 times. We will not have any further repetition of that point. Proceed with your debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am proceeding.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, but I must point it out that we cannot continue to have the repetition.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, but sometimes repetition is good because ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You must understand that there will not be repetition.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I understand clearly. I understand a lot of things very, very clearly, Sir. So, Sir, the 16 months of Government's stabilisation programme, not the IMF, has brought a litany of woes, which I just

enumerated, to this country of ours. A litany of woes and above all, Sir, the hopelessness in our society, the aimlessness, the hopelessness is testimony to failed Government policies, not IMF policies.

Sir, last time, maybe it was in 1991, when the Government's stabilisation programme was first brought to this Chamber, so I said that the adjustment was too sharp. We have a situation, where in the election year, ending 1991, where Government true to its own form, ran up a massive deficit and financed that massive deficit by borrowing illegally, I may add, from the Central Bank. Sir, I said that you cannot correct that problem in a short space of time, to move from a situation where you had a massive deficit to a break-even position. I said, Sir, and I still feel that that is the way to economic ruin. That you cannot adjust the economy in so sharp a fashion that the period of adjustment should have been maybe 3 or 4 years, where every year you bring the deficit down until you reach the desired level.

Sir, I also made the point and with your permission, Sir, I will repeat the point that there is nothing to be gained from having a zero budget deficit. There is nothing to be gained from having expenditure equal to revenue.

Sir, I can digress and say that the result of all this is the chaos that I have outlined before. Sir, I will debate this at this point as an economist that there is no gain in balancing expenditure with incomes. Sir, when you build a hospital or when you build a school you are not only building it for yourself but 50 years down the line, generations that come after us, will still be reaping the benefits if the school is properly maintained. If the school is properly maintained, 20 years down the line our grandchildren would still be using the same school building. Therefore, Sir, why should this generation pay for this particular investment when it is going to be used 100 years down the line? So, Sir, the sensible thing to do is to say look, this is an investment which is going to benefit down the line therefore let me pay for this investment, not in one lump sum but out of future earnings. That is the way how all countries run their business but all of a sudden, Sir, this Government decides that they are going to so-call balance their books. They are not going to have any deficit at all.

Sir, in our economy we are still in the developing stage but our economy cannot take that sort of economic logic. It has worked in no economy yet. Because if you do that you will get what you got before so what you are going to get is that the investment activity, if you are going to pay for other investment activity out of current revenue, then, Sir, you have to continue investment activity and that is precisely what has happened that in order not to run a deficit, Government has had to seriously curtail its

investment activities. What is happening is that you are going to leave nothing down the line because you are building nothing. You are building nothing, hence you are going to leave nothing. And that, Sir, cannot be good economic reasoning.

Economic prudence suggests, Sir, that when you make investments you pay for it over a period of time. Sir, it is like this. Sir, I know I can speak for myself, that if I waited until I had all the money to build a house, without going to the bank for mortgage financing, I do not know, Sir, when I would have got a house. It is as simple as that, especially to the wage earner. I am not talking about the average wage earner. If he does not go into debt, he will never make the sort of progress that he would have made. But he says well look, I am working for so many dollars a month now. I can afford to repay over a period of time \$500 a month towards a mortgage. In that way, Sir, he will reap the benefit of owning his own house and he does not have to look for all of the money at one time. Sir, there is nothing wrong with Government operating that way.
12.40 p.m.

Sir, I remember the late Prime Minister, Errol Barrow. He made that same speech a year after Independence. So I suggest that both Senator Clarke and Senator Lewis go back and read that speech and commend it to the present Prime Minister for reading also. That Budget Speech in 1967 set the tone for the sort of economic policy that newly independent Barbados entered into and successive Governments have followed that policy.

The result is, Sir, that without that far sighted policy and the level of development that we have reached today we would be nowhere near it if we decided that the only way to build a school or to build a hospital is when you have the \$20 or \$30 million. The harbour would have never been built. The airport would never have been built. The highways would have never been built. All the schools that we enjoy would never have been built if Government decided that they will not run a deficit but that they are going to finance all of their expenditure from current revenue. It is as clear as that.

Successive Governments have always run a budget deficit. Obviously, Sir, one has to make sure that it is manageable. Secondly, Sir, how you finance is also important. I am very glad to see that the Barbados Economic Society at long last has come to that position. I do not know who met them on the road to Damascus. But for a long time they were on the same wave link as the present Prime Minister. Somehow reason seemed to have prevailed and now they say that there is nothing wrong with running a small deficit. Just do not finance it from...

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I do not think that the Honourable Prime Minister has at anytime or in any place said that the only way to run an economy is to ensure that there is a balance budget. He has never said that anywhere or at anytime. Depending on the state of the economy determines whether you run a surplus, deficit or a balance budget. It is the state of the economy at the point in time and Senator Barker, as an economist, should know this.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Actions speak louder than words, Sir. For two years now we have a situation where we are balancing the budget. I will move off of that point because obviously the Honourable Senator has not made a point, but then that is expected.

Sir, I want to suggest that the reason why we are in trouble and why the woes are taking place is because the Government's prescription for this economy has been wrong. I want to highlight a couple of areas. One is...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You want to highlight what? What did you say?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Highlight a couple of areas.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh! You spoke so quickly that I just did not understand you. It is difficult to follow what you are saying at times. Please proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I will now highlight some areas in which I think the Government has embarked on the wrong policy prescription for Barbados. One is the high interest rates. Sir, it is my contention that interest rates in Barbados should bear some relation to interest rates of our main trading partners. I am quoting again from this document on page 50 concerning interest rates. That is why in the early 1980s when interest rates in the Americas and the U.S. were very high in the order of 13 or 14 percent for bank rates that Barbados embarked on a high interest rate policy. Note that within a couple of years we decided that this foolishness is not getting us anywhere. If you look at the figure, you will see that the high interest rate policy in the early 1980s only lasted for a couple of years.

Sir, we are on record as saying that it was the most undesirable part of our economic policy in the early 1980's. We recognised that interest rates in Barbados are of extreme importance to the manufacturing sector and indeed, Sir, to all sectors of activity. We only held rates high because our rates must in some measure reflect what is happening with our competitor's rates. By the time we left office in 1986, the Treasury bill rate was down to 4 per cent and the bank rate was coming down. At the end of

that year it had reached 8 per cent. But we decided that the high interest rate policy would ruin our economic sectors.

Sir, 10 years after a new Government has come in where it had the benefit of hindsight now because the Government saw what the high interest rate policy of the early 1980s did to our economy, who would believe that this Government with all the brains that they have would have the interest rates now at record levels where our bank rate of 12 per cent is 4 times that of our main trading partners in the United States? The bank rate in the United States is 3 per cent and the bank rate in Barbados is 12 per cent.

Sir, in 1981 the bank rates were 12 and 13 per cent. Now they have a 3 per cent bank rate in America and 12 per cent in Barbados. This high interest rate policy has wrecked havoc on our economy. The theory is that if you have high interest rates that you should get a lot of investment flows coming into the country. Sir, the result of this high interest rate has been not to encourage any capital inflows because net capital inflows have been negative in Barbados for the past few years. What good has the high interest rate policy done for Barbados? Let me tell you what it has done. It has caused a lot of people to be in trouble with the banks. I have checked and every rise of 1 per cent in the mortgage rate, if you look at a standard mortgage of \$100 000, that puts \$75 or so more out of the person's pocket and into the bank's profits. Every time you raise mortgage rates by 1 per cent on a \$100 000 mortgage \$75 or so is taken out of the poor person's pocket and given to the bank. Not only that, Sir, in the manufacturing sector where most of them are functioning on over-drafts and bank credit, these high interest rates are running them out of business. It represents a terrible cost to them.

Sir, I heard the Honourable Minister talk about the increase in debt servicing. He should realise that right now we have over six hundred million dollars outstanding in Treasury bills and the interest rate was 4 per cent in 1986 when they took office. 4.3% was the end of the year figure for the Treasury Bill rate and under their misguided policies the Treasury Bill interest rate rose to as much as 13.95%, a 9.5% increase, in less than seven years. When you have \$600 million outstanding in Treasury Bills and the differential is 9%, that is only \$54 million more in interest you are paying all because you embarked upon a high interest rate policy. When the Minister is talking about debt servicing, he must realise, Sir, that part of the high cost of debt servicing is a result of the misguided policy of the Government which caused interest rates to move from a manageable 4% – and up to 1988 it was 4% – that 9% rise, \$15 million or so more a year that the taxpayers of this country have to pay to service this debt,...

12.50 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, are you saying that the interest rate on the international debt servicing is affected by local policy?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: No, Sir. I was at pains to talk about Treasury Bills.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh, Treasury Bills! Just make it clear, because when you talked about debt servicing I just wondered how that was possible.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I prefaced it by saying that Government has \$600 million in Treasury Bills outstanding.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I see. Treasury Bills. Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: When the Minister is talking about our debt service, he must realise that the interest rate policy must take the lion's share of the blame for the increase in debt servicing. He is inadvertently blaming the party I represent for the high debt service. I want him to know that his policies are very much responsible.

Sir, I note something very important. The amount of debt a person enters into is determined by his ability to service that debt. It is like a household. The amount of money they borrow is based on their income and their expected income. When we left office in 1986 – and I am again quoting from this report – it took 6.2% of our exports of goods and services to service our foreign debt. Because of the misguided policies in relation to sugar, manufacturing and so on, the result is that in 1992 it took 17.8% of our exports of goods and services to service our foreign debt. Remember, our foreign debt is at this time declining. That is a fact, but yet it is still taking almost three times as much in percentage terms to service our foreign debt.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended for one hour and resume at 2.00 p.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

Order No. 1 (resumed)

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, just before the break I was highlighting the wrong policies the Government has implemented in the past 16 months or so, and I ended when I spoke of their high interest policy and the effect it had on the economy.

The second wrong policy is the policy of reducing disposable income. I know that this is probably a vexing issue, but I believe that this was a wrong policy because of the nature of our economy. As I said before, Sir, our economy depends quite a lot on spending, and when you erode spending power to such a large extent you are bound to put the economy in serious problems. If you can remember, Sir, in 1991 there was a reduction in pay for about one quarter of the people who were employed either by Government or with statutory corporations, so we had an 8% reduction in salary and in addition, to compound that, we had a 6% inflation rate, so that the real decline in spending power of that quarter of your work force could be as high as 14% to 15%, when you take into account the 8% cut in salary as well as the increase in prices.

Sir, it is my contention that that serious reduction in the spending of so many of the work force was in large measure responsible for the decline both in consumption as well as in investment activity that I highlighted before. The decline caused a serious dislocation in the economy. I think that is a wrong policy and 2 years down the line I still think it is still a wrong policy to pursue in our economy.

Sir, privatisation formed a major plank of Government's economic policy. I am one for the State having a clear and a powerful role in the economic life of the country. I will not go back to Russia, as suggested by certain people on the other side, or even to Cuba. I have no intention of going back, because I was never there in the first place, but the point is that in our economy Government must act as a stimulator and a regulator of economic activity. For example, if you can remember, Sir, in the early 80's the situation was such that we have a fair amount of oil deposits in Barbados, but the leases were owned by another company and they were just sitting down on the leases while we in Barbados had to be forking out a lot of foreign exchange to pay for our oil requirements. So the Government of the day, the BLP Government, decided that this was not good enough. We have a natural resource and we have to exploit this resource to the benefit of our people, so we decided to set up the Barbados National Oil Company. The result was that at one time well over half, above 40%, of our requirement was made from our own domestic production. But all along another company had all the leases but would do nothing to bring the oil to the service. So the Government decided to set up the BNOC and the result was to the benefit of the economy as a whole.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You go ahead. It is not a serious comment which is being made.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: They can worry about such frivolous things, but I worried about the fate of our people.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is not a serious comment. You go ahead, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: They are thinking of frivolous little things and the main issues relating to the economic life of this country they are laughing at and ignoring.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. You proceed with the Government's business.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am not in the Government so I cannot proceed with the Government's business.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh, well, I mean, you are still sort of part of the Government of this country.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point I want to make is that we had to set up the company because of the inactivity of that particular company, and now the words of the Minister were that when they did an audit of the company they found it was a properly run company.
2.10 p.m.

It was a company that was making a profit. The Minister said that it was a properly run company. If the Minister is lying, then I am not responsible for that. I can only go on the words of the Minister. Now the company is profitable and it is providing a large portion of our energy needs and now having got us there do you mean you are going to sell it? I do not understand the rationale for the sale of BNOC as indeed for a lot of the other companies. It has to be wrong policy.

All that happened is that the money you realised from the sale you will put into current revenues so that next year you will not have an asset and the company that takes it over might not have the interest of Barbados at hand because it is unlikely that a local concern will buy that oil company. We will be left at the mercy of another foreign company. Anytime there is a problem the company can say that Barbados is a small part of their operation so it has no commitment. We will be back to square 1, back to where we were before we set up BNOC. How could that be a good policy? How could that be a policy which will redound to the benefit...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you asking me or is it a rhetorical question?

Proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, that policy has to be wrong. To make matters worse I have a reply that the Minister gave to an MP in the other place where it was pointed out that the firm, Peat Marwick Associates Ltd. is being paid \$390 000 out of the taxpayers in order to prepare the books so that the company can be privatised. At a time, Sir, when Government is saying that it is not going to pay substitutes so that people who are accustomed getting a few weeks work in the Civil Service will no longer get it. At a time when unemployment is 25.1% we are taking...

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: On a point of order, I do not like interfering and interrupting people except that if they are saying something that I know to be blatantly not correct then I need to correct it. In this instance the Honourable Senator said earlier that money from the proceeds from the sale of BNOC was going into the Consolidated Fund. That is not factual. That is not true. The intention is and it was stated in The Other Place, the proceeds from the sale of these assets will go into a privatisation fund. That is the first thing.

Secondly, he stated it is hard earned revenues that you are going to spend money from the Consolidated Fund to pay for the study and that is again not true. The intention is that the payment for the study will come out of the same privatisation fund that is being established. There is nothing at this stage coming out of the Consolidated Fund.

There are other incorrect things said but I will hold those until when I am about to speak because I know all the facts relating to BNOC. I was Executive Director of the NPC at the time.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I know. I was on NPC too. Do not forget.

Sir, the Honourable Minister should read the statement here because everything I said is factual. Peat Marwick is being paid \$390 000. That is an undisputed fact and the point is whether or not it is paid up front or it is paid when the sale has been realised they are still being paid the money and it is coming from the taxpayers' pocket. If they were not paid that we would have got more money from the assets. However you look at it, it is being paid by the people of Barbados, whether up front or after the sale has been realised. The point is that it has to be wrong policy to sell BNOC in spite of the Minister's interjection.

Sir, I do not want to talk about BNOC for the whole day. Suffice it to say that as far as I am concerned what they call 'privatisation' is nothing more than a garage sale. For example you are selling - and this is the statement by the Honourable David Thompson which he gave in the

Other Place on the whole matter of privatisation I know that the Honourable Ministers would have read this Statement. He talked about state-owned enterprises and mentioned the Barbados External Telecommunications Ltd, the Barbados Telephone Company and the Barbados Mills Group.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not so fast. Take your time you are going a bit fast for me. Go on.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, first of all BET was never a state-owned enterprise, neither is the telephone company so this is an inaccurate statement.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order. I think in my presentation and I believe I am the only speaker so far in this debate, I made no such statement when I dealt with the topic of privatisation that BET was wholly owned by Government.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I never said that he made a statement. I said I was quoting from a Statement by the Honourable Minister in The Other Place. I never mentioned his name.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Carry on.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, first of all, apart from the obvious inaccuracy about BET and BARTEL being state-owned enterprises the fact is you have a stake in a company. It was 25% equity in BET and 11% equity in the telephone company. When you sell them is that privatisation? When you are selling your assets to the major shareholders in this case?

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Honourable Minister in spite of his foolish jokes is at variance with the Statement produced by his superior in the Ministry of Finance. It mentions privatised and so if I am quoting from the document...

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I cannot let that be in the record. I think that should be struck from the record. No Minister is superior to another Minister. The only person who is superior to a Minister is the Prime Minister. That is an inaccuracy and I am asking that the reference to superior Minister in the Ministry of Finance is struck from the record.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Thank you. Maybe that skipped my attention. You will withdraw that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I have no problem with that, Sir. I will withdraw it readily.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: He may not be a *de jure* but a *de facto*.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. You will withdraw that statement completely.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I will withdraw it completely. The privatisation that has already taken place is not privatisation. It is a garage sale. You want money and you have a family heirloom and you sell it. That is selling out.

What they are calling privatisation I call a sell out, a garage sale. Nobody can convince me that to sell 25% equity in BET and to the major shareholder is privatisation. It is the selling of an asset. Nobody within the economy has a chance to invest in the company thereby promoting economic enfranchisement. All that happens is that you are creating a monopoly and you are not even in the position to affect company policy because the 25% equity that you had which could act as a stabilising factor you have surrendered.

Similarly, I will come to the telephone company in another matter later when I come to the Head dealing with the Ministry for which Senator Dr. Clarke is in charge. I will deal with the Telephone Company there.
2.20 p.m.

The point is, what they call privatisation is selling out the birthright of the Barbadian people. That is all it is. Even when the Minister admitted that this is not the time to be selling hotels to sell Heywoods at this time would, obviously, be a carrying on of the mistaken policy of privatisation. I would be for privatisation if it meant that the ownership structure of those companies would be expanding so that ordinary citizens, like the Hon. Dr. Senator Clarke and myself, could buy shares in that company and hence promote a greater distribution of income. When it is being done in such a way that the external or foreign ownership is enhanced, I cannot support it.

Do you know what make matters worse, Sir? The choice shares in BET, the Telephone Company and Barbados Mills us locals could not get a look in but when they have shares in the not so profitable institutions like the Pine Hill Dairy, CBC and those, you want us now. We are not good enough to own shares in BET or the Telephone Company which are, by their very nature, highly profitable organisations, but when you come to those which are making a loss us poor Barbadians are supposed to take the shares in those companies. It has to be a wrong policy and will do nothing to enhance economic democracy in this

Island. That, Sir, is another wrong policy the Government has embarked upon.

Sir, I want to move on to some rather detailed points in this year's Estimates of Expenditure and first of all on the revenue side of the Estimates. We note that last year the current revenue of Government was much less than they had anticipated because they had anticipated \$1 billion but they only realised \$986.9 million. This is in spite of the fact that we had high levels of taxation imposed upon our people since the Estimates for 1992-93 were laid a year ago. It leads to the inescapable conclusion that the revenue base...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should also point out to you that you are not permitted to debate the revenue. You may debate the Appropriation Bill but not the revenue. I just wanted to remind you of that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with all due respect. I think the Minister in his presentation may have mentioned the revenue position. I am speaking subject to correction. I thought the Rules would allow me to respond to that so long as he raised it. I await your ruling, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I may not have been aware of that but I was just drawing that to your attention. Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Sir. I will not spend too long on it but I must make one or 2 points because they are germane to the whole debate. It is difficult to discuss expenditure without looking at the revenue implications of the level of expenditure. It would be difficult for me to discuss how much the Government can spend without at the same time looking to see where the revenue to finance it. For example, if the revenue was \$2 billion, we would not have a problem here because we would have excess revenue. We would just be here saying why does Government not spend more money. Everything is relative so I just want to spend a few minutes, with your permission, dealing with the revenue position of Government.

Sir, there are 2 points. Firstly, the revenue base is shrinking. This means that in spite of the fact that Government put on more taxes last year, they realised less revenue. That is not really extraordinary primarily because most of Government's revenue comes from spending through the Port, consumption taxes and other indirect taxes. Of course a large part also comes from direct taxes but most revenue comes from international trade and trade within the Island. Once you curtail spending then as a consequence of that you are going to seriously erode your revenue position. That is why Government is ill-advised to keep on increasing the level of indirect taxation. They are going to find the more they increase the level of indirect

taxation the less absolute revenue they are going to gain because of the fact that the revenue base is, indeed, shrinking.

I wished this debate had taken place before the Budget because then Government would have heard another side to the whole position. I then would have been advising Government to let matters stay as they are because, based upon my experience and knowledge, increasing taxation is not going to bring additional revenue. It would have the opposite effect.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Am I to understand that you are offering your services to Government, Senator Barker?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, it is a *quid pro quod*, at a price, maybe his resignation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh, I see.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Another thing, Sir, while I am on revenue. I do not understand how Government, in spite of the fact that unemployment is rising, in spite of the fact they claim that because of the new income tax regime – I heard in the Other Place the Minister of Health making this point – it means that people are going to pay less tax. If that is so, and we know it is not so, how can you explain that you got \$130 million from income tax last year and this year, with a shrinking work force, you are expected to raise \$208 million? If you are saying that people are paying less money in income tax you can increase it by more than 50%. I am not sure what the position is because either taxes increase or decrease. If they decrease they cannot be bringing in more so either there is some flaw in the estimation procedure or, in fact, what is going to happen is that the few people who are working would be called upon to pay more in income tax. The Honourable Minister when he gets his chance to reply can elaborate on that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: New maths, perhaps!

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, in the 2 years I have been in here I have seen a lot of new maths. I learned more new maths in the last 2 years than I have learned in all my years at Secondary and University level.

Sir, I now want to move on to some specific Heads. I want to turn to Agriculture. The first thing I want to say is that if you look at page 12 of the Memorandum of the Estimates I notice something there. I talked earlier about Government not spending money in investment activity and Honourable Senators on the other side may not have been too happy. Under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Capital Expenditure, what do you notice? Under the bad old days of the Barbados Labour Party, as the Honourable Members over there would say, we were spending up to \$20 million on capital expenditure in the agricultural sector, 1985-86 – \$90 million, 1986-87 – and

we were responsible for those Estimates – \$20 million. Look what happened, Sir, since the other party took over. Look what has happened. We see a gradual decline. Sir, to weigh it with \$8 million in 1991/92 and this year we have the historical low of \$5.7 million in capital spending in the agricultural sector.

2.30 p.m.

Now, Sir, perhaps the Honourable Leader of the Senate who knows a lot about agriculture can explain that to me but the point is, Sir, that when we are so worried about things like food security and about things like our export sector, when we should be putting more money into things research and new investments in the agricultural sector, when we should be thinking of tomorrow, building things, building irrigation systems, land reforming and all of that sort of thing, when we should be doing that to help us to compete in the international world we are getting reduced and not only reduced but substantially reduced expenditure in agriculture, so that has to be a wrong policy. That has to be wrong and it shows the extent to which this Government is going to destroy the agricultural subsector. They would not even put money for investment in agricultural activity.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You go ahead, Senator Barker. Do not be distracted.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am not distracted.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Make your point.

Yes, Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: On a point of order, Sir. I believe the Honourable Senator is unaware of Government's plans for the agricultural marketing company and the agricultural credit trust to restructure agriculture and to inject over \$50 million into the agricultural sector beginning this financial year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think you will be enlightened a little further in the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Estimates represent Government's planned expenditure for the coming year. If Government is planning to spend \$50 in that sector, where is it represented. That is what I am saying, Sir. I cannot go on what they plan to do, I can only go, Sir, in what is here and what is here is that they are only spending \$5.7 million in capital projects in the agricultural sector. That is what is here, Sir. If he knows something that I do not know it is not my fault because he is privy, Sir, can talk to the Minister of Agriculture in a way that I cannot because he would have more access to the Minister of Agriculture than I would have. So, if he is reading the Minister's mind,

if he knows about the plan he should inform the Senate, Sir, and not allow me to make a fool of myself.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would you like us to make an appointment for you Senator Barker?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Senator Alleyne is my friend, Sir. I do not have to make an appointment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, I meant with the Minister of Agriculture.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, he is my former student.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You do not have to make an appointment you can go and see him. I thought you had difficulty in seeing him.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: No, Sir. I saw him up to last week but the Honourable Minister like he ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I thought you had difficulty in seeing him. That is all.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: No, Sir, I can always see him any time I want to see him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh, I did not hear you say that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, we are on a good level. But the point is that this has to be explained. At a time, Sir,... has to be seen in a different light. The old way of doing things have served us well in the past but in an era where there is all this trade liberalisation, in an area where we are freeing up the import sector and all that we need to put money in agriculture in order to help this sector to become competitive so we have to do that to cut the capital expenditure is in my view a serious indictment on the Government. They should be spending more on special projects so we see the vote for special development projects on page 28. Last year they spent over \$2 million and now this year they are down to \$265 000. That is on page 28, Sir.

Sir, the vote, Services to increase output of crops. Last year they spent \$2.5 million. This year they are spending the same amount in spite of the fact that the salary component part of it has increased by 8%.

Sir, food crop research development and extension, that, Sir, has been cut from over \$1 million now to just over \$800 000 so the farmers who depend on the extension services now are going to find that the services are seriously curtailed. The non-food crop research development and extension that has been cut too.

Sir, the livestock research and development services, only a little while ago we came in here with some EDF money for the livestock sector and look what has happened, Sir, it went from \$3.1 million to \$1.9 million. That is in livestock research.

Sir, the Scotland District Development project that has been cut from over \$5 million and in spite of the cut in salaries the money voted for that has actually gone down.

Sir, the land and water use protection has gone down also. Sir, at a time when we should be looking at new irrigation systems and helping our farmers with irrigation we have cut that vote and the list goes on and on. The veterinary services have been cut. The resource development and protection, all of these services have been cut. Even in fisheries there has been a slight increase but not enough to compensate for increase in wages. So, Sir, in the Ministry of Agriculture, all the areas that should be increasing their activity and providing a better service, all of them have been savagely cut. And what do we find, Sir? We find that Barbados is now in a position where it has to import sugar.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture gave a statement about the importation of sugar. He made the point that we should not be worrying so much about the importation of sugar we should be worrying about what caused it to be imported in the first place. Sir, I agree with him, but the fact of the matter is that the Government owns 13 estates; the Belle, River, they own a few in St. Andrew, Bawdens, Three Houses (I think they own Tree Houses). The point is, Sir, that the Government owns 13 estates in Barbados and, Sir, I have not seen all the Estates but I pass by the Belle almost every day and if that is anything to go by, if the other 13 are in the sorry state that the Belle is in no wonder, Sir, we have to import sugar. And I am saying that the bad sugar we are getting, the blame for that must be laid at the feet of Government. If the Government's 13 estates were producing what they should be producing we would not be in the sorry state that we are in.

Sir, getting back to the Belle ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I keep telling you, you would not be having problems if you listen to me.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I have no problem, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You will proceed with your debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I love the cross talk. I enjoy it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, No. It is not even loud enough for me to hear what he is saying. So, if there is an aside which is that low it does not bother me but I am telling you to proceed and do not be distracted.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am not distracted. That is the point I am making.

Sir, the point is this. I was discussing the issue of the Belle with people who should know. There is an optimal time for applying fertilizer. You cannot delay two weeks. When he went to get the fertilizer and with all the red tape, it meant that there was a long delay. By the time that he eventually got the fertilizer, it was too late to be of optimal use to the canes. The result is that we have the fiasco at the Belle. Sir, it is a fiasco all because the ADC is not managed in a proper manner. Sir, something annoys me. We are selling BNOC. We are selling Heywoods. We have given away BET shares. We are selling the Telephone Company shares. So why not get rid of ADC? It is clear to me. At least BNOC is a properly run company as said by the Minister. But is ADC properly run? The answer is obviously no. If you are going to sell a properly run company, what logic would make you keep a fiasco like the ADC?

2.40 p.m.

Sir, back to this point. Part of our low sugar output is the fact that the small farmers of this country are no longer producing sugar canes in the way that they were a few years ago. This is a direct result of Government's policy. When the Government changed in 1986, the then Minister of Finance and the Government decided that they were going to withhold subsidies and so on from the sugar sector. Sir, that hurt the plantations but they also hurt a lot of small farmers, those farmers who felt that they had a few acres so they would plant cane because it does not require the amount of extensive work that vegetables and other crops would call for. A lot of people who had an acre or so at the end of the year would still get a few dollars from the sale of the sugar cane. When that subsidy was not given, the price that these people got at the factory was insufficient to encourage them given the high cost of reaping services. A lot of small farmers went out of sugar because without the Government subsidy it was no longer a viable operation.

Sir, I am saying that we have to find a scheme to get some small farmers back into sugar cane production primarily because, as a result of the high unemployment, a lot of people who have land were planting vegetables. The result was that given there was a fallen demand and there was an over production, the price went down. The consumer was glad for this but at the same time, Sir, the returns were not sufficient for the farmer. In my view, Sir, a lot of our small farmers need to get out of vegetables and go for the export crop. We need foreign exchange in this country. We need to find a way to encourage small farmers to get back into sugar cane production. I suggest, Sir, that one way we can do it is by taking the Government land all around the country, especially the Belle, and instead of having bush there do a soil lease arrangement to allow

small farmers to put the land back into sugar cane. I am sure that the Government will get something out of it because I am sure right now the Belle is running at a loss. If the Government does that, it will at least get some money from the leases.

Sir, the statistics paint a dismal picture of this Government's agricultural record. I would like to use 1986 as a reference point. In 1986, Sir, we produced 111 000 tonnes of sugar and at the same time we produced 127 000 tonnes of cotton. That was under the Barbados Labour Party which the Members on the other side is quick to curse.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I do not think that Government produces any sugar or cotton anywhere. I think that is a private sector function and I would hope that Senator Barker would not mislead this Honourable Chamber that Government is in the business of producing sugar.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Did I say that? I said that we. We are the people of Barbados. Okay. Barbados produced 111 000 tonnes of sugar.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I take it in the excitement of the moment you did not quite realise what you were saying.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir, he is very excitable.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But do not allow him to excite you. Please proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The point is that in that year we had a very high level of cotton production and at the same time a very high level of sugar production because of the policies of the then Government. What do we have for 1992? We had 54 000 tonnes of sugar and only 45.9 tonnes of cotton. This Government makes a big deal about cotton. Cotton production in 1992 was far less than in 1986. Meanwhile, what about the tax? The cost to the taxpayers for CARSICOT is yet to be quantified because the matter is still before the High Court, but it is going to be over \$10 million.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Look, that matter is *sub judice*. I ask that you withdraw that. We are not permitted to discuss matters which are *sub judice*.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with all due respect, I was not discussing the outcome.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh, no! That matter is *sub judice* and we do not discuss it here. Will you please withdraw all reference to that matter. Proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I withdraw that. The point that must be made, in spite of the hue and cry about cotton, our production is drastically reduced. The cost to the island is going to be in the order of \$10 million or more. That is an indictment on the misguided agricultural policies of that Government for which Senator Lewis was the Minister of Agriculture for about 2 or 3 years during that period of time. It must be an indictment.

Sir, I am saying the reason why the agricultural sector is in such disarray is because from the time Government took power in 1986 it has systematically reduced investment in the agricultural sector. What we are getting now is from 8 years ago as a result of bad decisions that were taken 6 or 7 years ago when the DLP took over the affairs of this country. We need to reverse the process. That is a moral as well as an economic imperative. We need to reverse the years of agricultural decline, especially that Government is committed to a trade liberalisation process. Unless we spend money in the agricultural sub-sector, Barbados will become a waste land. Barbados will become a micro-version of what the Belle is unless we take urgent steps as soon as possible. I would not like to live in a country where every iota of food that I eat has to be produced in some other country. Unless Government reverses the process, then that is what is going to happen.

Sir, regarding the livestock industry, we have to find a way of reducing the cost to that industry. Labour is not an important cost for the chicken producers because in any case a fellow can keep a few thousand chickens and only employ one person since a lot has to do with mechanism and automation. So labour is not the important factor. The important factor is the cost of feed. That is why I think that it was wrong to sell its share in the Barbados Flour Mills Company. They were in a position because of the equity it had in Barbados Mills to effect changes in the policy of that firm. When Government had sold out, the leverage was removed and Government was then in a less able position to do what it had to do for that sector.

Sir, I now move to the whole question of trade liberalisation. The Honourable Minister in his presentation spoke a lot about trade liberalisation. The Prime Minister, as usual, was very vague on this issue. He said that all of the licensing arrangements are going to be removed but a surcharge will be put in place to protect certain industries. We have not yet heard the full extent of this production. We do not know how it is going to work. All we have is a blanket statement. If you can remember, Sir, a few months ago the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment of which the Honourable Senator so happily presides made a disastrous decision to allow Kentucky and Chefette Restaurants to import chickens.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. This Minister did not give permission

to Kentucky or Chefette to import chicken. The only authority in Barbados that imported chicken and still imports chicken is the Barbados Marketing Corporation. It is incorrect to make that statement.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I never said that Kentucky imported chicken.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no. You said that the Minister gave permission.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I know what I said, Sir. I said that they gave permission to import. I never said that they imported.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I understand but you are saying that the Minister gave permission to do that. Withdraw that. He said that he did not give permission.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I said the Ministry of which he is the presiding officer gave permission for Kentucky to import chicken.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: As far as I am aware, the only authority in Barbados that can import chicken is the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I take that back. The Honourable Minister has permission to import chicken on behalf of Kentucky and Chefette Restaurants. Whenever it is done, the people had the permission to import chicken. The fact is that they did not import but they had the permission. Let the Honourable Minister contradict me on that point. The price would have been \$1.00 per pound less if they would have bought the same produce from the local producers. I do not hear the Honourable Minister contradicting me so I must be correct on that point. If that is true, just think of what would happen if you had complete removal of the licence. The merchants in town would make a fortune because our local producers who are faced with high cost of feeds would not be in a position to stand the assault from imported meats. So I am not one for all of this trade liberalisation if it means that our local producers are unable to compete unless they are allowed to bring in feed from cheaper sources. This trade liberalisation that the Government seems to be embarking on will severely damage the local agricultural sector. It will damage not only the chicken industry but most industries. It will damage the lamb producing sector which even now it finds difficulty to compete with the New Zealand lamb.

2.50 p.m.

I am convinced that the reason why chicken is produced so cheaply in the United States and other countries is because of the subsidies that the farming sector gets. If they are subsidising their farmers why should we free up when we are not subsidising our farmers? If

GATT is calling for free trade let it be free trade across the whole world. Do not let the small developing countries take the brunt of the trade liberalisation programme when the bigger countries.... I read some time ago that it costs 1/2 as much to produce a pound of cane sugar as opposed to beet sugar. I read that in a very high up magazine that the Europeans are subsidising their beet sugar to a large extent.

They are talking about free trade. The IMF is coming here and wants to push free trade down the throats of the developing countries and at the same time the Americans are subsidising their people and the Europeans are subsidising their people but they want us in the poor little third world to remove our subsidies and licenses so that they can flood our countries with cheap imports.

I am calling upon Government to take a stand on this matter. If we are going to have trade liberalisation let us have it across the board but we in Barbados cannot be satisfied with a situation where we are not subsidising our farmers but other countries are and dumping their goods on us. Government must be firm in this regard otherwise we will have no agricultural sector. People like WIBISCO who are finding it difficult to compete will have more heart aches by these measures and the Caribbean Confectionery Company which is facing intense competition from Trinidad will be in a less advantageous position. A word to the wise is enough.

Sir, I want in the few remaining moments left to me to go to the Ministry for which I have some responsibility, the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment. Head 39. We see here \$210 000 is voted for the National Productivity Board and the Minister said in his presentation that this Board is going to play a key role with regard to Government's incomes policy. Briefly let me state that wage freeze is on in Barbados since 1991. That is an indisputable fact. To extend it for 2 years means that at a time when last year inflation was 6% the year before inflation was 6% so almost 12% inflation in those 2 years. It has seriously eroded the purchasing power of the workers to extend it for another 2 years is at best scandalous. I do not want to use the word criminal.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: On a point of order, Sir. I am sure the Honourable Senator knows that a wage freeze was not on in Barbados in the last 2 years. If he wishes to speak about a wage freeze in the public sector that is a different thing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would you like to modify that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: No. Sir. I stand by my view. There has been a *de facto* wage freeze over the last 2 years. The Honourable Senator knows that I mean a *de facto* wage freeze.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. No. Senator Barker if you wish to imply something then you will have to say what you mean. Carry on.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, to satisfy Dr. Alleyne there has been a *de facto* wage freeze for the last 2 years.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. Not to satisfy Dr. Alleyne. You proceed in a proper manner.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: That "ent" possible.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir I am just talking to somebody.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot be just talking to somebody. Senator Barker, you debate in a manner which is befitting of Senators in this Chamber not ... This is not a fireside chat or a street corner chat. All right. Proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, there has been a *de facto* wage freeze in the past 2 years and during that time inflation was 6% in both years and that is according to Government figures which I do not ever question which means the purchasing power of individuals, those fortunate to keep a job has been eroded by in excess of 12% because it is compounded.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: On a point of order, Sir. I thought Senator Barker was unaware that there was no wage freeze. It is just not true. I do not know why Senator Barker continues to mislead this Chamber by saying there was a *de facto* wage freeze. It is not true.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you will correct that statement or you will withdraw that statement.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: No, Sir. I stand firm on that there has been a *de facto* wage freeze in Barbados for the last 2 years.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There was not a wage freeze in Barbados.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I said *de facto*. Although it was not a legal thing in effect in the last 2 years salaries have been frozen. If the Parliamentary Secretary's salary has been increased mine has not. In the tourism sector in the construction sector.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: I was not prepared to get up as I thought Senator Alleyne had already corrected but for the sake of the record I have a memorandum here from the Chief Labour Officer in 1992.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is for me to determine, Senator Clarke. Go ahead.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: There were wage changes in 1992 and I will name the companies and the percentage changes that took place in 1992 in the private sector:

Angelus and Company Limited – 5% increase in the second year of a contract that was extant,

American Airlines – 4% in the first agreement,

Barbados External Telecommunications – 4.5% *ex gratia* payment,

Barbados Mills – 5% in the second year of an agreement.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Clarke. I think that gives enough of an explanation. I do not think you can go through the entire list.

You may proceed Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I know he can read as many companies as he likes. For over 90% of the workers there has been a wage freeze. He mentioned one or 2 small companies. How many people are employed at American Airlines – 6 or a dozen?

The point is that while inflation was 6% in the past 2 years, wages have been virtually frozen in Barbados. There has been a *de facto* wage freeze.

Wage freeze. You do not tell me what to say. You should be telling the workers not me because you work for the trade unions.

Sir...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do not address somebody as "you should do this and you should do that". You are supposed to be addressing the Chair. Now your speech is going to reflect that. We cannot have that sort of debate. I keep speaking to you about that, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: May I respectfully suggest that you speak to the Members on the other side who are constantly interrupting?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. You are out of order. You cannot tell me what I should do. Senator Barker, you are completely out of order. You will continue your debate in a proper manner.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I wish the Honourable Members will not interrupt me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. You keep begging for that and Senator Barker, that is what you have got. You keep asking them to do that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I do not mind it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Proceed with the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir. I have a lot to say and they have eroded my time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have eroded your own time.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point is that there has been a wage freeze and to occupy another 2 years on this is nothing short of madness. It will further erode the purchasing power and it will lead to a decline in consumption activities with a consequential decline in jobs. If ever a time income needs to rise it is now. When you are in a depression the worst thing to do is to reduce disposable income because you further deepen the recession. We need income to rise not as a breakaway thing but we need real income to stabilise.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you will desist from that sort of debate talking across other Members in the Chamber. This will not read very well for you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I will proceed. The point is that the Government has to seriously rethink this foolish proposal on a wage freeze. It will not do anything for the Barbados economy. It is the worst thing that could happen in the economy. The National Productivity Board as the Minister indicates is to be the key factor of this proposal and when the National Productivity Board was being talked about a Cabinet paper indicated that it required \$385 000 to run this National Productivity Board.

3.00 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I do not know that Senator Barker has access to Cabinet Papers. I wish he would tell this Honourable Chamber the Cabinet Paper Number so we can refer to it or make it a document of the Chamber.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, is the Honourable Minister saying that the National Productivity Board did not say they wanted \$385 000 to carry out their functions? They said they wanted that including a Director and 6 Economists or whatever to carry out their functions.

The salaries alone would be \$230 000 out of this \$385 000 but look at the vote? It is \$210 000, not even enough money to pay salaries. The point is this Board is to be a key actor in the whole incomes policy and you are not even giving it enough to pay salaries. This is bare madness because productivity is such a difficult concept that you need properly trained and top quality staff. How are you going to get top quality staff when you are not even putting enough money for wages? You cannot run a National Productivity Board on a measly budget, especially when they have to make pronouncements with regards to all the sectors in the Barbados economy and you are penny-pinching on their budget. You are looking for industrial chaos. The Honourable Senator should spend his time fighting for a proper National Productivity Board rather than...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not know to whom you are referring, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well then say so. All right.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: But Sir, he knows I mean him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, No.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment should spend his time making sure that the National Productivity Board is properly staffed and given the proper equipment with which to carry out this important function, not cutting their budget by almost half. That is how Government does things. The result is we are going to have chaos in the industrial sector.

I believe, Sir, that wages should be derived by the interaction between workers, their representatives and management. When a third party comes in that sort of way, it causes so many distortions in the labour market and problems that invariably you could end up with a lot of industrial activity which would not be to the benefit of the country. I am sure Senator Walkes would agree with me on that score. I am against it but if Government is enamoured by it and they go on with it that is their prerogative. But if you are going to bring in a policy, at least make sure that the mechanisms are put in place that the Board can carry out its functions. Do not cut the budget from \$385 000 to \$210 000.

In any case, Sir, the whole idea of reducing costs to the industrial sector must be looked at. Whenever I hear people talk about costs, you know what costs they are interested in? That is wage cost. We know in a typical firm

less than a quarter of the cost of production is wages and salaries. In some industries it is less and others more but I am using that on an average. The point I want to make is that there are other costs like the cost of utilities, transport and capital as measured by the interest rate. All of these are important factors for the firm but Government is persisting with a high interest rate policy, a high indirect taxation policy and high cost of energy and transportation. The only cost it is going to focus on is the cost of labour as though by suddenly reducing the cost of labour it is going to make the goods more competitive. The answer is, it is not so.

I spoke in here, Sir, on many occasions about the high cost of energy. Every time I get a chance I speak on it and Government is doing nothing. Every minute they are increasing the tax on gasoline. They are increasing the cost of energy and transportation. All they can focus on, and a Government which is committed to labour, so they say, is to bring down the real wage level as though that is a cure-all for the ills of Barbados. I say no because by reducing disposable income, by reducing real wages, you get the opposite result because productivity is below. When you have a worker who can barely feed his children, you can talk about productivity for him? It just does not make sense. As I learned in the past few years, little of what Government does makes sense.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you have 2 more minutes.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Only 2, Sir? With all due respects taking into account the time that the Honourable Members were interrupting me?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have taken everything into consideration.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I just want to make one last point on the matter of consumer affairs. Government is the largest customer of the Barbados Telephone Company. The Barbados Telephone Company is in the midst of a rate hearing but Government, on behalf of its own self and the people of Barbados, has not yet put in an objection to the hike in telephone rates. They are the biggest user of telephone services in the Island.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Precisely. I have mentioned the point about the shares it held in the Telephone Company. It sold its shares and as soon as they sold their shares, look what has happened. They sell their shares today and tomorrow a big rate case comes up. I am talking about coincidence. I am saying it may have been different if Government had shares in there and using its influence through its Directors it may have on the Board

to induce the Telephone Company to finance its expansion not from rates but from even selling more shares. In other words, if they wanted \$5 million for expansion, they could have increased their share base and offered \$5 million in shares to the people of people. They could finance their expansion in that way but you do not finance expansion by increasing rates. That is the wrong way to do things. You finance your expansion by issuing shares. That is how it should be done. I am waiting to see the outcome of this but in spite of whatever may be the outcome, Government was wrong in not objecting to the proposed telephone rate hike.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, your time has expired.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak in the peace and comfort that I spoke in.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. President, my contribution to this debate will be chiefly in the area of the Ministry of Education, Head 34, page 57. Some observations will be made under other Heads but I will deal generally with them in the order in which they are arranged.

Mr. President, it is being increasingly recognised that education provides the most effective means of equipping people for life and living. It has become traditional now that a large percentage of the Estimates, proportionately speaking, is allocated to Education. Let us look at the area of Teacher Training, No. 2 on page 57 under the Head 34 – training of educational administrators and instructors, training for personal and professional development, training for improvement and growth, training for better performance. But, Mr. President there is a grey area even although teacher training is an area of intensifying interest. This area has been of concern to me, and I do not know if to many others, for a long time, and it is the training of adult education instructors. That area, I think, Mr. President is being overlooked.

3.10 p.m.

I have the highest of praise for our adult education programme, there are many and they are varied, and many of our institutions cater to these programmes. We have the Extra Mural, now renamed the School of Continuing Studies, albeit its physical facilities are a little bit more than a secretariat and two class rooms as such. We have the Barbados Community College, the Polytechnic, Erdiston, Bimap, and quite a number of private institutions catering to our adult education programme. But there is a strong distinction, Mr. President, between pedagogy, the science of teaching children, and andragogy the science of teaching adults. A new word to you, Mr. Senator?

Mr. President, we are well aware that adults go into educational programmes mostly by choice and they bring with them a wealth of experience. Many of them go for personal enrichment. Some go to acquire or to improve skills. Some go to enhance their chances of promotion in their work. Some are even sent by their establishments to improve the progress and the working situation at their establishments.

Teachers of adult classes should be facilitators. Teachers of children usually decide what is to be transmitted. The two approaches are very different and lots of our instructors who have been drawn into our adult education programmes carry on with the system of pedagogy. It is only fair that the adults enrolling in our adult education programmes should get the benefit of satisfaction and fulfillment and this can only be done if the total climate, both the physical climate and the psychological climate, is conducive to this teaching/learning process.

I submit, Mr. President, that some consideration, when we think of the large programmes that we have in adult education, some consideration should be given to the training and re-training of the instructors in this particular area.

Mr. President, I turn my attention now to Erdiston College. Erdiston Teachers Training College was established in 1948 chiefly to replace the Rawle Training Institute as a residential teachers training college. Erdiston now has fulfilled the first part of its mission as a basic teacher training institution. The initial need and purpose, they are not any longer as strong as they used to be but Erdiston is maintaining some of its usefulness. Senator Clarke in his presentation pointed out some of these areas. It caters to some short-term courses, especially in the area of adult education both for teachers and the general public, it gives courses in guidance and counselling, it is at present experimenting with a project giving specialised assistance to schools right across the nation. Some sample schools using the clinical supervision model, but Erdiston, Mr. President, is not operating to its full capacity nor to its full potential.

I am going to be bold, Mr. President, even presumptuous and offer some recommendations for the use of Erdiston. Mr. President, I know that one of our reputable educators has been commissioned to make a report on Erdiston. That report is not available for public scrutiny but I am going to crave your indulgence, Mr. President, to look at a list of recommendations that I should like to submit for Erdiston College.

I should like to see Erdiston upgraded and preserved as a multi-purpose education centre, catering mainly to the teaching fraternity and at all levels. As a resource

research centre, equipped with up-to-date facilities, including a wide ranging library housing among other things, the works, literary and otherwise of all our educators, making such works accessible.

I should like to see Erdiston as a training centre for the professional development of teachers offering training and re-training and refresher courses. Keeping teachers up-to-date with modern trends and methods. I should like to see Erdiston accommodating a Hall of Fame of teachers and educators.

Many of our schools and other institutions have made obvious efforts to have their own little Hall of Fame for their own heroes and heroines affiliated with their own establishment.

Establishing Erdiston, or part of the complex as a Hall of Fame could be a challenge. A way of preserving and recording much of our heritage which might now be buried in the files in the Ministry of Education and elsewhere. If we do this, Mr. President, I can see us having a lot more to pass on to posterity.

Some of our heroes in Education need not be forgotten or remain unknown if this is done. And I could mention a few just *en passant*. People like Beryl Vaughn, the very first principal of St. Leonard's Modern School when it was established. The woman who introduced the Montessori system into Barbados when she had to withdraw her services on being married. Many of us are old enough to remember that when a woman, who was a teacher, got married she had to come out of the service and Beryl Vaughn started her own private school using the Montessori method and introduced it into Barbados and it was a pilot scheme. Members of the Ministry of Education used to go and observe how it was carried on. This woman was the holder of the Imperial Service Medal for meritorious service to Education. People like Lester Vaughn and we know what he did. People like Grantley Prescod. People like Helen Alma Parris. I am sure that if we develop a Hall of Fame their names and their works will not be forgotten. That Hall of Fame would be a means of filling some of the gaps in our educational heritage.

3.20 p.m.

The nobleness of the teaching profession should be acknowledged. All other professions are dependent upon the teaching profession, albeit this profession is encased in a bureaucracy, and it has really to operate within the constraints of a bureaucracy, which encases it but not really protects it.

I think that consideration could be given to these ideas, especially as so many of our revered institutions are treated with such scant respect that they become in a crumbling state. They all begin to crumble.

Mr. President, I submit those recommendations and I hope that they could be considered, those or similar recommendations, for the preservation of Erdiston as a multi purpose education centre.

I turn now, Mr. President, with a word about our primary and composite schools. Senator Dr. Clarke in his presentation spoke highly of what is being done and what will continue to be done for our primary and composite schools and those in the pre-primary stage. I have a lot of praise for the work being done in many of them. Our primary schools have been for a long time the foundation of the structure of our formal education system and the composite schools now accommodate those of post primary age not suitable for secondary education. In many of these schools, Mr. President, the teaching is good, the administration is good and the training of our children with much effort from their caring teachers is also good.

As a general comment, Mr. President, I should like to say that it is pleasing to note that no longer the bulk of them is treated like the proverbial Cinderellas of the education system. Some rural ones still need a little bit more attention. I think we have to continue to bear in mind that the end result of any product depends on the quality of its foundation, and at no time and for any reason should the needs of our primary schools be overlooked, nor should their provisions be short-circuited. Otherwise, we stand to suffer as a nation.

Mr. President, I turn to Secondary. Much money is allocated to education. We have already said that, but the nation cannot afford to commit money, manpower and other resources to education and yet remain complacent over high degrees of failure or to be satisfied with mediocre performances in our schools, especially at the secondary stage. This is very worrying.

Senator Clarke made a statement and quoted figures of over \$72 million being spent in our secondary schools. I believe that at this stage, above all other stages of human development, disciplined application is paramount to any form of success. I say that despite the strengths and the weaknesses of the individual, despite the inadequacies that there might be in the institutions.

However, Sir, at the risk of stirring up a hornet's nest, I submit that if a study of co-education in our secondary schools is made, the findings might reveal that some of the factors in this co-ed system contribute to the disturbing behaviour patterns in these schools, which spill over into the day to day conduct of our adolescent and young adult population. The developmental tasks of adolescence require a great deal of serious coping. The developmental tasks are stressful and they are long lasting. This is a real period of turbulence and uncertainty. The literature is replete with

facts concerning this period and it seems to be even more stressful to the male balance in the developmental process. The rate of pace is different and in the two sexes it is very marked at adolescence.

I also submit, Mr. President, that our secondary schools are too big numerically and they remain impersonal. Simple but all important elements of human interaction and human relationships become more and more difficult. They are almost inhibited at this level.

Senator Clarke also made reference to the fact that there is increased funding for the police to deal with some of the anti-social activities. While we realise that our economy cannot carry the burden inflicted on it by this anti-social behaviour, by the crime rise, by drug abuse, drug addiction, drug pushing and very many other undesirable forces, undesirable and disruptive, we must realise that nearly all, if not all, of the Barbadians involved in these disturbing exercises, along with outstanding citizens, along with law abiding citizens, along with productive citizens, they are all products of our society. At some time or other they passed through one of our schools, they had schooling, even if not at equal level, at varying levels, but nevertheless they are products of our society, all of them. Sometimes we blame the family, sometimes we blame socialisation and when we do that it looks as though we have found the cause, but finding the cause does not correct the situation, Mr. President, and it does not put it back where it was before.

Social and economic conditions change all the time and from time to time they have become very, very different, but I think, Mr. President, that by virtue of our size, part of it, and with our level of development, of which we boast, especially in the area of education, we will have to find a way to use our initiative and our creativity to help to solve our problems. Nobody is going to do it for us.

A passing reference, Mr. President, to the 14+ transfer proposal which will eventually reach our Estimates. Whether this is a measure to replace or postpone the existing 11+ Common Entrance Examination, like all changes it has to be handled with care. When change is perceived to be right and to be good, we encourage it. When change is perceived to be threatening or to be bad, we resist it. It is pleasing to note that public opinion on this issue is being sought. Ventilation on all issues, and especially as far reaching an issue as this, is always very, very useful and always very, very timely. But I have a lot of confidence in that sound corps of professional knowledge and that high level of competence in educational technology among the educators in our country. This change is going to take serious phasing and planning and I have no doubt that they will be doing that.

Any error in the experimentation or the implementation of this scheme can have far reaching repercussions, because this is an experiment in social science, and any mistake will be felt in human life. It is a social science and therefore the repercussions will be by far more serious than would be in the case of a specimen on a culture dish in natural science. If we are not careful, or least we have to be careful that we do not create a bigger monster than any we have had before. The delay in transition might prove to be providing a chance for consolidation, it might provide a more broad based foundation. It might even be less traumatic. We do not know, but we are hopeful that with proper adaptability and adjustment, and time, it will work.

A quick reference, Mr. President, to the textbook loan scheme. This scheme was started in 1975, almost 18 years in existence. It started with a rental of \$5.00, ridiculously low by any measure. It has now risen to \$75. It is unfortunate that this rise has to be at a time when there is great economic hardship. I still feel that this system, a good system, but it has a history of abuse, and I should like to say, as publicly as this forum permits, that I still feel that the users of these books could be a lot more caring and careful. It is also true that the books are not of the same quality now as they were when the life span could easily be five years with careful usage, hence I think we have to take a review of some of the bindings of these books. They are highly unsuitable for the tropics and I have been made to understand that this particular aspect of it is shortening the life of the books.

Mr. President, in the Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture, Head 37, I want to make a slight reference to the Barbados Youth Service. I must compliment it on its achievement so far, but I think that the Barbados Youth Service in due course could be trained to accept greater challenges, challenges that would make its members even more obvious and make the whole nation probably aware of the potential of the scheme.

Maintenance has always been a problem, not necessarily with Government owned property and facilities, but all over, both in the buildings, in the constructions and in the additional facilities. I think that with some form of arrangement an apprenticeship system, perhaps, or scheme through provisions of a day release could work to get some of the members of the service scheme to learn particular skills without encroaching on the Skills Training Programme. It could be extremely effective. It might require some co-ordination with other Ministries, and I will give an example of this. The Ministry of Public Works must have a continuous programme of maintenance, and the one area I can think of immediately where the service scheme might be effective is in sign postings, in the repair of all our signs and the markings in the road. That is just one example of where their services could be well utilised.

Mr. President, in this same Ministry I want to make a comment on the Bureau of Women's Affairs. This Bureau, and this is no secret, is operating under constraints of small staff and very limited space but they are doing as much as they can under the circumstances.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. President, on International Womens' Day the exhibition mounted by our women, and that is, only some of them, was a harvest of human achievement and endeavour. It showed a spirit of enterprise. Senator Clarke mentioned about coping with unemployment when he made his presentation and this was a fine example of using skills and crafts to become self employed. A lot more has to be done not only to motivate interests at Ministry level but at the national level among women themselves. Upgrading of the office and increasing of the staff will help with the work load and a lot more could be done in the research programme.

Mr. President, I said that my contribution would be mainly in the area of education but all environmental impacts whatever they may be form part of a person's socialisation at all levels of development and are part of a person's education, the education of the whole person.

Most of our financing under the Head of Education is targeted at the "growing years" of people - what in economic terms, is human capital. Concern over this target group has reached peak proportions and many of us are especially sensitive to the complexity of their problems, sensitive to their needs and sensitive to their anxieties and above all very aware of their potential.

We as a nation pride ourselves on our rich heritage especially in the area of education. Some of the products of our society are quality products, high quality products. We must be able to look honestly, and I emphasise honestly, at our situation. We must be able to use our sustained efforts and creativity to salvage our losses and maintain what we still have left of our most valuable resource, our human beings.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and in so doing so I should like to speak first to Head 43, Tourism and Sports. This morning when the Honourable Member, Dr. Clarke, spoke to this Bill he gave us a very comprehensive overview of the economy. As a matter of fact, his overview was so widespread that he almost covered all areas contained in this Appropriation Bill. At the risk of repeating some of the things he may have said I will nonetheless be forced to do so in order to make my points on this particular subject.

Tourism, in my view, forms the corner stone of the Barbadian economy. Following on this, I consider the

offshore financial services then agriculture and manufacturing in that particular order. Tourism is a major source of jobs for the people of Barbados. It is a major income and tax revenue earner for the Government of Barbados generating large quantities of foreign exchange which is vital to our survival as a developing country. Hence the further expansion of this industry is fundamentally important and must take the highest priority in our Government's overall economic planning.

Over the last decade, many more developing countries have become involved in tourism as part of their efforts to diversify and expand opportunities for economic development. Within this highly competitive environment Barbados must undertake concentrated efforts to improve the quality, attractiveness and uniqueness of its tourism product and services in order to be competitive and to sustain tourism interests.

Against this background it is important that we look at what has gone on before in the industry, what is going on presently and what should go on in the future to make sure every possible opportunity is seized. The success or failure of the industry depends on a sizable number of persons, agencies and conditions. I shall seek to name and expand on them as I go down the line.

The Government first and foremost and its policies as they can affect tourism. It is important that we see new projects coming on stream. However, we would not like to see a situation where there are new projects awaiting decisions to be made and there is any protracted period of time before positive or negative answers can be given to the particular projects. As a matter of fact, to a would be investor long decision making tends to turn off the investor and he or she or they may seek another country where the decision making process is faster than we may have in Barbados. Hence the Government must find a policy to effectively and quickly deal with applications which can be of great benefit to the ongoing development of our tourist industry.

Quite recently, Sir, in this very Senate we gave accent to the formation of the Barbados Tourism Authority and that Authority has certain areas in which to concentrate. The main one being that of promoting, developing and regulating of the tourism industry so as to optimise the contribution of tourism to the economic development of Barbados.

In conjunction with this the Act made it mandatory for the Authority in cooperation with the Tourism Advisory Council to adopt and annually update a tourism marketing plan for Barbados' international tourism promotion. The Tourism Advisory Council is made up of the Chief

Immigration Officer, the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Environmental Officer. As part of all the build up to a successful tourist industry, we need of course the support of air transport.

3.40 p.m

It is important, however, we acknowledge that there is really no simple solution to air transport since the records show that since 1980 the air transport business has lost to its owners an amount of U.S. \$8 billion. We have also seen the closure of Pan Am and Eastern Airlines, among other smaller ones. Hence it is important that as we plan our tourism we must take a deeper look at would-be charters. We must at a very early stage determine what role BWIA will assist in Barbados' tourism and the movement of passengers not only in the Caribbean but further afield.

Then, Sir, as a further adjunct to the tourism development is the question of our airport facilities. Barbados is known in the Caribbean for having the most up-to-date airport facility in the region. However, there are still a number of areas in our airport facility that needs our attention. I think, quite frankly, although we live in the Tropics, that this idea of an aircraft touching down and coming to park on the apron in front of the Arrivals Hall and passengers dismounting whether it be hot sunshine or raining and having to cross the tarmac to enter the Arrivals hall, I believe this is antiquated. I feel that in any new development of the Grantley Adams International Airport we must look at a similar situation that exists in the United States and most other First World countries and try to implement such a plan or programme since it is all part of the updating system.

What could go with this particular development is that if this development becomes a reality, as you arrive from the aircraft and come into the Arrivals Hall which would then probably be located on another level, I could see where you could place a number of duty-free shops for shopping as you arrive. This is important, because in Barbados we do not seem to have any clear understanding or decision how we should harness the foreign exchange we should be getting by way of people arriving at the Airport and seaport. There are a few *ad hoc* situations but there is no way of monitoring or making it mandatory that persons should, at least, change a part of their foreign currency into local currency as they arrive, as is done in even some other West Indian territories. I believe we are losing a golden opportunity to acquire more foreign exchange by not introducing some measure of this kind.

Again, Sir, as far as the collection of foreign exchange is concerned, for some time it has been talked or banded around that it would be a good idea if the Central Bank of Barbados allowed foreign exchange accounts. I do not understand the difficulties in this and I would not like

to address it because I am by no means a central banker so that I must trust the judgment of the central bankers that they are probably not happy with what could transpire if this system was allowed. It is my own feeling that very often many citizens who may have on them U.S. \$100 or \$200 would feel safer if they were allowed to go to a financial institution and put that on a foreign exchange savings account. The idea being when they come to travel again there would be some funds available for them to pay their expenses while out of Barbados.

To continue further, Sir, in dealing with the services that would assist us in developing our tourism, I can think of our travel agents. They play a very important role in advising people generally and assisting them not only determining air travel but also it would be very important if travel agents acquainted themselves more with the facilities that are available in other countries, and indeed in our own country, so that besides being in a position to tell would-be clients what arrangements could be made for flights, they would be able to speak on a broader spectrum which would mean that they too would be playing a greater role in the development of an industry which is very important to our country.

Sir, I come to our Customs and Immigration. All I need to say here is that the turn around period sometimes is a little long. I believe our Immigration Department should now be computerised in which case it is safe to say that the period of releasing a passenger from the Immigration Officer should be much faster than now exists. It is not possible probably to have any speedier turn around with our Customs Department because we have to be very watchful for the drug problem. It is therefore important, unless we intend to have a larger cadre of persons working in the Customs Hall or re-arrange our Customs Hall to allow for a speedier delivery of passengers. This I do not see as any real problem.

Right now, as far as I remember, we have about 4 days at the Grantley Adams International Airport. This could easily be 8 or 10. Of course there would have to be some conversions done. The object in this exercise would be to expedite our visitors as they arrive here which too would give them immediately a good impression of our country that here is a country that is serious about its tourism business and obviously wants to have a quick turn around.

Then, Sir, we go to the hotels which are very important in this area of our development. In many cases some of our hotels do not reach the quality which we would like them to. In many cases too their rates are not in keeping with the standard of the hotel which they have and the service which they offer. It would be important if the Barbados Hotel Association, or somebody like that, could take a closer look at some of their membership and if

possible put in place a building programme. They could make suggestions even if they could not necessarily carry out any major repairs and could, at least, give a face lift to their hotel making it more congenial, making the toilets more acceptable, probably having them tiled and put in better quality toilet ware and that sort of situation which I believe is important.

Fundamental in all of that, Sir, as far as our hotels are concerned, and I have heard this complaint over and over again, is the question of our room rates. Every now and again we see our hoteliers complaining. I have never heard the hoteliers say they were making money. It is the only business, except horse racing, that loses money consistently. They have never had a good season. There is always a problem with the winter or summer arrivals yet when you look at the sum total of the industry, one cannot conclude what they are saying is true at all.

Then, Sir, our taxi operators too are perpetual complainers. The real problem with our taxi operators is their attitude. In many cases, Sir, their attitude is reprehensible. Sometimes I may admit it may be as a result of their enthusiasm to get business and very often the way that they solicit business is in such a manner that a visitor or a local may feel turned off by the sales approach. The sales pitch probably is a bit high and I think, Sir, this is an area where the Barbados Tourism Authority should be able to have meetings with all these agents connected with tourism, whether it be the taxi drivers or the employees of hotels and so on and probably from time to time have pep talks with them or training courses whereby they will be able to acquaint themselves with their clientele in a more conducive manner than they now do.

3.50 p.m.

Rental car operators are important. One thing that is happening in today's Barbados is that their rates are coming down. Some of them of course, Sir, need new vehicles but I suppose the converse of that would be that business is so slow that they may not think the investment to be a good one.

Then, Sir, I come to the very important element of harassment and crime against visitors which to a large extent has overtaken Barbados during the last few months. Indeed, Sir, it is almost a phenomena when one sees the crime figures of today as compared with one year ago. However the Royal Barbados Police Force and other Government agencies are trying their best to deal with this matter. However, Sir, I do not believe it is a simple matter to deal with. I believe since it is a serious matter we may probably need some more advice on how to curtail this activity. The searches in Bridgetown seem to have had a successful take off. Reports from the police seem to be quite positive. Members of the public generally seem to

think that this exercise has helped considerably but I believe, Sir, that it will take more than this to return this whole question of crime and harassment to normality.

I am not a person of the law and would not have the solution but one of course can hazard various suggestions of their own. I do not have a particular one now but I note that those persons who are in charge of our Ministry of Defence and Security and the police force and so on should be quite capable of getting this whole problem reduced.

Another large factor, Sir, in the development of tourism is that of the environment. In recent times the environment has become probably the most talked about subject other than the economy in our streets and in our public places. One has to be very happy to recognise that the Barbadian public has taken a lot of interest in environmental matters. At this stage it would be good to give credit to those agencies that have consistently worked towards the improvement of our environment. They are doing so quite successfully and it appears to me that the public at large are lending freely their cooperation, to improve our environment.

Mr. President, let us understand that tourism is a highly competitive industry, not only in the Caribbean but throughout the world. Last 2 weeks we had debates going on in the Lower House, the Estimates first and then we had the Budgetary Debate and when it came to tourism there were a lot of semantics on the subject, there was a lot of blame cast at the Minister and the Ministry of Tourism but when one looks at the comparisons one did not gain the impression that the variances were of such a nature that could cause the debate to be so heated. I really, Sir, want to draw this Chamber's attention to few comparisons so that Members will understand and these figures, Sir, are drawn from the economic report which is prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Planning where this information is or has been extracted.

In the year 1982 there were 104 000 cruise ship passengers and 304 000 long stay visitors giving a total amount of 408 000 arrivals and the tourist receipts associated with that 408 000 was an amount of \$502 million. Four years after, Sir, in 1986 when the Democratic Labour Party Government took over the Government the figures then read cruise ship arrivals 145 000, long stay arrivals 370 000, giving an amount of 515 000 and generated receipts of \$647 million.

When the Honourable Minister who is now in charge of that Ministry took over in 1987 the 1987 figures showed a very substantial increase in cruise passengers, moving from 145 000 in 1986 to 228 000 in 1987. There was also, Sir, a relatively substantial increase in the long stay passengers, moving from an amount of 370 000 to 422 000

and the overall total of arrivals in 1987, Sir, went to 650 000 from the 515 000 of 1986 and the tourist receipts were \$757 million.

In 1992, the year past, cruise ship passengers moved up in those five years to 400 000. Long stay passengers did not show an increase but showed a small reduction but were nonetheless substantial at 385 000 and this gave an overall arrival of 785 000 and the tourist receipts for that year was \$925 million.

Indeed, Sir, I am to point out that 1989 was the most outstanding year for our tourism with the revenue reaching \$1 billion, represented by 798 000 arrivals. Now, Sir, what is important about the 1992 figure is that this Chamber will recall and you will recall that this figure was achieved in spite of the recession in the major tourist markets which accounts for the small reduction in the long stay passengers but nonetheless the outturn was of such that no Government should be dissatisfied with a performance like that. In all, Sir, to halt this relative decline Government has moved quickly to put in place measures which should cause us to see a reverse position this very year. The main measure however, Sir, is the one that I heard mentioned earlier, that is the coming into being of the Barbados Tourism Authority and the Tourism Advisory Council. The programme calls for a major marketing job to be carried out in the United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom and Europe. However, in Europe, the main emphasis would be on Germany and Italy where we have already been getting some solid support but should with good effort improve considerably on our regular arrivals from Germany and Italy. It is also intended to put on some charters out of Dallas, Atlanta and Orlando. This will be done about mid-year. In the area of sports-tourism, Canada, South Africa and Australia are the focal points where efforts will be made in attracting sport teams here during the summer time particularly. Serious marketing efforts are also being initiated in South America, South Africa, Africa and also Australia.

4.00 p.m.

In recent times, Sir, our Minister of Tourism visited the continents of Australia and Africa and, as expected, he was severely criticised for making such trips. These sorts of criticisms can only be deemed as negative criticisms. If he or his Board had done nothing, there would have been criticism at any rate. At least, Sir, he should have that very good feeling that he has tried even if he did not succeed. But I have every reason to believe that, Africa being as it is today and Australians are persons who love sports, this country of Barbados will benefit from the Minister's visit to those countries.

One argument that you always hear from the Opposition is that other Caribbean territories' tourism is

performing better than Barbados. This may very well be true, Sir. But then one has to look at what you are comparing. You may be looking at arrivals of 500 000 and that country may be looking at 5 or 10 000. Barbados' experience in the tourism field and marketing programmes of former years would mean that we cannot seriously expect any substantial rise in tourism. I believe it is safe to say that with all the marketing we do that we would have lived up to the expectations of the Government. We do need in areas where we have marketing like in the United States and Canada a lot of innovative follow-ups that should bring us the results which we should be getting from these areas.

In addition to the foregoing, Sir, I would like to draw this Chamber's attention to the fact that a special committee met at Heywoods some 4 months ago to formulate a 7-year Strategic Plan for taking Barbados to the year 2000. This committee was a top-ranking committee comprising representatives of cruise ship lines, CTO, Barbados National Trust, one of the Deputy Governors of the Barbados Central Bank – Dr. Worrell, Mr. Ed Bushell and other private sector individuals which formulated this Plan. The result is not yet known to the Government but will be made available very soon.

After these marketing efforts, the ball is now on the domestic scene. It is where the citizens of Barbados must play their part. It is where the Government and the private sector must create the environment that will make our visitors wish to return annually. There is no better business than return business.

It is my understanding, Mr. President, that Barbados will soon be putting more emphasis on duty-free shopping. The matter, as I understand it, is being discussed at both Government and private sector level and should become a reality shortly. I would anticipate that, within the duty-free shops and the potential for that shopping provided that the shops are well located, it may be necessary again in order to control the activities and to make sure that the foreign exchange is harnessed in a proper manner that an overseeing body should be established to look after this. It could be a duty-free authority or some other control under the Ministry of Finance and Planning preferably.

Let us look, Sir, and see what can be done to encourage return visitor business. We have a larger population of visitors who are in the over 40's. Since it is a fact that young people do not as yet have the quantity of money to afford an overseas holiday, it is necessary that programmes, facilities and sporting activities suitable for persons above that age level be developed to its fullest potential. Sir, I must reflect on the most recent Cockspur Gold Cup Race to say that the international coverage that event had was unsurpassed in the history of racing. I

believe that it is safe to say unsurpassed in any event including all the arrivals of royalty and otherwise in this country. None of them have had the international coverage that that Cockspur Gold Cup Race had. It is my contention that the Government has a right and a moral obligation to support the race to the extent that the Gold Cup Race will always remain a reality. The competitive nature of the race will always be as electrifying as it was this year. I am saying that because I know for us to have a good race next year there will be the need for new horses. At the moment our duties and taxes are far beyond the means of people who now own horses, being 65% on the total import cost, so I believe that Government should take a very critical look at removing this and make horses either duty free or place a very modest duty on horses. What they could do in order to safeguard this is to make sure that the duty which they are allowing is on the quality animal that could be a potential Gold Cup competitor, and there are ratings both in the United Kingdom and in the United States from which our customers would be able to make some determination as to if particular animals should qualify for this allowance, if the Government thought so fit.

4.10 p.m.

A reasonably good horse coming out of Britain must be rated over 80, and that is the benchmark I think it would be reasonable to ask Government to look at in allowing duties on horses, from the point of view, Sir, as I said earlier, of making sure that the sort of coverage we got from this last Gold Cup race through ESPN and other radio networks will remain with us for as long as there is horse racing.

In addition to that, Sir, there is the Garrison Savannah where there is a plethora of history attached to the buildings, to the surrounding walls, guard walls, to the monuments, to structures like Brigade House, to the other buildings which were occupied by the military many years ago, to the outstanding clock tower in what was the Savannah Club, to the presence of our Defence Force at the Fort, and indeed I believe that a person like Mr. Warren Alleyne will be an able person to produce a booklet on the historical activity at the Garrison. This information would all assist when the powers that be come to market the Gold Cup race of next year. We should be able to have a document that should give a supportive reason why people who have never yet seen this race would want to come to Barbados, and especially if they are British people, because of the British involvement in those earlier times. That is something I believe some institutions, whether it be the Turf Club or otherwise, should pursue.

I believe, Sir, too that a good thing would be a horse racing museum. There is a very outstanding museum in Newmarket, England where many visitors from Europe, Japan and elsewhere visit in order to see for themselves

what happened in the British race horse industry years ago, and indeed in Barbados the establishment of a museum of that kind would be of benefit to the country overall. I heard an aside, Sir, and I know I should not answer asides but the question of the Lotto was raised. I know there were some uncomplimentary remarks made by some Priests. They have the right to do so if they do not agree. I know too that an early shot has been fired across the bow on casino gambling, but again it is all a matter of personal opinion. I recall when I was quite a churchman that the playing of Bingo, Hoopla and all those games was very much a thing of the church raising funds, so it is only in these very recent years since I have not been at church that I realise the Church seems to have taken a different position. I am not sure what caused the change of heart.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Could it be related to your having left the Church?

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: That is quite possible, Sir. When I talk about Lotto and about the positive comments about Lotto, I have never heard people winning the Lotto game talking about having a ball. People always talk about educating their children, of building a house, of paying debts. In other words, in its own little way it has contributed to some activity in the economy. I would want to see Lotto in that light. I am not aggrieved when persons speak against it, because of course that is their right. It is also their right to speak against casino gambling. I am not expressing the view of the Government, because I do not know what is the Government's view, but I find it extremely hard to find out what is immoral about casino gambling. I have been searching and wondering what is it. We have visitors coming here and we have a lot of our own lady folk who dress in the skimpiest of wear and I do not hear any talk about immoral this and immoral that. I feel that some of it is a little close to the line.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would it be the spinoffs of casino gambling and not the casino gambling *per se*?

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: No, Sir. I was making the point about immorality, as to how you determine what is moral and what is not moral, and I was making reference to the wear which people do not speak adversely about, so I take it that people have accepted it. I was then saying also that I have not been able to determine what is there morally wrong with casino gambling. Probably a speaker coming after me would want to say what they see, but I personally can see nothing wrong.

Sir, Barbados has a lot of natural potential which I feel needs to be further developed. I thought of the nature walks. This question of nature walks has become a big thing in the life of a number of persons, and almost every Sunday a large number of our citizens go on these walks, obviously for health purposes, and from all reports

they seem to enjoy these walks very much. I feel within the tourism plant and within our hotels this sort of natural exercise or natural exposure to the Barbadian countryside could be told by the hotels. Probably we could have nature walks every day, they may become so popular. We have the coaches the Board of Tourism bought some time ago, which caused a furore, quite cheap buses, \$1 million for 5 buses of that class, could be used by the hotels now and could become quite profitable to the Ministry or whoever owns them, taking people out to nature walks and to visit the various beaches and whatever. The point I am trying to make is that we need to capitalise on the natural environment which we have.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I had thought that nature walks now were quite the thing of the day. I think every Sunday the National Trust has one.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Yes, but I think we should want to encompass our visitors. Right now the participants are mainly Barbadians, so my thought is that we should want to encompass our visitors in this sort of exercise and it could be sold within the hotels, and I do not mean for money. They could be persuaded by the various Receptionists that they could participate and promote it in the industry.

4.20 p.m.

Yes. Again we used to have what was called a Best Village competition and this related to the way people kept their gardens in front of their houses. I feel we should return to this. Probably the LOTTO could assist by offering prizes for Best Village competitions. What this does for us as our tourists drive through our countryside and they see areas where there are numbers of chattel houses, if those houses had nice gardens in front it would change the whole look of the chattel house and make it more grandiose and attractive to look at. I know that our visitors like to stop and look at our flowers and I am sure if these houses were close to each other where one would run into the other people would stop and admire and probably make favourable comments.

Again, I have thought that Christmas time should be a joyous time. In Barbados I have noticed, especially the last Christmas, that the question of Christmas lighting seems to have diminished considerably. It may have been because of the difficulties in the economy, but I believe that some scheme could be embarked upon whereby persons may be able to buy Christmas lights at a half price with some other thing offsetting that so that for one week Barbados could be seen as a country of colourful lighting.

For a person over 40, Barbados is a lonely country. There is that thing of going to a night club and...

Asides.

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Speak for yourself.

I am saying, Sir, that the young generation would go to the clubs on Bay street or on St. Lawrence Gap but that does not really appeal to a person over 40 and beyond. The question of night racing is the sort of thing that a person of that age would attend. They are frankly not interested in seeing this belly dancing and foolishness that are in the clubs. All I am saying is that as we look down the road and we want to sell the products of our country we have to look at selling the natural...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Phillips, maybe if they are coupled with dining as they do at Jai Alai in Florida and other parts of the world that might be a greater attraction, not just the horse racing. You see horse racing and you dine after. It is a complete evening out. What's so different about that is that it is just a different time of day.

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS: There is a lot different about that. At night is the time when it is cool. You just have to create the ambience to suit racing at night, create proper lighting and so on and you will see what an enjoyable sport horse racing can be. You yourself might find it possible to attend. I know that you are too busy during the day to come down but I know if there was racing at night I could expect you to be one of the attendants.

Sir, there are other areas in our country that we need to pay more attention to. In the same way that we have the Morgan Lewis Mill still in place with a mild restoration there are a number of other mills whose walls are still in place. I believe it would be good if we could restore some more of these mills which bind the history of our sugar industry from its early days and this is the sort of thing that would really attract visitors.

Our tourist plant is relatively large. It is my understanding that the development at Kingsland will mean the building of a large hotel there. I have not heard of other hotels but I believe we could greatly utilise these plantation houses because many of them will be left empty with the changed structure of the sugar cane industry. A number of these houses could be so restored and could be so converted as to be used for accommodation of visitors.

We could recreate the old time plantation yard activity in order that our visitors would have a reminder of what early Barbados was like and this is the sort of thing that when people return home they would want to tell their friends of the sort of grandeur in which they lived in

Barbados, that it was not a hotel, that they lived where there were sprawling lawns and proper gardens established. There are a number of families who would prefer to live in one of these Barbadian mansions than to rent or live in the hotel. That is an area where because of the change in structure of the sugar industry it would make available these large houses which could be used for the benefit of the country.

Now, Sir, I consider there is a need for a downtown hotel in keeping with a modern Barbados. There are some business people who prefer to go on arrival straight to the capital as such. They are not particularly interested in taking a taxi. They want to be able to walk out of their downtown hotel and go to their appointment. An ideal building is the building on the wharfside which now houses Immigration where the Parcel Post was before. Although it does not offer any degree of parking it is so well located on the Carreenage that it may be the sort of area that is desirable. Also, we have the building occupied by the Bridge Police Station on a piece of expensive Government property which could be used for that sort of hotel development for business people.

There are a few very large buildings in Barbados that were used for the storage of sugar years ago. One that comes to mind readily is the one on Bay Street which was owned or is probably still owned by Messrs Plantations Trading Company Limited. This is an extensive building and I have been wondering whether this building could not be properly utilised as a shopping mall where our artisans and craftsmen could sell their stuff and, in addition to all that, duty free shops of which we spoke earlier could be located in that they would be not far from the south coast and within easy access of those persons who come off the cruise ships. They would probably find themselves there if directed by taximen or other citizens.

What I am looking at is the utilisation of good space that we have in our country that is not presently used and could be used for the benefit of citizens of this country. With those few remarks I beg to support the Appropriation Bill 1993-94. Thank you.
4.30 p.m.

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. J. L. SPRINGER: Sir, I would like to make a few comments on the Estimates and, like Senator Straughn, I will restrict my remarks mainly to Head 34, Education. Senator Straughn has spoken very well and I would not wish to repeat any of the things that she has said although I have notes to that effect. I will try to speak on the matters that were left which I think are still very important.

I begin, Sir, on page 57, reference to Erdiston College. It seems to me that there is some uncertainty in the air on what is going to happen to the College. I believe

the time has come for a statement from Government or the appropriate Ministry on what indeed is going to be the future of Erdiston College. It has served a useful purpose over the years. It does not seem fitting that there should be any uncertainty at this stage where it is heading. I think in addition to all the things that have been suggested, that Erdiston could be well used as a place of training for private sector educational institutions for which very little or no provisions have been made for training of personnel. I refer to the several private schools at different levels and prep schools and those involved in special education. There is no reason why there should not be a Government aided or sponsored programme to help people in those areas.

Next, Sir, I look under the Head, page 58, Programme 3 continuing into Primary and Composite Education. The position of an individual called "Chairman" of Primary Schools is still unclear. It does not seem as though this was regarded as important in the Education Act and developments in the Act from time to time. One does not know whether the Chairman of a primary school has an authority, what is the level of that authority, whether he needs to be consulted by Heads of those schools or whether, as the case so often happens, matters that formerly fell to such chairpersons are now carried on without any reference to the Chairman.

I refer, Sir, to the matter of registers and the submission of statistical information to the Ministry. Formerly they went by way of the Chairman. Now we are not sure what is the role of the Chairman. I think at this time when there is so much concern, even within the Ministry of Education, as to the moral and ethical development of our children within the school system, that another look should be taken at the matter of re-establishing the Chairman as an important person in the school. At the moment what remains of that particular institution is a person who has no managers although he is called sometimes "Chairman of Managers". Perhaps, there is a need for some kind of management at that level.

I would add, Sir, either as an alternative or in addition to the Chairman, that there might be a need for, in order to emphasise the moral, ethical and religious I have referred to, a person who is called "Chaplain", who is employed on the same basis of, let us say, a member of a Board of a school. I am suggesting this because the Chairman of a Primary School Board needs not always be a Minister of Religion whereas a Chaplain, as I see it, would be a person who is in the ministry of a church in one of the churches in the country. This would help to strengthen that aspect that we are concerned about. I have heard the Minister of Education making speeches about his own concern about the absence of religious, ethical and moral content within education and the need to have that looked at again.

I offer those 2 suggestions, the proper establishment of the Chairman who is usually at the moment a clergyman, and/or someone called a Chaplain who would strengthen the ethical and moral department of the primary schools.

Sir, my next point is about the renaming of schools in the country. It is not clear to me that there is any policy how we should go about, or how Government goes about the renaming of schools. One day a school has one name, and then perhaps if you have your ear to the ground you would hear that the name is going to be changed. Then the next day you hear a name has been changed and you are really never sure.

I was talking to a young lad not very long ago who said to me "You know I did not go to school anywhere". I asked "Why? What do you mean by that?" He said "Well, the school I used to go to is now called 'Louis Lynch' so when anybody asks me where I went to school I have to say I do not have a school". I am not saying that was a bad choice but I am saying it does have something to do with the feelings of people. I feel there ought to be some wider consultation with the people involved to hear their views on the change of name and to include them. Probably the present day students of a school whose name is going to be changed, by virtue of being involved in the process of the name change, would not be so resentful when that has to be done. I think more work needs to be put into this.

Now, there are some schools that lend themselves quite easily to an exchange of name and, perhaps, Roebuck might be one of them because who wants to name a school after a street? Westbury might be another. Who wants to name a school after a cemetery? But it is not that easy to displace some of our history. Take St. Stephen's for example, a school named after a Bible character it would be felt is not relevant in our time. I do not agree with that but I have heard that kind of argument. But even if one argues that Stephen of the New Testament has no significance in Black Rock today, one cannot deny the close relationship between that school and St. Stephen's community led by the Church over the years. The question I would want to ask is, would we want to throw all of that history and relationship out through the window? I say "No". I think even though St. Stephen is, in that sense, a foreign individual that it reminds us of a very important link which I think all well-meaning and right-thinking Barbadians hold dear, the long connection between Church and State and Church and school.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you advocating an amalgamation of names then, the old with the new, or do I not quite understand your suggestion?

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. J. L. SPRINGER: No, Sir. I am suggesting that in some cases, and probably if the matter were canvassed a bit you would find enough support for this, that in some cases you ought to avoid interfering with the names that are there, as in the case as, let us say, St. Stephen's except you had to move the school from the area. There is nothing you could do with that, or St. Joseph.

Aside.

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. J. L. SPRINGER: Or St. Giles, says the Minister, a school with which he has had close connection and fond memories.
4.40 p.m.

My next comment, Sir, is in relation to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. There seems to be a scheme by which students are released from secondary schools and sent on to Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic to pick up certain skills in certain technical areas. It came to my attention that these students, although in the school system and although having the expenses of the system in terms of the fees for books and other fees are required to pay a fee to go into the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic for those days when they are educated there. I think this needs to be looked at because it is not fair. If they are in the system the days or the hours that they are not at their secondary school, they must be regarded as being at school at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and I would like to see something done to relieve them of the financial responsibility which they have to undertake to have that element of education especially as the Polytechnic will be providing for them what I regard as an emphasis in several areas of these Estimates an emphasis on providing young people with basic skills, non academic skills, which can go with them through life and this is one way of correcting an error that we have been making over the years. We have been tending to over-emphasise the academic and intellectual areas of education and sending our young people out and finding that they have 5 and 6 O'levels and can do nothing because we did not introduce them to such skills as are obtainable through the Polytechnic. So that anything that can be done to relieve the burden I think ought to be done and I commend that for further reflection by the Ministry of Education.

My next comment comes on the matter of secondary schools on page 60. I do not think I need to refresh the memory of Honourable Members as to the plight of the St. Leonard's schools over the last several months and maybe years. Those schools have been very much in the news and it is unfortunate that while a lot was said about what was going on there and there is much that we still do not know in spite of all the investigations, that very little has been said about the good record of the very good teachers at both of those schools.

There have been some problems where certain members of staff have been concerned but for the most part, speaking generally, one can speak of the staff of these schools as people who make great sacrifices, far above the sacrifices of other teachers in the system because of the other problems in their schools.

I would like to take this opportunity, Sir, in connection with the presentation of these Estimates to express my own pleasure and satisfaction and congratulations to all those who have worked very well over the years and who, in spite of the difficult problems faced by them, refused to leave those schools. It is not well enough known that these schools have been excelling in certain areas of athletics, in football and tennis, in cricket, in the cadets and topping the list in the Duke of Edinburgh award programme. In addition to that, in several of the craft exhibitions that have taken place the boys' school has come out on top, or almost on top even if not on top, each time. So that this is something to shout about and I think we ought to shout and let them know that the nation and the Ministry of Education, the country generally, are all happy about these contributions. I am particularly happy because these are areas which any of those students can take with them, their interest in music, their interest in art and craft.

Now, having said that, Sir, I think something has to be done and I am not sure the provision is made within these Estimates here to do this but something has got to be done to ensure that some of the other problems, other than the health problems that have been highlighted are dealt with. What you have on those joint school compounds is the situation with the largest number of students in any one place in this country and probably in the Caribbean anywhere. Over 2 000 students crammed together in a very small space. That space was never designed for so many young people. It is almost impossible to teach them in there because space is cramped, not only outside but inside of the classrooms as well. For the most part they have no other recreational facilities outside or inside. They have no proper place where they can have their lunch and the form rooms become lunch rooms or the grass or somewhere outside they stand around and I do not think that this is fair enough to these people that we are trying to teach to be young gentlemen and ladies.

The staff, they have been like spartans making do in unacceptable quarters for staff rooms and lunch rooms and so on and all the appeals that are being made seem to have been going unnoticed.

I hope, Sir, that some provision, I am not aware of it, is being made to relieve these teachers of the difficulties that they currently face in their schools.

The area that we have very little control over makes it almost mandatory that some alternative arrangements will be found eventually. The neighbourhood itself has become overcrowded and there is vandalism by the minute and a whole lot of young people in the area are now of the vandal mentality and every morning almost, before school begins, there has to be a cleaning up process inside of the form rooms that had been cleaned the night before. People virtually break in and live in the buildings, sleep in the buildings, hide things in the ceiling of the building. I think it is time the nation is aware that this is going on there at these two schools and I have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to teach. I congratulate the staff of the 2 schools but it is impossible to teach properly there on those premises with the kinds of problems that have to be dealt with. The problems take up all the time so people cannot concentrate on teaching properly and yet they are doing the best they can.

My next comment, Sir, has to do with the tertiary on page 62, under the same Head. I would like to refer to 2 things. One is assistance necessary for students who are getting into the tertiary field. Now, we have our own institutions and people pass on and they get into Community Colleges, University and what have you and there is thankfully the provision of free education for people of our country who are studying here. But then there are others who are not fortunate to get into our own institutions or you might say to be admitted into overseas institutions. I think that where that is the case and considering the opportunities offered to our young people when they go overseas that a greater effort should be made to help those who are going overseas to continue their studies. Too often they are told that these subjects that you are going to study are available at the Community College and you can go there. What I think that kind of response is not recognising is that, although it is true that the students could go to the local institutions, but it eases the country and the Government in the long run may be able to make contacts overseas which might enable them to stay overseas in the long run. But often they cannot take up the offers in the educational institutions overseas because somebody may say - sorry, there is no money in the Student Revolving Loan Fund or you do not qualify because the course can be offered in Barbados.

4.50 p.m.

Sir, I think that is an area which needs to be examined with the best interest of our young people at heart. We need to recognise that Barbados cannot hold them all and many Barbadians have been able to stay overseas and then provide a lot of financial backing and other support for those who were not allowed and for those who could not go overseas and had to stay in Barbados.

Another concern that I have is in the tertiary field. It has to do with the plight of teachers who by virtue of

circumstances are not permitted to be promoted in the schools in which they teach. I refer to people in art and music. There is the regulation which I think is widely known that one has got to have a degree and a degree of a certain kind in order to become head of a department or a senior teacher in the school system. Now we have to recognise that when that department is art and the fact that we do not provide any training in art at the level of a degree in art in Barbados and that it might not have been convenient for those teachers to travel overseas through no fault of their own to upgrade themselves, but that they had gone as far as they could in art here in Barbados that such teachers should be treated as special cases. Recommendations for their promotion based on their performance and performance meaning not just having a piece of paper to show but the fact that the person has had their own art exhibitions and working along side of people at NIFCA and our own Barbados Arts Council.

Sir, my point is that you cannot and must not penalize a person who has shown every intention of doing well at the level that he or she has been permitted to do just because that person has not been able to show a degree at the interview or what have you. I make a plea for people particularly who have gone to the highest level of music as open to them but where our institutions have not permitted them to do music and those who are into art that they not be denied their promotion. Those are my comments on education.

Sir, I just want to say a word about youth generally. I will try not to repeat myself because I said some under education. This will be under Programme 7, page 87. Reference is made there at that point to the self development of the young people in our country. Self development means what it says, that is the opportunities to develop themselves that they can employ themselves. Self development has to be related to self employment and many areas of self employment that we need to support where young people are concerned. Some of them I mentioned in connection with the secondary schools. Broadly speaking, there will be those areas where once these young people have left school they can find work. A goodly number of people who are into music like Gabby, Grinner and people of that nature had their first lesson in music or in singing or whatever in their secondary schools. Thank goodness they were able to use their skills. There are several others who could follow their example and get into areas where by virtue of self development they can be self employed.

Sir, I would like to urge the authorities to do everything to release more funds, because I notice that there seems to be a reduction in the amount of money allocated for that sort of thing. I think that is unfortunate. We should be increasing it with that kind of policy because

it is of the utmost importance in our present economic circumstances that we teach people to be self employed.

Sir, my last comment is on the matter of privatisation. I refer Honourable Senators to the comment in the Economic Report where there is a listing of those areas that are to be privatised and those that are going to be divested. I would like to issue a warning where some of these areas are concerned, particularly in reference to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. We have to be careful that in going about divestment of some of the assets or privatising institutions that we are not the losers in the long run. I support the policy because I think that there was a time when Government saw itself as the agency that had to provide employment for people because it was a matter of Government versus the capitalists. What happened then is that Government got involved, not the Government of Barbados necessarily, but governments wherever they were tended to become state capitalists and then the state capitalists took over from the capitalists. The state capitalists found themselves in a clash with the worker's unions rather than being on the same side. We are still trying to recover from that sort of thing.

Now handing over some of these assets to the people is a good thing but we have to know who they are. We have to be sure that we are not giving away what belongs to the people anyway and that the best possible price is available everytime. We have to be sure, too, as suggested in the case of the CBC arrangement, that the employees are given an equal opportunity for ownership of the shares which would mean help being provided wherever is necessary so that they can take up the offers being made. After it has been ascertained whether or not the employees are interested, we have to make sure that we do not sell out the remaining shares to overseas interests who are going to be out of touch with what are our cultural needs. I think it is important, especially with an entity like the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, that we always bear in mind what are the cultural goals. I therefore believe that there must remain some state control in that case to ensure that what is necessary and good for our people, and particularly our young people, is there. I am speaking of the matter of some form of control that must be maintained.

5.00 p.m.

You know what is believed to have happened with the Soviet Union, Sir, where by virtue of an injection of information – and there is no doubt whatever now that information from the west was mainly responsible in the long run for the toppling of the Soviet Union – that was in clash with what they held as their ideologies and which was in keeping with the western way of thinking. It tells you of the power of information. We are into an age of information.

I am saying that whereas the other institutions being considered for divestment might not be as delicate, that where you have a radio station, a television station, that there will always be a need to ensure that we do not so sell out that somebody else has control of our information and of our culture.

With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Thank you.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: Mr. President, I am sure the Senate would grant me the permission to thank you for excusing me over the last hour to attend the funeral of Bert Banfield, who until his death was a member of the Board of the Barbados Development Bank, but who has given yeoman service to the private sector in Barbados.

Mr. President, I want to speak to this motion, and in particular since the members on this side had a few challenges thrown at them, I want to see if I can address them. I want to stick close to your dictum that we should try to keep the level of the debate in this Senate at a very high level.

This morning we heard the Honourable Minister, in introducing the proposals, set out 5 goals and I would like to refresh your memory on these goals.

1. Stability of the foreign exchange, and he indicated that the object there was to ensure that we had about 3 months' supply of imports.
2. Economic growth around 3%.
3. To keep the rate of inflation below 5%.
4. The restoration of law and order.
5. Employment. To attain as high as possible a level of employment as we can, given our resources.

Mr. President, it is a common dictum in economics that economic policy in a free society is successful, depending on the positive support it attains from the citizens of that community. Politicians or anybody can set out goals, but when you are in a free society, these goals cannot be cast in concrete. There is a second element in that to which I will refer later, but it is important to note that even the goals as set out by politicians cannot be cast in concrete in a free society. They are dependent upon the active participation on the community, the citizens, and sometimes we have a habit of believing that there is something greater in a free society than the people themselves. There is nothing greater. In a command system the Central Authority can determine and dictate what is supposed to be done, but in a free society, in spite of the

level of sophistication of the policy makers and the economists, in the final analysis they must bow to the reactions of the society.

Of course that society can be informed, they can inform the society, and I am saying that it is the duty of the intelligentsia to help inform that society and the politicians not to exploit any ignorance that may be there. But when all is said and done, it is that active participation that will determine what we have done. I am saying that because I think that is the key to what has happened to our economic system, our economy over the past 10 to 15 years and which we are now trying to correct. Maybe at some time some persons seemed to think that they were in control, not realising that it was the society which was driving us where we are.

Mr. President, the second thing I want to state right up front is to indicate a particular fallacy that I observed this morning in the Senator's approach to economics and economic reasoning. I am going to demonstrate it from time to time. He continuously used logical definition when he should be talking about historical category. The two are not the same in economic reasoning and many persons who are not totally versed in economics make the error, and it sounds good, but let me give you an example of something we heard this morning from the Opposition Senator. He challenged me and that is why I decided to show him. I hope he has his pen ready, I have not got a blackboard, but he can start taking some notes.

Let us try to explain one of the things he was talking about this morning. If we are talking about economic policy, basically what we are talking about are historical categories. The policy that is determined in a society is determined by a series of things that happen in that society and it can only be reasoned out in terms of other historical categories. This morning, for example, the Senator was trying to compare the high interest rate in Barbados without reference to the historical category which gave rise to it. There is no logical way of determining an interest rate that is universally acceptable. It is a historical category in economics, and if you are going to talk about interest rates in Barbados, you have to look at the factors in Barbados which have caused that interest rate to be what it is. Other factors in another country would cause the interest rate in that country to be that way. There are different things that would have led to this. It is not something you can logically deduce to arrive at an infallible conclusion. It is not good economic reasoning or good economic sense to try to do so.

You can do it and sound good and, of course, if you hear a person who is not trained in economics you do not say anything. But anyone who is trained in economics is very careful not to do these sort of things.

5.10 p.m.

Time and time again we see his entire presentation going around these things. To me it is annoying coming from someone who is involved in the training of minds in economics. I think it is essential and I hope that at least from now on he will desist from this approach and will stick to one that makes sense that people who are trained in economics would appreciate.

Asides.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: I would tell him to take his paper and pen and write it down and take it to his mentor and explain what I said and then he would have it explained to him.

I think that most people in here, even those persons in this Honourable Chamber who are not economists, understand the difference between logical definition and historical category. I am sure about that if he does not.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Proceed, Senator Beckles.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: Mr. President, in a free society we must be aware of the feelings of the people. In spite of the fact that the Honourable Minister this morning indicated his goals we also know that again economically some of those goals are incompatible. In the pursuance of certain things other things are either neglected or are impacted upon negatively. Key to our recovery programme in Barbados was the fact that our foreign currency became extremely scarce. It is not only in Barbados but people seem to associate certain things and start talking about small open economies but foreign exchange is a restraint on all economies whether small or big.

If you have no money you cannot spend it unless you can borrow it. Again if the Honourable Senator this morning were prepared to sit back and reflect on some of these niceties that certainly come with economic training his presentation would have benefited us. If you are short of foreign exchange there is no point in talking about spending money on the manufacturing sector. What are you going to spend when you have not got the money? If you cannot borrow the money then the manufacturing sector which survives on foreign inputs will contract. This would not be something that any Minister or member of Parliament or politician would like to do, but it is unavoidable.

The fact is that we have to examine the facts and of course, we can go on for a long time arguing and contending whose responsibility or whose fault it is that we ran out of foreign currency. I would say that probably one of the soundest arguments that I have heard put forward against the current administration is that they should have put the measures they have now put in train before the

election and then call an election. That is a valid opinion because in spite of what anybody will say – and I have spoken to many persons who are well trained and knowledgeable in both the discipline of economics and of Barbados and there is no way after what went on around 1986 that Barbados could have gotten out of what it is in now because of the very reasoning that our good friend is not prepared to adhere to.

The fact of the matter is that we found ourselves in a situation where we had no foreign exchange. Talking about priming an economy does not apply. Any economist knows that when you are in a situation with adequate foreign exchange what you can do. You can regulate both your demand function and look at your capital output ratios and so and so forth to make sure that these things are adequate to maintain economic growth. Similarly we know that when you find yourself short of a particular input and that input is vital to your economic survival or to the economic path that you have set you have to look and cut back.

It is in the cutting back that we find ourselves less popular but the job has to be done and persons who want to put forward pure economic positions are free to criticise. When you are cutting back you are cutting back. It is not a matter of a group of persons benefiting at the expense of another group. The fact is that we are all suffering from the cutting back. This is what we have had to endure over the last 18 months. We are in a situation in which the economy has to be restructured in order that we can start earning at least as much foreign exchange as we are spending. We cannot go on spending more foreign exchange than we earn unless someone is prepared to lend it to us and if the international lenders are not prepared to lend it to us then we have to start earning it.

Mr. President, our colleague this morning indicated that one of the good tenets of economic management is that you save and you invest in the future. Again, what happens to a society when it invests or uses the savings it had to invest only to find that at the time of repayments the investments are not bearing fruit. Can you continue to invest? Again, as you analyse the situation in Barbados if you are someone who wants to be impartial and not bombard others with statistical propositions, you will find the situation different from the 80's when we were spending money and the economy was growing as the Honourable Member indicated this morning.

We became a demand oriented economy without understanding – and this is not only in Barbados – the total dynamics of what happened when you release the psychology of consumers in a demand oriented economy. It is not as easy or as safe to start using the economic tools when you get into consumption dynamics. It is no longer

true that your economic parameters are changing from year to year or from 2 years to 2 years. They are constantly changing and when your economic structures are so tied in to the rest of the world and you have no control over what is going on in the rest of the world you have to be very careful.

These are economic principles you have to look at and sift through and try to make the best decisions you can for your country at the time. I am saying that not all good decisions were made in the 10 years prior to 1986 or the 15 years or so. Of course there were things being done. Money was being spent. We were borrowing money. We were investing. When the time came for repayments, were those investments generating the income? How much foreign exchange was the Central Bank generating to repay the loans when the time came for that loan to be repaid? These are the kind of things we are talking about.

5.20 p.m.

We are saying, of course, what Mr. Barrow said was true that we must invest and let the future generation pay. We are the generation that is paying for the decisions which were made 10 years ago and we have to pay. We cannot pay and invest at the same time. That is the point.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. We must not have this cross-talking.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: I do not mind him cross-talking.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But I do mind and I will not permit the cross-talking. It is a different matter if we have persons using their discretion and speaking very quietly but I will not have this cross-talking.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: Sorry, Mr. President. The point I am making is that he is absolutely right but it depends. There is a dictum in economics – different things mean different things to different people at different times and different things even to the same people in different contexts. We have to be careful of that. The point is, he is quite right when he says we must invest in the future generation. But the investments that were made 10 years ago took us to where we are so we have to pay back. If those investments are not generating the kind of foreign currency we must repay, and we should have known we would have had to repay 10 years ago but did not make provisions for it, then we have to pay it now out of our current income. That is true of business. If you are spending the money now out of current income to repay debts you do not have any to invest. The fact that we cannot invest as rapidly as we were 5 or 10 years ago is therefore explained.

Today, as distinct from 10 or 15 years ago, we in Barbados have come head on to a situation in which the productive institutions which we set up and cherish and which have given us a fairly high standard of living need at least some modification. It is not only in Barbados that this is the case. Again, the Honourable Member this morning indicated quite rightly, that when IBM lays off 5 000 it is equivalent to probably 50 in Barbados. What are the objective conditions that caused IBM to have to lay off 500 or 5 000. It is the changing structure of the company in response to the changes in the economy. The persons who organised that company and the projection they had of the future did not materialise. They changed. I am saying the same thing is happening in Barbados. The numbers, whether 50 or 500 and the proportion are important, of course, because there are people who are going home that we do not want to go home but we have to look back and find out what is happening in Barbados. Most business people will tell you this. They had certain structures and projections of the economy 3 or 5 years ago that are not now materialising and they have to come back and restructure.

Mr. President, one of the things that I know to be taking place in the world all around Barbados is this restructuring of the large conglomerates. Some of them have gone into multi-nationals outside their own countries but they are now scaling down some of the operations leaving vacuums for small operators. It is in this vein that I am optimistic about Barbados. I am optimistic that we will achieve even the 3% growth that has been projected. I am optimistic for this reason, and this is sound, economic reasoning.

Barbados is essentially, as we said, a small and open system. We have had a hard knock over the last 18 months to 2 years or so. As a consequence of this, we are seeing some young entrepreneurial people who are involving themselves in activity that is not very capital intensive. They are activities that will earn them a living. A couple of things that come to me from time to time is if you take desktop publication and the informatic industry I know there are some instances in Barbados where young persons are now linking up with companies in the United States of America and are in the process of setting up their small businesses in Barbados to provide certain services for those companies in the United States of America.

It is easy for academic economists to pontificate in classrooms and use data. One of the things about using data for economic projections and probably one of the things I should have indicated as another error our colleague is making is that by the time you have finished the collection of data in any society, the data is outdated. People have already changed their behaviour. At the most the data

can only tell you how people behave at that particular time. If you feel as an economist you are holier than thou, and your techniques are so superior that this does not apply then by all means you can go ahead. Most people who have gone through this process of collecting data and projecting economic forecasts on data are now beginning to realise this. By the time you have finished collecting your data, even if it is 6 months, the people's behaviour has changed already. We are seeing this in Barbados even today. People like manufacturers and small entrepreneurs are behaving differently in Barbados now than they were 6 or 18 months ago because they have to.

Mr. President, the other area the Honourable Senator challenged us on is this whole question of real income. Again he indicated that it is an impossible situation. This is why I am saying we must be careful of logical definitions and historical category. If he does not understand probably when I am finished I can take him outside and give him a lesson on it. This is the very key. As a logical definition, it would be almost impossible to think of a situation in which the real income would fall less than the nominal income. If you put it in terms of historical category what is the real income of a country? It is merely the nominal income deflated by the rate of inflation.

The real income of a country is the actual goods and services that the people of that country is producing. The nominal income is the money value of those goods and it is clear there is a difference. Of course there is no reason why, if you understand the total behaviour of the economy that you cannot work out one from the other. But there are times when things happen to one that make it behave in a way that does not relate it closely to the behaviour of the other. It often has nothing to do, Mr. President, with any conniving or any intention of the persons who construct the data.

5.30 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order. The word conniving. The Honourable Member may be importing that I am suggesting ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member may be doing what? What did you say?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I will change the word to suggesting. The Honourable Member may be suggesting that I in using the word conniving, because any use of the word conniving in respect of my statement about nominal and real could give the impression that I am using the word conniving.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not understand you point. Go ahead.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, he used the word conniving. He mentioned the word conniving as though giving the impression that I being the one who raised the whole point about nominal versus real income would be suggesting that somebody was conniving. I never made any such accusation. It may be true but I never made such an accusation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not understand.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: It does necessarily follow that the persons who collect the statistics made errors whether the errors were intended or otherwise. But in talking about real income and nominal income if the quality, for example, of some of the goods that are produced change in the eyes of those persons who produce those goods, it is going to change the nominal value of the good itself. I am trying to make the point, the very logical economical point that the input into those goods and services which give them their real value, the amount of chairs, the amount of tables and so on and so forth that we actually consume, may change in the perception of persons, thus inducing change in the nominal value. I am saying, unless you are very careful with the statistics you are likely to over value them or under value them nominally although the fact is the real value might remain the same. The real value of the goods and services is the actual thing, the chair you are sitting in, the house that you have built ten years ago. The real value of that is, it is still a house. The fact that you are using it as a domicile, a place to live in. The fact that that house today may now be valued 10 times the nominal value, the point I am making is, if you sell that house you still have to find somewhere else to live. Your standard of living will not change unless you live in a house that has a higher value to you than that particular one but a house is still only a house. That is the point. The statistics are likely to bring out your value of one house as against the other, except, Mr. President, in the price that you pay but they are still only 2 houses and you can easily build a house with inputs in the city of Bridgetown and a house with the same inputs somewhere else and the 2 houses can have a nominal value that is different, but in terms of the real value they are only just 2 houses. The point that is difficult for persons, probably who are not really versed in economic understanding is how do you perceive which one of those houses has the highest value. You might want to live in the town and I might want to live in the country and the price will differ according to the demand for housing in town and country. That is the difficulty that statisticians have. They merely record the nominal values with a time lag which is not allowed for the two values which may differ.

I am saying that in the case of Barbados all we have to do and I hope that in due course we will do it, to revisit the statistics that have been giving this problem and I am sure that the discrepancy will be explained.

The other point that the Senator made this morning that I want to look at is his concept of zero deficit financing. I have never heard someone who was trained in economics so confused yet with this concept of zero deficit. Let us look at the whole concept. Now a zero deficit says exactly what it means, that at the particular point in time the Minister of Finance has decided that he will spend no more money than he is taking out in taxes. That is what the zero deficit means. Again, by itself that cannot be logically argued to be good or bad. We have got to look at the factors again that has caused the particular Minister to behave or to say that he going to do what he is doing. And then it is those factors, against the historical category, that gives it its very existence, its ideology that determines whether the Minister or the person who makes the decision has made a good or bad decision. This is really what it is. If we are in a situation today where our economy has reached the stage where we are certainly constrained by the amount of foreign exchange that we can use at any particular point in time and we know again from evidence presented to us in this country that every unit of Barbados currency spent in excess of what the Government collects that the Central Bank must look for at least .6 or 60% of that unit in Foreign Currency. That is the nature of the proposition we are looking at. If this is the case, then tell me, Mr. President, how could you, following the logic of economics, continue to argue that the Minister is doing something other than behaving in a prudent manner when we have not got foreign exchange. Foreign exchange is our major constraint and the Minister is saying I am going to spend, as a Minister, no more money than I am collecting in taxes.

Now the speaker this morning went on to tie that to the recession, the lack of purchasing power in the economy and so on and so forth. Very skillfully done. He probably made his point because any time you are cutting back, any time an economy like Barbados, which as I said in my opening, is a consumer oriented system which has driven us over the last period, if we have to cut back on that consumption of course you are going to reduce the amount of economic activity in the economy.

It causes problems and it will continue to cause problems because there are two sides of the economy but two sides managed by different people. Of course, the manufacturers are not privy to every bit of information that informs the Minister of Finance or the money system. The productive system is not privy to all of the information that informs the money sector which is the one that the Minister of Finance is dealing with. When the Minister of Finance has to do something that is different than what they perceive that he would have done, then they are in trouble. Their business is in trouble. We all understand this. That is why I think that the Minister and the approach of the

Minister to have more open Government and more consultations with the other partners is going to stand us in good stead.

5.40 p.m.

Mr. President, these are things that we do as we go through life that we modify our behaviour in accordance with certain things. This was the practice in Barbados 15 years ago. It is the practice today. I just heard the Senator before me indicate that. In Barbados when I was growing up as a young fellow, it was them and us. It was the capital people and it was us and the Government had to come on our side or they were gone. That is what it was until quite recently. You do not change that type of dispensation overnight. It is changing now and probably for the good. Regarding the Russian system as Senator Springer indicated, it did not collapse because people dreamed that communism is not any good. Certain things happened and it is collapsing. They have to modify their situation and it is causing them some pain. Ours is no different and the fact that we are only 250 000 or so people in a very cramped area is why it is impacting more vividly on us. We know personally people who have lost jobs. We know personally people whose mortgage is being threatened. We know these things personally. They are close to us. But we cannot move from there to form an economic ideology or set of principles that tell us that we do not have to restructure our system. The fact is we do not have any choice. This is not a matter of the particular colour of the Government or the political leadership. It is a fact that the economy has changed and caught us in a situation where we were planning for different things from what the world economy has bestowed on us. I know that people have said it time and time again that our economic intelligentsia in Barbados have let us down. I think so too and I will say that. They have not been explaining to the people of Barbados the intricacies of economics. They are giving platitudes and so on and so forth as it suits their fancy. I think that it is about time that they realise that we are not going to get very far on that.

Sir, regarding the whole question of zero deficit, one thing again that the Honourable Senator does not seem to recognise is that, even when you talk about a zero deficit or zero budgeting, it does not mean that there will not be more expenditures than there will be revenue taken in. Again, historically, persons who are careful enough to observe how economies behave have observed that in spite of the fact that you have zero budgeting, your income still tends to exceed your revenue taken in. These are facts. Again, this is because of the dynamism of an economy which you cannot very well predict so easily.

Mr. President, one other point that I note here that my colleague challenged me on and I want to respond to is the BET shares and the privatisation of industry in repeating his mentor's position...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator said repeating his mentor. Who is my mentor? I wish that he would withdraw that statement. Unless he is prepared to tell us who is my mentor, it should not go on record that I am repeating my mentor. He needs to say who is my mentor and let me challenge that again. He just cannot say repeating my mentor like that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: Mr. President, I withdraw the statement and I would like to say that I heard a speaker in the Other Place refer to the Government's activity as a warehouse sale. I heard it repeated in here almost verbatim today.

With regard to this matter, Mr. President, whether we are talking about privatisation or divestment, I think that had the Honourable Senator listened with any degree of intensity to the opening remarks of the Minister this morning he would have learned. Because those of us who have to plough through tedious economic principles know that sometime they become so tedious that you can almost give up because you become bored. There is nothing exciting about the discipline of economics. I can assure you that. The point I am making however, Mr. President, is that if he had listened carefully as a serious person and not looking for entertainment, he would have understood how the Minister explained this. Of course, if you are divesting, you can divest and privatise at the same time or you can divest but not necessarily privatise. I am saying that in the particular case of BET because the organisation is already a private institution then that is a divestment of shares. The Government has just divested the shares.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a slight point of order. I was just quoting from the Minister's statement. If a statement was made, it is by the Minister and not by me. I was just quoting from the statement made by the Minister of State in the Other Place. I was just quoting him verbatim.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: Mr. President, he was privileged to the presentation by the Minister this morning. If his intentions are as pure as he is pretending that he wants them to be, he would have at least recognised the presentation of the Minister this morning and follow accordingly.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, please keep your asides low. I cannot have all this cross-talking. I will not tolerate it. Senator Beckles, please address the Chair and ignore any asides.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: I am doing that, Mr. President. The shrinking revenue base and increase in taxation. Mr. President, again I do not know what the Senator was trying to indicate this morning. Of course, we are in a recession. Of course, we have to prioritise our activity. We are contracting the system. As the Minister has indicated in his presentation, we have got to make sure that we do not disadvantage unfairly any particular group of persons in our society.
5.50 p.m.

There could be political debate and discussion centering around whether or not certain groups are advantaged or disadvantaged against others. I think I alluded to the point already that one of the things I was quite concerned about when the recession started, was that the manufacturing sector, as structured in Barbados, would have been hit very hard. I know that one of the first papers I wrote after the recession was that there would be contraction between 25 and 30%, because as you look at the way they were structured then you see that this was an unavoidable situation.

It would have cost a significant amount of money more than the Government could afford at the time to prevent this. There may be good political reasons why you should have tried to prevent this contraction in the manufacturing sector, and again from hindsight people are saying "I told you so", but told you what? That we had no foreign exchange 18 months ago and therefore those sectors of the economy that depended on foreign exchange to carry out their activities would have been hit hard. Of course we understand that. I am saying, since we have restructured, since we have stabilised our foreign exchange position, we are now in a position to try to attain a manufacturing sector that is a net foreign exchange earning sector. That is what we have to aim for.

Mr. President, it is in this area I think we have to look at the wisdom of trying to organise our micro and our medium sized businesses in Barbados. This is my view. We have to stop harassing very small business people, people who are selling corn, nuts and whatever they are selling. We have to accept them as part of our new dispensation and try to encourage them and not side with people who see them as nuisances. Very often, if you take the time out to look at the return to investment of those small people, you are going to realise that it is a very high return to investment. Therefore, in spite of the occasional inconvenience they might be causing us, I am positive that the view, the thesis, that we try to encourage rather than harass them - I hope people do not take this to mean that we should not be mindful of the situation of harassment of tourists. I think the two things are totally different. I will go to my grave believing that we have to protect the

tourists from people harassing them, but we are talking of a different thing, we are talking about the small business people who take \$50 from their cousins and \$100 from their mothers and go out and buy and sell things. We have to be mindful, and I believe that in this new dispensation they are going to be employers.

The second thing that is of concern to me is that in spite of all we are saying I still am of the view that we have to be discriminatory in our policy with regard to foreign trade, whether it is in CARICOM or outside. I am of the opinion that we cannot in Barbados at this particular time in our history open our system to absolute free trade. I think we should try to make sure, and our role as policy makers must be persons who assist the market forces in working to the betterment of the majority of people. I am a *pro rata* person. I believe that the greatest numbers are the persons who we must be mindful of in formulating our policy. I am not as yet convinced, except as a logical definition, that the free market means anything in economics. It has never been and will never be, not in a system where humans exist. All societies have had to be aware of this and except keeping it as an ideal, I know where the point is, it is a logical definition. I can find it but I cannot see it, I cannot define it, I know where it is and how to get there, as against the cow. I may not know what the cow is or how to define a cow, but I know one when I see one. The point is that while the economists and social scientists glow in their theses on how beautiful the free market is, the best thing we can do is to try to make sure that we allow market forces to help us to make the best possible use of our resources. We must assist the market forces to work to the betterment of the society, and it is foolishness thinking that we can just free up a system and it is going to find an equilibrium that is in the best interest of everybody. It never has been and it never will.

It is for this, Mr. President, that I am watching with great care the approach of the Minister of Finance with regard to his consultation with the social partners, because I believe this is key to whether or not we are able to resuscitate, to revive, to get our economy back on sound ground. If we leave it to this vagary of market forces, if we ignore the fact that we have a history of over 50 years of trade unionism in Barbados, if we ignore the fact that we have organised employers associations in Barbados, if we ignore the fact that over the last 20 years or so we have had a progressively high standard of living, as a result people will perceive these institutions if we start doing things that are going to impact and demolish them. Mr. President, I am a bit concerned, I think we have to work through these institutions that we have. They have served us well. We have to get them modified to suit the occasion.

The final thing I want to say is this. Obviously, because of the conditions that obtained in the late 70s and

into the 80s, we can argue that the trade union movement used the tenets available to it at the time, the perception that it must keep wages in relation to prices, and that was the only thing that mattered, we could now look back and say that this was possible because our Government was able to borrow the money and to make amends, but that is no longer there. All I am saying is that I believe we have to impress upon the trade unions – I think already they are beginning to recognise this – that there is a different dispensation.

6.00 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have 2 more minutes.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: Time flies when you are having fun.

Mr. President, therefore I am saying that we have to impress on the community that there is a new dispensation but we must not go overboard and try to dismantle all the institutions that serve us well. We must try to get them to modify their behaviour to suit the current situation. There is absolutely no doubt that the cost of producing goods in Barbados is high because we have high wages, high amortisation and high profits. We have to try to reverse this trend. We have to keep prices under control which eventually help us to control the wages and eventually will help us to produce at a competitive rate.

Finally, Mr. President, I must declare an interest in what I am about to say. I think I would not be doing myself any good if I did not share with my colleagues some of my concerns regarding the industry in which I am employed. I do not know whether it is an oversight, but if something is not done you will find that the beer industry could be extremely badly affected by the package of tax measures that is current and I can tell you that the competitiveness between ourselves and the other CARICOM countries is going to be in the region of a 15% disadvantage. We are going to be 15% less cost effective in the future and I hope something is done because if there is one thing that can be said about Barbados is the fact that we had a company in Barbados called Banks Brewery. It is the model company.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You may have to pay for the advertisement.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: It is a model company. We saw it organised by foreign capital and local capital. We observed it at a time when all the managerial and technical persons were expatriate. We have seen that company transformed into one in which all the capital is now local, all of the technical expertise is now local. It would be very unfortunate if because of this whole historical thing that we have been caught into by

accident not design we find that we have measures which impact so negatively upon this company that it ceases to do all the myriad of things, socially and economically which it has been doing for this country.

With these few remarks, I wish to support the Bill.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Mr. President, having listened with great interest to the speech just concluded by Senator Beckles it once again confirms the fact that economics is one of the most inexact sciences that exists.

I would like to start my contribution by referring to the 1992 Economic Report and in particular the first page of what is known as the summary. In fact the first paragraph sums up 1992 rather nicely and I think it bears repetition at this point in time. I quote:

"Economic growth in Barbados contracted for the third consecutive year and is estimated to have declined by 4.0 percent in 1992. Contributing to the fall in real GDP was the contractionary fiscal and monetary measures, introduced as part of the stabilisation programme, which compressed aggregate demand. Real output in manufacturing declined by 9.1 percent, and in tourism and agriculture by 2.0 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively. Nominal GDP at factor cost, which was estimated at \$2691.9 million in 1992, was 6.9 percent lower than in 1991, while per capita income at factor cost fell by 7.1 percent to \$10,400 from \$11,200 in 1991. The resident population increased by 0.3 percent to 259 300 persons compared with 0.5 percent in 1991. At the end of 1991 the total adult population was 188 700 persons of which 124 800 persons were in the labour force. The average annual rate of unemployment for 1992 was estimated at 23.0 percent. Wage increases were generally lower than in 1991 and inflation averaged 6.1 percent."

That sums up 1992 rather neatly and it is against that background that I believe we should look at the Estimates for the coming year. Also information contained there indicates that the domestic exports in 1992 were \$253.3 million and retained imports were \$1 billion. There was a balance of payments recorded as a surplus of \$1.95 million after 3 years of successive decline. Of course part of the reason for the balance of payments recording a surplus was due to the fact that the retained imports estimated at \$1 000 000 000 declined by 18.3% mainly as a result of policy measures designed to contain domestic spending on imports. So the surplus recorded which is in itself a good thing could easily be reversed if any of the sectors which did not import suddenly started to import again.

We have seen that the revised revenue now estimated to be realised in respect of the 1992-93 fiscal year will net

out at \$982 million and the revised expenditure according to what I understood the Minister of finance to say in the Budget address will be \$982.2 million, a difference of \$0.2 million.

However, the revenue that is going to be realised as projected if realised is some \$91 million approximately 10% below what was originally projected. The expenditure has also been reasonably cut back. It is obvious that all arms of the Government have been under heavy manners, have been paying particular attention to their expenditure and serious cuts have had to be made.

This then brings us to the Estimates for this year and I must admit that when I first looked at them I was a little surprised to find after 3 years of economic decline we have a situation where expenditure during those 3 years increased every year but revenue declined. We now have projected for 1993-94 current expenditure of \$1 141 000 and this will be approximately after you net out some of the other factors an increase of \$11 million over 1992-93 actual expenditure. At the same time these estimates are projecting revenue increase above the \$982 million that will be expected to be realised 1992-93. They are projecting a revenue increase that will bring in \$1 060 000 000. I am having some difficulty with this. I would like to believe this is possible but in the light of prevailing circumstances and in spite of what I have heard already today, it does not seem realistic to expect that the economy in Barbados will expand by the necessary amount for these projections in respect of revenue to be realised.

6.10 p.m.

I fully appreciate the methodology used in preparing the Estimates and the theory of a zero deficit. I realise the situation is a very tenuous one because as Senator Beckles alluded to a short while ago, regardless of how we got here the fact of the matter is that we are here. We are in this difficulty and we have to get out of it. We have a situation where current expenditure is forecast to be \$1 141 million of which \$423 million is going to be on wages and salaries and salaries related costs and \$346 million is going to be in debt servicing. Those 2 factors together combine the total \$770 million which is 67% of the total current expenditure projected. This, in fact, leaves only, if one can quantify it by using the word "only," \$371 million for everything else. Our debt servicing is a very serious concern.

The amount that is listed here for wages and salaries obviously reflects the reinstatement of the 8% which was guaranteed to be reinstated and which, obviously, is reflected in these Estimates. However, the wages and salaries component of Government expenditure still appears to be high especially when one considers under the Head

of Current Transfers, the largest single figure shows approximately \$150 million under the Head of Grants to Public Institutions. Since we know that a significant part of that will go to pay salaries and wages in those public institutions, I am also intrigued to see that approximately \$150 million, Grants to Public Institutions, represent a \$23 million increase over the same allocation in last year's Estimates. This increase comes after we have heard about the streamlining, the amalgamations, mergers of these institutions, or whatever you want to call it, but in the realisation of the need to make these institutions more cost effective and more productive, we are going to spend \$23 million more. These are areas, as I say, for concern.

In the case of our National Debt, according to the Economic Report, at the end of December 1992 it was \$1 919.3 million, almost \$2 billion or \$2 000 million. If we continue to produce Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure that create deficits we can only expect the National Debt to continue to climb. In this regard I was intrigued by what has taken place in the last 9 months in the United States of America as a result of the focussing of Mr. Ross Perot on the National Debt of the United States of America, which is the biggest in the world.

What has happened in the United States of America? The people seemed to have become aware. The new President of the United States has already announced his intention in respect of revising the way in which his fiscal management is conducted with a view to reducing the national debt by the turn of the century by several hundred billion dollars. Now we have the situation where the proposals are before the 2 Houses of Parliament effectively, Congress and the Senate. It appears to me as though they are now falling over each other trying to see how much more they can cut out of the spend than the President has actually recommended. It would appear as though they were the people that created it in the first place. It makes you wonder about the impact of education of the people on what really goes on in respect of fiscal management and everything else that is concerned with the running of a Government and a country. There are still people, I believe, who think that the Government has something to give them. The fact of the matter is that the Government has nothing. The Government derives whatever it has through taxation so before the Government can give anything it first has to take and then it can create a scenario for giving.

In this country our Governments over the years because of the employment situation, the way in which our development has been structured, have for many years now seen themselves in very large measure as the employer of last resort and have in respect of this, perhaps, conducted an exercise which has resulted in over-employment in Government jobs. In order to fund this employment, taxes have to be continually raised because that is the source of funding.

When one considers the Tables that are set out very clearly in here in respect of Current Expenditure for the 10-year period between 1982-83 to 1991-92, you will see that Total Current Expenditure in 1982-83 was \$501 million and Current Expenditure in 1991-92 had reached \$1 040 million, more than doubled. A similar scenario accompanies Table 15 – Statement of Revenue for the same 10-year period. Revenue in 1982-83 was \$496 million and by 1991-92 it had reached \$989.6 million. As we have recently learned and is, in fact, also documented in here the Revised Revenue projected for 1992-93 is \$982 million. Out of this revenue the largest and most significant part has come from the Taxes on Goods and Services through indirect taxation. Some \$328 million was realised from that in 1991-92. Taxes on Incomes and Profits have also increased but not in the same degree as Taxes on Goods and Services.

I mention all of that because the Minister, Senator Dr. Clarke, in his introduction today referred to the new trade liberalisation policy that is apparently to be adopted in Barbados. If I remember correctly, he used words to the effect that this has been clearly defined by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in delivering his Financial Statement and Budgetary proposals. I think we now have a need for this policy to be clearly defined. What the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs said in delivering his address was that there will be – those were the words used – a removal of the licensing system. There will be a discontinuation of price controls. There will be a discontinuation of the negative list. However, this is what we need to have clearly defined because he also referred to the fact that these are going to be phased over a period of time and he even referred to the fact that in the case of certain items which may be deemed to warrant it, after due consultation, he would consider the imposition of temporary surcharges in respect of maintaining a level of production. But these things are very vague. They need to be clearly defined. If we accept the fact that we have come through the first part of our restructuring mechanism and if we believe that we have got to a point where we have theoretically stabilised and we are now to take off from here. I speak from a business perspective that all of the mechanisms that are going to impact on business decisions need to be clearly understood, otherwise there will be a tardiness in the take off that one expects to occur.

6.20 p.m.

The clearly defined policies need to be implemented. I have seen comments, I believe some were made in the other place to the effect that the implementation in due course of the VAT will probably be a good thing but again, we have been told that this will be introduced over the next 2 years. In the meantime we apparently are still subject to periodic increases in the existing rates of indirect tax as has recently occurred in the Budget.

It is unfortunate that we have reached a stage that we have, only in terms of the overall projections for spending that we are looking at here, we have reached the stage where we needed to fund something in the region of \$24.9 million and we needed to fund this by further increasing taxes. It would have been preferred if this could have been funded by reducing expenditure as opposed to further taxation on an already over taxed country.

Most recently we have been honoured by the visit to Barbados of the President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Mr. Enrique Iglesias, and I was privileged to be present and I know many if not all of the Senators present were also present in Frank Collymore Hall of the Central Bank, two Mondays ago to witness what has to be, in my opinion, one of the most sincere and moving speeches made from an obviously knowledgeable perspective of this region by Mr. Iglesias. He quite rightly pointed out that he was not in Barbados to tell us what to do but he said that he hoped that he might be able to assist us by his own perspective of what has transpired in the region over which the IADB functions since the second world war, and then related back what he was saying to Barbados and the Barbadian economy.

I was very pleased to hear him make mention of 2 fundamental facts in relation to Barbados, both of which I believe I have referred to myself in debates in this Honourable Chamber and one in particular almost every time I rise to speak. The 2 things I refer to were when he said that in his opinion Barbados has been for years a model to the rest of this region and could, in his opinion, remain as a model and should. But he suggested that Government adopt a position where it would develop its muscle but reduce its fat and I believe that that is what I was referring to only a short while ago and I have referred to it as early as the very first estimates debate in which I took part in this Honourable Chamber back in 1991 prior to the International Monetary Fund's involvement in which it was pointed out that the level of money involved in the payment of wages and salaries was too high. The IMF subsequently came in and suggested that it was too high and it was cut.

The other key note I believe of Mr. Iglesias' speech was his suggestion that in Barbados today, after all that we have come through and having reached the point that we have reached, the way forward, and I am interpreting what I believe he said at this point in time, the way forward is through consultation and agreement having been reached through the process of discussion, meetings, whatever, of the social partners involved. This was referred to a short while ago by Senator Beckles and I believe that we all accept this position and it certainly is a position that I have referred to on many occasions. I firmly believe in it and

believe it to be the only way. I believe we have the brains in Barbados to develop the plans of action to take us out of the difficulties that we are in. We will achieve this only when all of us appreciate those difficulties and all of us are willing to meet, discuss, compromise, whatever needs to be done, in order to formulate a plan of action that all of us will participate in with equal fervour for the good of this country. And any one of the social partners that is not willing to participate fully will destroy the fabric of the whole plan and prevent the operation from being successful and then we will have to face all kinds of other dire consequences.

So far in the debate, I do not recall hearing any mention of the dreadful word devaluation but we know that the policies of this Government as have been announced on many occasions after hearing the opinions of the people and their own is that we should seek to avoid devaluation of the Barbados dollar and we continue along that path. That devaluation as I understand it refers to an actual change in the exchange rate between the Barbados dollar and the United States dollar. However, there can be no doubt that over the last 18 months or even a little longer a devaluation has taken place in Barbados in respect of the fact that we have seen stated in the Economic Report that the per capita income fell by 7.1 per cent to \$10 400 from \$11 200 in 1991. The purchasing power of virtually every Barbadian today is less than it was a year ago or maybe even two years ago. There have been some increases in wages during the 18 month period of the International Monetary Fund. But many of those were contractually agreed to prior to the period and took place for that reason. We are now projecting that we need to freeze wages for two years and this may very well be true. That has to be accepted by all of the partners, as they are referred to, such as business, unions and Government. I do not like to use the term that I hear from time to time of Government, unions and the private sector because in large measure most of the unions in Barbados are, in fact, parts of the private sector. So the term used business, unions and Government I think sums it up more aptly.

6.30 p.m.

Sir, we have the areas of economic activity that are available to us to drive this economy forward. It has been highlighted in here today by Senator Phillips and by others. I think that it is well known and is not disputed by anybody to my knowledge at this point in time that tourism is the No.1 factor for earning of foreign exchange and driving the economy in the short term and maybe even in the medium term. But right now we have to concentrate very heavily on getting our tourism product right. It is interesting to note in the Estimates that some \$9 million has been accorded as an increase to the tourism authority. I sincerely hope that this money is spent in a very realistic way towards the development of tourism in Barbados and

not spent on the payment of salaries and wages of individuals who are non-productive.

Sir, I believe that direct marketing has paid off for Barbados in recent times and we have seen it. If you have CNN and you see the Ad for Barbados, this is direct marketing. This is an Ad for Barbados and I believe as a result of that in the short space of time that that Ad has been shown that Barbados is probably better known than in the 29 years of existence of the Board of Tourism who have employed people in various countries to promote our tourism product. But we need more direct marketing. We need a lot more direct marketing. It was interesting to me, Mr. President, and you can correct me if I go wrong because I am not experienced in these matters.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We have had previous advertisement on television before.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Sorry, Sir. I was about to say something but I do not know if I may be saying the wrong thing. I was going to refer to a comment that I heard on television being made by a Minister in the Other Place in contribution to the Budget debate. In fact, it was the final contribution that was made before the Prime Minister wrapped up the debate in which the Minister referred to certain hotels in Barbados as enjoying 80 per cent plus occupancy. He was inviting all hoteliers to get involved in the sort of promotion that achieves that sort of occupancy. I found that a very interesting comment because I am not sure exactly where the criticism was being directed. But if you are inviting the hoteliers to get involved in the promotion of the product, then one has to ask what the Tourism Authority has been doing or has not been doing that you now wish to invite the other hoteliers to join with those successful hoteliers...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you referring to the public or the private sector Tourism Authority?

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: I am talking about the public sector Tourism Authority. This is why I say that the additional \$9 million, that I see being allocated to this Fund, I have no objection to it whatsoever. In fact, in light of the fact that this industry is a potential billion dollar earner, I would actually question whether in fact \$30 million is enough to be spent on the promotion of an industry that is going to possibly earn \$1 billion. I think that more could be spent but spent in the right way.

Sir, these are the concerns that I have in that regard. Of course, one cannot talk about tourism at this point in time without touching, and I do not want to dwell on it for any length of time, on the crime and harassment but more especially the crime that is impacting on this country. There are several contributing factors to that. It has been alluded to before today. In this regard, I have had some

difficulty, I must confess, with analysing the exact allocation for the Police Force. It appears to me that the increased allocation to the Police Force will only be sufficient to take care of the reinstatement of the 8 per cent of salaries. I would like some correction on this if that is not so because I feel that the Police Force needs to be well equipped. If they need equipment, I know that there is a proposal right now to seek assistance from some private sector companies who may be willing to contribute to make a presentation to the Police Force to help them equip themselves. I feel that we would be well advised to do this as an investment in our own future. But at the same time I think that this is an area that the general public of Barbados has expressed serious concern about. We need to be sure that our Police Force is properly organised and structured, whether it is manned with the correct number of personnel or whether equipment is needed, and capable of dealing with the problems that we have today. That is essential to the future of this island because, in the main, we are talking about the future of tourism. We need to ensure that the two go hand in hand.

I also want to touch briefly in respect of tourism and I know that it is a thorny issue. I think that we have to look very carefully at what has been going on in tourism throughout the world. I am going to support Senator Phillips in respect of the comments that he made with respect to casino gambling. We need to look at the issue. I am not suggesting that we rush off into having casinos here. But we need to look at the issue in the context of its appeal to individuals who are potential tourists and potential arrivals to Barbados. We need to look at it in terms of its revenue and we need to look at it in a very controlled manner. Casinos have been established in tourist destinations in a very controlled manner and I believe that would take care of the concerns that Senator Springer alluded to. I do not think that we should rule it out totally. I think that we should look at it for the future and for the earning of foreign exchange.

6.40 p.m.

I am not going to make any comments – enough has been said already and I am sure there will be more to come – in respect of agriculture, with particular emphasis on sugar, except to say that the restructuring of the sugar industry is something that has been necessary for some time. It is going, I hope, in the long run to result in something beneficial for this country, but I will express some concern about the length of time it has taken to come to fruition. I would hope that we can speed it up now to ensure that the restructured organism – whatever the correct terminology is – comes into being sooner rather than later and we start to build for the future so that we can earn back the sort of foreign exchange that we expect to derive from that industry. I also would like to get back to the days when I, as a Barbadian, can consume Barbadian sugar.

Going on to manufacturing, we have a very varied scenario here. It was with great interest that I listened to the closing remarks of Senator Beckles when he referred to the industry that he knows best, the one in which he is employed, Banks Breweries. This is not advertisement, Sir. I support him 100%. This industry is an industry of which all Barbadians should be proud, and by his own admission we appear to now have a potential situation being created that is going to place our brewery at a serious disadvantage in terms of our CARICOM competitors. This is something that concerns me greatly. I do not believe that we should allow this to happen. I believe we have to look at the situation. It does not only apply to Banks Breweries, I believe it applies to several other companies. Earlier today I heard some mention of WIBISCO, the Barbados biscuit company which makes excellent products, but we know the competition they are up against. We know the factors that caused them to have this difficulty, and in most cases, not all, the factors that cause these difficulties are related to taxation policies, and this is something that needs to be reviewed.

I understand what Senator Beckles was saying when he said that manufacturing must become, or must be geared to become, a net foreign exchange earner. I also believe that we should not run headlong into opening our gates totally in the event that we can save foreign exchange by maintaining some of our production capacity, even if it is in the short term. This is where I am asking for a more clearly defined outline of what we are looking at, because I understood the Right Honourable Prime Minister to say that this thing would be phased. For my own peace of mind I would like to have a clear understanding of this phasing, because I would hate to think that we are going to see some of our established companies, some of whom have been established for a long time, go out of business because they find it more profitable to become importers and distributors of the product that they now manufacture, rather than continue to manufacture it themselves. That will cost jobs in Barbados and it will further contribute to our unemployment situation. That is something we must seek to avoid, in my opinion, at all costs.

Unemployment is very high. I heard during debates in the Other Place the figure is now cited at 25%. Here at the end of December it was at 23%. It is probably even higher than either one of those and it is continuing to climb on a daily basis. Just a few days ago I read in the newspaper that Banks Breweries beer sales in rum shops have declined by an estimated 30% in the first 2 months of this year. That would indicate to me the impact of unemployment and reduced purchasing power that has taken place among the people of Barbados. That is the sort of indicator we have to be concerned about. I believe that we have to look at these things very closely.

I do not wish to spend a lot of time on the revenue earning measures. As you quite rightly pointed out, Sir, it

is not for us to consider that, but however this year we have this unique position where we are debating the Estimates after the Budget has been announced and it is very difficult to resist the temptation. Here we have, in the light of the new taxes that are being imposed, additional revenue to be earned from taxes on alcohol. Alcohol is always the thing you can tax. We have sin tax. I do not mind the tax on tobacco, even though I still enjoy an occasional cigarette myself, but I understand the dangers of tobacco smoking and they are much more serious than alcohol consumption, but even more importantly, alcohol is a major part of the tourist industry and we are hearing that our tourism product is expensive. By increasing the taxes on alcohol we are automatically increasing the prices of alcoholic products to tourists and it is going to further push up the cost.

I have seen all kinds of wild figures quoted in the newspaper as to the actual impact, but the reality, as far as I know, is that an ordinary 750 ml bottle of whisky is going to be increased by about \$2.50. Nevertheless, there is going to be an increase on alcoholic prices in Barbados when alcoholic prices in Barbados are considered to be the highest in the region, and we are going up again.

I also would like to put in a plea, for want of a better word, on behalf of the population of Barbados when it comes to our environmental standards, and perhaps if we are in negotiations now or renegotiations in respect of our oil contract or whatever you call it, it is somewhat perplexing to me and a bit of a disappointment when Barbados likes to pride itself as being a leader in the region, and I believe as a Barbadian that we should be a leader in the region, to know that St. Lucia already has unleaded gasoline available at their pumps and we have not got unleaded gasoline available in Barbados. I think this would improve our environment, or emissions from vehicles would improve and also, from some knowledge that I have, I believe it may even be possible to afford us the opportunity of obtaining cheaper motor vehicles if we were able to have unleaded gas, because of the fact that these motor vehicles may be available from alternative sources, and they are getting increasingly fewer and fewer, that will still supply you with engines that will work on leaded gas, so I put in an appeal for an early look at the implementation of unleaded gas in Barbados. I think this will improve our conditions a great deal.

The same comments I made in respect of tourism will apply in large measure to the international businesses that operate here, familiarly known as the offshore business sector. Many of them are involved with overseas people who either visit or reside in Barbados and the impact of crime will have a similar effect on them as it does on our tourist product. That is a double whammy because the offshore business sector has now reached the stage where it is producing probably the second largest foreign

exchange component in the economy behind tourism. I believe that at present tourism is producing 70% of our foreign exchange and the offshore sector may be as much as 16%. So if we do anything that impairs tourism and the offshore sector we could be seriously endangering our future.

6.50 p.m.

This is a message that I believe we should seek to put across to all of our population. We should seek to become our brother's keeper in that regard and try to ensure that we do not allow the deterioration in standards to impact on these major industries.

Mr. President, those are the main issues that I felt I should make some comment on in respect of this 1993 Estimates debate. I would just wind up very quickly with one comment in respect of the figures that appear in the Summary of Government Operations and Financing 1993-94 on page 8 where I note that Foreign Financing will depend on the receipt from the Inter-American Development Bank of some \$59 million, from the World Bank \$26 million and I would hope that the criteria needed for us to realise these amounts are shortly agreed.

Aside.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: I am glad to hear that they are agreed. I am sorry to talk across the table, Sir. I know I should not be doing that.

I was a little disturbed in the delivery of the Budget speech by the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister when I think I remember him saying that he hoped to be able to get total agreement with these organisations for future funding. I was just expressing a little concern in respect of that remark. I know it is also a concern that is bandied around on the street from time to time and I think we should by way of free flow of information from the Government to the public seek to avoid the rumour mongering and the innuendo and the wrong information that is put across because the business community of Barbados and Barbados as a whole can only benefit if we have confidence in the system. This confidence can only be derived if what we are told is believable and is something that we can all accept and understand.

In that regard my final comment in this address would be to request that we are assured of the \$58 million under the Head of Other. I always get disturbed by definitions such as "Other" I like to know that these "Others" are there. With that, Sir, I think I will resume my seat.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I feel that I must first say that having the Senate debate on this Appropriation Bill take place after the presentation of the

Budgetary Proposals does make the whole exercise seem rather to be after the fact. I believe that at the adjournment of the last Senate meeting Senator Barker referred to this order of business and it seems to me a similar situation seems to have arisen in connection with Item 2 on today's Order Paper because this subject of the Report of the West Indian Commission has not yet been aired in the Senate and that is probably because the matter was more or less closed before the opportunity had arisen. But that was not a Bill it was only a Resolution.

Certainly circumstances alter cases but I would like to register a preference for the customary practice whereby the Appropriation Bill passes through all stages before the Budgetary Proposals are made. The poor state of the economy of our country is a matter of great concern to us all. I realise that the subject has been on everybody's lips for the last few years. In fact, it has been debated non-stop over the period.

Nevertheless, we cannot afford to let the situation slip from our attention and this applies to every Barbadian. There has been a stabilisation period and we are to go through a structural adjustment period, but are we going to break through the fog and achieve success? I do not think so unless and until all Barbadians put their hands to the plough and work towards a brighter day.

We have heard a lot of economics today. All the views that have been put forward one way or another about how this has taken place and what should have been done and what can happen and so on but there is one thing I will say and that is there is one force even greater than all technological power and that is the power of human will. The will to cooperate for progress.

There is a lot of disillusionment in the country among the people today and often we see on TV there is this system of going to hear what the man says and the voice that comes back is not a happy one. I feel we need to have some good publicity to change the attitudes and the state of the minds of the people because we need them to work together to cooperate to get this success. No matter what economic theories are put forward unless the people are going to work together and each one put in his contribution I do not think we will get anywhere. We need the people's support.

Instead what we are experiencing is the worst state of crime and violence the country has ever seen. This is having an adverse affect on our country publicity wise and otherwise. We cannot afford to have our tourist sector invaded by crime and violence. This is the one area everybody has admitted and has been proved by the figures that has been doing well in the economy and we really cannot have it affected by violence. This is indeed

happening and it applies to other prospective investors as well because the individual who gets attacked could well be one of the offshore investors.

Admittedly there is a very high rate of unemployment which has been a factor in this wave of crime and violence together with the widespread use of drugs in the community. How this situation is to be countered I am sure is employing the full attention of the authorities concerned. It is my ardent hope that some turn-around can be achieved. To this end, I feel that when the perpetrators of these crimes have been caught and sentenced I would like to think that the punishment was meted out to suit the crime and that I would say both corporal and capital. If it has been applied to their case, it should be carried out.

7.00 p.m.

What concerns me most, Sir, is the fact that so many young people are involved in this crime and violence as well as drug use. I understand it can be found in the schools too. This is where serious attention needs to be given otherwise we will have a whole generation of youngsters exposed to this unsavoury and unacceptable way of life with consequential worsening prospects for the community in future.

This is something I have said in here already, Sir, and I think I will repeat it that the inner child of the past not only survives in a person when he reaches his adulthood but it thrives. Unless dealt with, the childish pranks, fears, attitudes, whatever they are, can reverberate with great intensity in the confines of our mature relationships. So if we do not have our young people in the schools who are exposed to all this crime and violence that is going on in our country and indiscipline, they are going to absorb it without even thinking. You only need to have a little child or children in the house, you are not even looking at them but just say 2 words they should not know, in no time they can repeat them and they never forget them. I feel we have to pay a lot of attention to our young people.

What I feel could help, and is needed, is a heavy concentration on family life education in order to assist these young people in their emotional, physical and social development. They need to have rounded characters, role models and things to inspire them to change. Family life education can help them to understand themselves and the world around them. It can also help them establish values and teach them about making decisions and that means the right decisions.

You might well say, Sir, that family life education has always existed. It has almost been there mostly in an informal way at home, in the schools and in church. But family life itself has been affected by the social and economic changes going on around us. Family structures

are breaking down under these pressures. Change is always challenging but sometimes it is very difficult to accept. With unemployment this is really adding to the state in which our families are living. Nevertheless, I am convinced that the emphasis in this direction, that is family life education, can help to alleviate the situation with our young people. This family life education should be strengthened at every level in the schools, youth organisations and, of course, at home. I would like to see such a programme put in place.

One of the arguments advanced regarding the weakening of the proper home influence is the fact that every one nowadays has to go to work but this is debatable now because there is so much unemployment. This is where it is suggested that men and women who have to stay at home could use their home time for retraining and undertaking home jobs. A Senator speaking before mentioned it and how they can do entrepreneurial things to help supplement their incomes.

Mr. President, turning to Head 43, Tourism and Sports, I want just briefly to look at the gymnasium. Most of us were there last year at the opening of this prestigious institution. It is one that all Barbadians are very proud of. It does not seem as if there is enough activity taking place at this venue. I do not think we can afford this sort of investment. We cannot have a place like that turned into a white elephant. The investment needs to be justified. Something should be done to make the gymnasium more accessible and used by our sports groups.

Another aspect is the maintenance of the building. I hope that close attention is being paid to its upkeep by constant servicing because if this is not done, the cost of repairs down the line will be prohibitive. A building like that has to be taken care of and manicured constantly. You just cannot wait until something really needs to be done. It has to be a constant matter of attention.

Mr. President, is there a published schedule of the fees charged for the use of this gymnasium? Is there a publicity campaign in place to encourage sports organisations and entertainment groups both from local and overseas to use it? This is what is needed. It is easily accessible and should be an attractive venue for a wide range of activities.

Another point I want to make, Mr. President, is the matter of the environment. This is under Head 39. I wonder what is the Ministry's stand on noise pollution. I live in a residential area that is a mile away from entertainment centres. All through the night the music can be heard so if I can hear it a mile away all in between there is noise interruption all during the night. Now, I recognise there is a need for entertainment centres both for Barbadians and tourists but there should be limits set.

I notice too that some of the public transport is still equipped to play music to their passengers as well as the passersby because the music is not soft. It can be very loud. Here again I would like to think that there were appropriate rules and regulations put in place to control situations like these. Also, for people to be aware and know that these rules and regulations are being enforced. I believe it is this same Ministry which broadcasts a series of consumer advices which are very helpful and enlightening. I think they must be lauded for that because in this time when money is scarce and people want advice about how to use it and budget, those messages have been very helpful.

That is all I have to say, Sir. Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President I believe we should suspend this sitting until tomorrow. I would like to remind members present that we begin promptly at 10.00 a.m., that there will be no 15 minute breathing space as is usually the custom when we are normally meeting. There will be no prayers so we will go straight into the business tomorrow morning. I do not think there is anything I need do but now move that the sitting be suspended until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning, March 23, 1993.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 10.00 a.m. Tuesday March 23, 1993 was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.

7.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

Order No. 1 (resumed)

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: Mr. President, yesterday we heard, to my mind, many useful contributions and I think the one by my fellow Independent Senator, Senator Bellamy, was by far the best overall analysis of the Estimates we are discussing. I liked many of the ideas that were put forth by Senator Phillips. Unfortunately I missed Senator Straughn's speech on Education and when I say even a line on that I tremble, because I regard her as such an authority on this matter. However, Sir, there are some things which I think need to be expanded a bit and I will lead off now.

For years I have seen Barbados as different from the other neighbouring islands and territories, such as Guyana, in that for some reason Barbadians who left school here to go away would acquire a trade, a skill, a profession and they would come back. That was largely because we had an infrastructure second to none in the area, and they had something to come back to.

I want to open by saying that as we unravel certain things which we think had become overheated, one of these is probably the area of our infrastructure which may have become a little clumsy and not so cost effective. I think we have to be very, very careful not to unravel it to a point where it can no longer keep us as leaders in this area. In particular, I could think of medical services.

I see, from investigating Head 36, that the QEH has been allocated roughly the same sum of money this year as it was last year. When you take into consideration the cost of things, inflation and what have you, in real terms it will probably have less money at its disposal and I am saying we should be very careful here, because this is one of the keys to our infrastructure. We have to offer hospital services to ourselves and if tourism is going to be the road we are going to take, we certainly have to have that available for our visitors.

In cutting our costs and watching our figures carefully, let us ensure that the broader infrastructure is not seen as being diminished, because with that we will tend to get a brain drain and its evil attendant capital flight, and with that the spiral usually goes down rather than up. Let us insist that we have our infrastructure. There is no reason we cannot make it more effective or more cost effective, but certainly do not let it be seen as a lesser entity than it was in recent times.

The present administration has been in power over the last 7 years and I do not think there are many Barbadians who will say that the plight we find ourselves in is nothing to do with that, that it is the fault of the outside world. I would like, like Senator Bellamy, to recall some of the remarks made by the President of the Inter-American Development Bank recently at the Frank Collymore Hall and remind us that of course the international market has had something to do with the position we find ourselves in, but some of it is of our making. While I am not saying that all of it is anything to do with the present Government, some of the blame has to be laid there and some of it has to be laid over some of those who governed us over the last 25, maybe even 30 years, because I think the mind set we had 30 years ago became cast in concrete when it should have been more flexible and we should have been looking at what was happening around us and should have been changing our course to suit the winds of change around us.

Here it is now we have to send some very clear messages to the Barbadian rank and file that things have changed. I am not sure how you are going to do it, because I believe that these clear messages will have to come from the same people who command the platforms and who over the years have tended to give us a somewhat different message. I think we have to do some unravelling in that area.

From Dr. Clarke's introduction, when he showed that some businesses were doing well, of course that is going to happen, because at this time you either do well or you are washed out into the sea. There is no halfway mark. Senator Barker asked me yesterday how my family business was doing and I said we are holding our own, but we are lucky. We have reserves, we have experience, we have been on the scene for a long time, so we have been able to hold our own. There are many new arrivals on the scene who have just opened the door, got in for a short time and have been swept back out. Because 9 or 10 companies on the Securities Exchange have shown a profit, I would not take that to be characteristic of what is happening in business across the island.

Tourism. Sir, we had some useful inputs on tourism and I would like to add a few more today. We have recently set up a new Tourism Authority which replaces the old Board of Tourism. That came by many names, depending on which administration was in power and it has, of course, an Advisory Council. It seems now we have more troops to do the same thing. When I commented on that at our last session, I believe I said I thought it was a case of 6 of one and half a dozen of the other. I am still of that belief. I take Senator Amory Phillips' comments, I appreciate them and I agree with him that all in all last year's tourism did not do too badly, but I think when we face the fact that everything else did badly, tourism has to do more than just hold its own. It has to start going up now, climbing, and with that comes a whole new scene. I see this tourism as part of a trio. You will have the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety and the Ministry of Education. It is not a quick fix, it is going to take some time, but I see the 3 of those Ministries coming together to give us the foundation for improved tourism.

We hear a lot about voting money to promote Barbados, but consider the position of someone on that Tourism Authority who encourages people to come to Barbados, fearing when he does this that some of those people are going to have bad experiences or unhappy or unpleasant experiences here in Barbados. That is going to turn off a lot of people who promote Barbados, so I am saying it is of the utmost importance that we do two things. We have to beef up our police presence, particularly in the tourist areas. These are pretty well identified areas. You do not have to send a bunch of policemen out into the canefields or somewhere like that, you have to patrol these particular areas. You are talking about where Harts Gap comes into Highway 7, you are talking about where Rendezvous comes in. These are pretty well identified areas. You are talking about St. Lawrence Gap. We know the areas on the West Coast as well. That is a manpower thing and of course with that, you have to have equipment.

I see recently the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has circulated a letter asking their members to donate, to

raise some money to help buy some equipment for the police. I think that is an admirable thing, but we should not be in the position where the Chamber of Commerce and Industry finds itself in a position to have to make this sort of contribution. I believe it may not be the only one. I do not believe it sends the right message. However, if better cannot be done, I think that it is a good effort and if people who have made the contribution feel good about it, there is nothing wrong with that. The police have got to play a bigger part in this. I know they are trying hard, but I think they are understaffed. We have heard the Minister of Justice and Public Safety asking for 200 more policemen. I think he should have them. I realise there is money involved in producing them, in training them and in paying them. As the Commissioner of Police has recently noted, I think you have to have a higher calibre man, to start with, and that man has to be properly trained. The equipment the police have is really outdated and old worldish, starting with the premises from which they operate. However, I realise that is a long term operation, but what I am saying is it has to be an even handed thing and the Barbados Tourism Authority is not going to be able to clap without something to clap with, and one of these things is a police force which will help to control violent crime in the areas where the tourists live and move around.

10.20 a.m.

The worst piece of publicity we could have had recently was the violent assault on the Senior Manager at Barclays Bank Head Office. That story has gone right to those people who can afford to buy an expensive holiday on the West Coast of Barbados. We all know that 1 West Coast room is worth 2 or 3 South Coast rooms. It has gone to the worst place and a poster on the wall showing Pico Teneriffe is not going to cancel that negative impression. So we have to see that these things do not happen.

I am concerned with the physical condition of our plant. As you drive along Highway 7, coming towards Bridgetown, there are what appears to be bombed out sites such as one sees on TV. This is the front street of a well established tourist resort in the western hemisphere. I do not see why something cannot be done about these bomb sites because that is what they are.

Further to that, I can see Carlisle Bay as an area which can be developed for tourism. We have a beach there now which we never had when I was a boy. So we have terrific potential. It is near to the heart of Bridgetown. We have done a lot of beautifying there and that is where development will take place. It is also where a lot of these derelict properties are found.

One other thing on tourism. The water situation in Barbados. It is well known that one visitor uses 3 times as much water as a Barbadian. That may be due to the fact that the countries from which they come, Canada and

the United States, have vast resources of water and that is how they look at water. As a user and a receiver of a water supply in Barbados, mine is not improving. I am getting outages, shortages, low pressure and from what I read in the newspaper this is not peculiar to me. It seems to be an island-wide development. Do not let the water supply slip because that also is an integral part of our infrastructure. We have had it for hundreds of years. It is second to none in the islands. Do not let that get out of hand. That is my plea.

Along with my comments on the police situation and the calibre of policemen, right now we have an unfortunate situation in Barbados where a lot of our citizens have come up with a *modus operandi* for the police and it goes like this. There seems to be some members of the Force who prefer to solve a crime rather than to prevent it. This might be a wrong perception but throughout the land many people have this feeling about how the police operate.

I hope he was not correctly quoted but I read here a couple of days ago that the Commissioner of Police said that what needs to happen is that the laws of the road need to be enforced. I hope he was misquoted because to my mind he is the only person who can enforce them. When people read this and it is not misquoted they tend to develop negative attitudes and to worry about their own safety and where their tax dollars are going.

The Ministry of Education, as it has always been and I hope it will remain for a long time, is the recipient of the second largest sum of money from central Government and that is the way it should be. The all-encompassing nature of our education is what has helped to put Barbados ahead and out of reach in many areas from our competitors. We would like to see that continued. I see it as an area to help boost tourism in the long term. Sometimes when I see the minibuses forcing their way through traffic, striking vehicles on either side, sometimes I wonder what message the children in those buses are getting about their position in the society and how they should manage themselves in our society. It cannot be a good message.

While you might vote money for education, education is not something confined to a school room. It is the product of the whole society and we just have to do something about enforcing the laws here so that these children can have a better start. Before they get to school they would have had a lesson. The lessons they are getting now before they get to school are not of any worth.

As I said when I get into this area I tremble because I do not know whether Senator Straughn has spoken about it but when we look at our school system, what are we producing? We are producing some brilliant achievers. Some are so bright that if you were to put them behind bars at Glendairy they would still return good results

because they are brilliant children and they are committed to their schoolwork.

We also produce some non-achievers and we are producing a fair crop of criminals. Remember I have said it before, the criminal mind reacts to incentives just as businesses do, or people in other areas of endeavour. It seems to me they are reacting to incentives because they do not fear the law. There is a feeling that nothing much will happen to them even when they commit violent crimes. In many cases it is a reaction on their part because they feel they have been let down in other areas. The homes from which they come sometimes have no parent. The old extended family has disintegrated because the nature of our society has changed and many of these youngsters are unemployable in Barbados today.

Over the weekend I talked to Senator Straughn about the composite schools and at the end of the discussion with her I was of the opinion that many of the products of the composite schools are more suitable to our job market than some of the ones coming out of the secondary schools. They have been exposed to a more rounded form of education and they are finding niches in a work environment which is different from before and where you have to be flexible and you have to have a number of skills and you have to have a rounded background to be able to do a day's work.

We should look at that. If you have a number of secondary schools which are producing young people who are not so suitable to the work market and another set of schools which are producing employable people although those schools are not as highly regarded we should look at that. I believe all of this will come under the new ideas surrounding the 11+ and the 14+ and I am hoping that when that is sorted out that we will have a broader set of people more suited to the new and wider world of work.

In manufacturing the suspension of licenses and the removal of tariff barriers are developments we have to watch very carefully. I think it was Senator Beckles who said we have always had these things, that certain aspects of the trade of all countries have been managed. Take the word "managed". It is a bit of an euphemism. I think that certain industries at certain stages of their development will always be given some form of protection by their own governments. To some extent they will be "managed" at some time. We are in a very broad manufacturing market here. We cannot go blindly ahead and say that somebody has told us to dismantle it. We have to phase out the uncompetitive areas of our manufacturing. Even when all of that is done there will be certain areas which will always have to be nourished and nurtured as you do a baby. When a baby is born he is not put out in the world. He has to be brought to a certain strength so that he can have some chance of survival when his time comes. We have to

look at trade very carefully and manage it when it needs to be managed.
10.30 a.m.

I can tell you that as a printer I am getting requests from up and down the islands from traditional customers of mine who have very strong local counterparts here with whom we have enjoyed a good relationship over many years. They are now writing and telling me what prices they want for their labels and printing. In other words, they have come to realise that in Barbados it is not a seller's market. It is a buyer's market. We are trying to sell our products in terms of better quality, better delivery and all the rest of it but the price is going to count nowadays. Just as location counts in the retail business price is what is going to count in manufacturing now. We have to be very careful how we handle this. We should not rush it. The fears of the manufacturers that the ground is being cut from beneath them are very real. At least someone can write me and tell me what prices they will accept. There are manufacturers whose doors are closed now and they cannot receive a letter.

Lastly, Sir, on a general note, when the economy starts to move up again the job market is going to be very choosy. We are going to have a lot of people coming to us with diplomas, certificates, the various degrees and so on. I want to make it very plain that some of these do not mean all of that much to many employers. In other words, today's employer wants a rounded person. He wants a person who is able to communicate. We have a lot of people coming out of tertiary levels who have difficulty communicating. We want people who know how to communicate, who are rounded and who understand that you do not start at the top.

It is very difficult to imagine that people will make contributions in certain areas if they do not understand the nature of that area and what keeps it going. The scene which will emerge soon from now, and hopefully very soon, is going to be very different. In terms of people who are in a position to make a contribution now many of them are hanging back from making that contribution. They think this is not the time to make it, not because they might not be on a surge but because quite often, some people are thinking that maybe they would like to make the contribution under a different administration. All of that is very nice but we find ourselves in a position here from which we must start to fight our way out now. There is no question of waiting 1, 2, 3 years or any amount of time. I would like to urge those people who are in a position to make a contribution to get it going now and not to hold back.

I would also caution Government about that bad word – I do not like to say it but I am a business person, a realist and I have to say it – devaluation. It comes by many

other names but let us say devaluation. Many business people see it in the wings or on the paling like a hawk. Unless that can be put to rest finally...

Aside.

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: Well, performance. I am only saying unless. As I say I am a realist. It has to recede a little more. There are many businesses which are driven by technology. They are technology-oriented. Technology is not cheap to buy. In the big countries when you buy a new piece of equipment because of economies of scale you can usually write it off 5 years at the most and you get the new model which is a more efficient model. In Third World countries because we lack those economies of scale, that piece of equipment has to perform for 8 to 10 years otherwise you do not get back the money you paid for it.

I can tell you that a press I plan to replace cost a quarter of a million dollars 15 years ago. The new one is \$1½ million. If we get something going wrong with our rate of exchange during the next five years that will put my family company out of business. I am telling you what will happen to me. I do not think that as a manufacturer I am peculiar. This is the age in which we live. This is what is happening. You are going to get people holding back or being cautious in this area. But there are many areas that people can make contributions that do not involve that sort of investment, fear or caution. I am asking those people to come forward and make their contribution.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, as usual, about this time of year we are expected to make our contribution towards the Appropriation Bill. I am always happy to make my contribution because I believe all of us as Senators have come here for specific reasons. One of the reasons is to make a genuine contribution, to analyse what is being done and see where we can make suggestions for the future and how we, perhaps, can help take our country forward instead of using a number of negative steps that would only take our country backward.

Mr. President, I should like first of all to look at my favourite subject, agriculture. I will continue to look at this as a priority because it is a priority in our region. We are an agricultural economy in the Caribbean region. We can talk about tourism, we can talk about anything else, but I know that is what we are. We have the sea all around us and that is part of agriculture. A lot of people seem to forget that it is the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Therefore, that Head that deals with agriculture is Head 25. I should just like to read the Objectives of the Head and deal with the Objectives at this particular time.

Item 1 is the balanced growth or domestic output of agricultural produce including nutritious foodstuffs

and other marketable crops at reasonable cost. I see this as a big challenging objective. First of all you are going to need food for sustenance and to give you the necessary nutritional intake on a daily basis. What is going to happen about getting that food there at a reasonable cost will depend, to a large extent, on our commitment to the area of agriculture and knowing what we can use to help make the end product cheaper. This is, that many of us will have to go back to using our compost, pen manures, refining them and cutting down on the importation of that raw material. That can be very expensive and, therefore, sometimes acts as a deterrent to many people who are involved in the agricultural field. Although there are various incentives given, still the cost of fertilizer and manure can be prohibitive if you are using very high priced ones. Therefore it behoves us to look seriously, if we want to fulfil these objectives and this is objective 1 to look very seriously at what we can do and I know already there are some farmers in the parish of St. John, the parish of St. Philip and few in St. Michael who make their own compost, they make it out of all the skins, they put their chicken manure and the cow manure and they refine it and it comes out like a nice fine powder. I know a few of them who are selling it. Recently we had a class here in Barbados held by the Industrial Development Corporation where the young people were taught to make compost. They were taught to make orchid food, food for anthuriums and so on out of local and indigenous raw materials.

10.40 a.m.

So this is going to be a very real and serious objective. How are we going to get the fertilizers and how are we going to cut down on the cost of the fertilizer? How are we going to produce our seedlings? Are we going to continue to buy the very expensive hybrid seeds? That is something we have to look at. With all the technology that we have available in Barbados, and all the training that we have had over the years, researchers have shown that they can do these things. Some fellows have been very hard at work. Many women too have been into the area of research with CARDI and so on and are still doing this. But you see if the people in a country do not make these people believe that their work is important they are going to just go into a little hole and forget all of the things they have learned or just put them on the back burner and become consultants for the big firms. Then we lose as a result of this. It is time that we realise that promotion of the people is a good thing and it lifts the person's spirit. If we promote the people who are doing research in agriculture and we promote the small farmer who has been successful, who has been able to feed his family over a period of time by using indigenous methods of preparation of his seedlings, preparation for planting his seedlings in the beds. He has been getting it right for a long time and therefore he knows and understands. He has fed his family off the crops, he has taken his crops to the market every morning and has sold to the villagers and he knows and understands. These

are some of the people we need to highlight to show the young people that this can be a success story. It does not have to be thought of that the only thing in agriculture is working in a cane field and cutting canes because that is the way now in which agriculture is projected. Every time people talk about agriculture the majority of them talk about one crop, sugar. Some of these people, I fear, are not willing to diversify because it suits them to grow the easiest thing and the thing which can make the most money for them. They are not thinking in the long term of the fact that we have markets overseas that are taking Caribbean products and who love Caribbean produces.

I saw a film just recently in England where it showed how much the people love the West Indian products, the breadfruit and so on and there were all these people selecting out the various crops that they like but alas they did not have much of a choice because a lot of our people have just gone underground. Next I saw film from one of the Virgin Islands where this particular farmer was showing the people in the Virgin Islands that the majority of fruits are imported and therefore although they have in the North and he has been very productive, he used to work in the Ministry and then he decided to go into his farming and that was bringing to him a source of income and also he was able to export the particular crops. So we have to think seriously of what we are going to do with all the technology that is available and all of the various skills.

The agricultural and fisheries sector contributing to the balance of payments by reducing dependence on imported products and by contributing to exports.

I have always had a very serious thought in my mind whenever I heard about the money that tourism brings in and nothing is ever said about the money it carried out. That is something we should think about and the answer lies with agriculture because the products that a number of hoteliers import are agricultural products. When you talk about butter, one of our members yesterday in introducing the Bill was talking about the different prices of butter from the EEC area and it was amazing to my mind to think that although we manufacture the product in Barbados and the Roberts Manufacturing Company has a very high record of safety and sanitation it seems not to count for anything. One of my colleagues has just gone into the area of garlic butter and also a low fat butter and everyone is talking about high cholesterol and yet we are talking about butter made from animal fat. Where are we going? Where are the answers? Have we done enough to sensitise the buyers? We are talking here about keeping the nutritional status of people up and therefore we cannot say this is an objective and at the same time we sit idly by as a people and lest count the very important thing of life because you will have to spend more money in health if you continue to eat a number of these high cholesterol foods when we have low cholesterol ones produced in our very island.

These are things that we have to think about. Sometimes we go to the supermarket and buy something in box and don't even know what is in it but it just says if you use this your cholesterol rate will come down and it is for low cholesterol or you go to the health food store and buy a tablet and they tell you it is low cholesterol and you do not know what is in there but your problem is that as long as it is not local you buy it. You don't want to buy local you want to buy foreign.

It is necessary for us to look to see what the hotel people use that we are making here. We have to be very serious about it if we want to save our agriculture. Nobody so far has been mentioning that non-sugar agriculture has done extremely well. We sit down waiting for \$57 million for sugar cane and over \$200 million non-sugar agriculture has brought in and that is a silent story. Everybody keeps talking about grow sugar, grow sugar and they do not talk about the utilization of the same sugar. It is all right to grow sugar but make sugar make money for you, not only be producers of the primary product which we have been for donkeys years, but make your own icing sugar, stop importing the \$3 000 000 in chocolates. Support the local people, buy your own cube sugar. It is amazing to go to the hotels and see the little packages of sugar come in from Florida and still we produce sugar and we are quarreling all over the place about sugar, sugar. What are people doing to show that they can help to employ more people in this country. I am talking about unemployment. Why don't these people get up and use the technology?

They have the technology. It is not to say that they have not got the technology. Barbados boasts of having all sorts of testing examples that can be given to all parts of the world when it comes to sugar and that it has one of the oldest sugar testing places. You name it and Barbados has it. It is there in the history of this country. You can check at the Museum and you will see the crops that we started growing all back in 1625. I am asking the question. If our objectives are real in the area of agriculture, then what is it that stops people from even making a start?
10.50 a.m.

We used to have a cassava factory in Barbados. Now cassava is bringing real money on the world market. You go anywhere in Miami and you can see it sliced, in chips, fine flour or you can see it just cut off and put there if you want to cook it. With the new dimensions in the utilisation of dietary fibre, everybody is suddenly running back to what they used to eat before with a little butter sauce. Cassava is one of the highest root crops in dietary fibre. Therefore, it eliminates all of the waste and it helps the body generally. It has been said that, whenever you talk to certain farmers about the fact that they must grow some food with the sugar cane, they say that was only a war time measure. I can see no greater war time than now. So I think that they had better get back to that. While they are

growing the sugar cane, they can have sweet potato, cassava, yams and all those things in between.

We used to be able to feed ourselves very well in this country. We had fish. People in the villages killed their sheep. On Sundays you had mutton soup. I had mutton soup on Sundays. My grandmother used to kill a sheep fairly often. But we are allowing people to send us millions of dollars in corned meat or salt meat and we are importing this salt meat into Barbados. When we hear that we are importing salt meat and pickles and all the things that we used to do before, it means that we have got to get right back to the basics.

We have to devise a system where we start in the schools on a practical basis and where the children will have to make up their various menus and cost them. They should go through school doing that and not just making something because it is in a book but making something that is indigenous. I am very happy about the CXC syllabus because you have to go back to the basics. A lot of people are saying that it is too hard but it is not too hard. The Barbadians have proven that they have come out on top in the whole Caribbean. Why have they come out on top? They know how to write it down. When we come to doing the practical thing, everybody is sitting down and saying that we have not got any money. They have forgotten that we can go back to these things.

As I said, Mr. President, we need to push them forward. We need to be like go-bells in this particular case in a good sense please. We need to use our own strategy for repeating and repeating the importance of agriculture so that it sticks in the minds of all people so that they understand where their roots come from. If you say something long enough, you will believe it. You have seen that with brands in Barbados. Anybody who talks about baby's power, what does one say? Johnson's! You are sold to that. Well, let us talk about agriculture and be sold on agriculture in the fact that we buy local and sell our indigenous products. Because it is not just saying Johnson's but it is buying Johnson's. In the same way, I feel very strongly about this because I think that we are doing a lot of injustice to our fisheries and agriculture because we are not looking at these seriously.

Sir, I believe that in any well ordered society when people visit you that they will have nothing to worry about. I think that, as a citizen, one should think about getting one's society in train and getting it well organised. There will be the local foods that the people will have to eat. This is always annoying to me that we are in search of food for tourists. I have gone as far as San Marino. It is a little place like Barbados on top of a hill on the Italian border. In San Marino, they export everything. If you want to look in the encyclopedia, you can look in it and find it. San Marino is the Independent Republic of San Marino that exports everything and imports nothing. You eat what

they have and they have a large variety. I want the journalists to look this up and to focus something in the newspaper on San Marino because it is a small place like Barbados. Show the things that these people export. There is all kinds of blown glass and leather works that they export. They can make these things for you while you are there. Shell works – you name it! We are not looking at the potential of agriculture. We just think of it as growing the canes. We do not look at the potential for fisheries. Why can we not can our own dolphin? We have been having an excessive amount of dolphin. The technology is there. Why can we not dry our own dolphin? No, somebody has to send it for us. Why can we not make our own tuna? Because lots of our long line boats go and catch lovely tuna fish and small is beautiful.

Sir, this is something that we have to remember about agriculture. We must not set up big and inefficient operations but small efficiently run agro-processing units. That is what we want in this country. The size of the building is not the important thing. It is the quality machinery and the quality of the people. You have some machines that can do so many things. If the people are businesslike and love their country and if they are efficient, they are going to do well. Barbados is doing well when the people in each factory do well. Why do we not make pickled tomatoes and tomato sauce and get the right stuff instead of buying the corn starch and the die. This is one of our big problems. We allow other people outside to find out these things and publish it and send it back to us saying that you are buying corn starch and die. There is no real tomato in it. If you were to buy a pulper because a lot of people have machines that they can put the tomatoes in and get the pulp, you can make your own sauce. You can do it on a small basis.

I congratulate the people who are making seasonings in Barbados. They all started in their own little kitchens, and if you look at the success story of Lottie's Seasoning and Aunt May's Seasoning, and there are so many varieties now and are all selling, which is the important thing, they are all doing very well and they are employing people. Lottie's employs about 12 people and no recession has affected her in any way. She has 189 customers all around Bridgetown and all around the place, small shops and so on. She is exporting to England, Germany, Canada, Texas and the Caribbean islands. She started in the kitchen with her maid and that is where she has reached. There are many of those success stories in Barbados, but there are not enough.

11.00 a.m.

We are talking about the high import food bill. Do not talk about it except you make a step toward contributing to the non-importing of those foods that many of us are eating that are not even worthwhile to eat, that

are coming from all sorts of places. You have never heard of so many of these diseases that people now have. Do you know what the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute has called these diseases, like diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol? Lifestyle diseases. They have researched and found that when people ate the real natural foods they did not have these lifestyle diseases. But now they have to eat everything that comes from over away. They do not know what it has in it, what chemical compounds, they do not know if it makes the heart beat faster or slower, or if it reduces all the Vitamin B in their bodies or it affects the Vitamin A and they become half blind. They do not know a lot of these things, but nevertheless they are prepared to drop the good old things that they know and have tried, to try those other things.

I say this, Mr. President. God gives to everybody a time and there is a season. We, the people of Barbados, will have to pay for our foolishness. Sometimes you have good things going for you and you play the fool. It is just like the children of Israel, they told Moses they wanted to get back to their coriander seed and garlic, and they preferred to go back. They behaved as though God had not promised them to take them to the Promised Land, and all the way they were grumbling and confusing themselves. This is the way how some people in Barbados are behaving today. They are not prepared to lift one finger to do a thing to help themselves and we have always been known to be very proud people. When I could hear a Barbadian getting up and making a statement that Barbadians are eating out of stuff bins and out of dump heaps, that person could not be a Barbadian, because we fail to understand that when we talk these foolish things on the media, especially the electronic media, they are going far and wide. It is not a credit to Barbados. I do not know of anybody who is doing that, but you want to be so emotional and so negative that you want to destroy your own country. Where do you go when you destroy your own country? We should be building, not destroying at this time in the history of this country. Countries go up and down, they go through all sorts of tribulations and trials, but it is the people who have to build.

In closing off the section on Agriculture, I would like to say that we could learn a lot of lessons from China. We need to have some self-contained villages where people use their own compost to produce their own food and do their own handicrafts, and you have a central collecting point where the big merchants come and collect the various preserves or pickles or things made from shell and pay the money on the spot. That is helping your country. If 2,000 people do this you can see what an impact it can have. If 2,000 people sit down it has no impact, but if you get up and you understand that our grandfathers and our grandmothers had 10 and 12 children and they were able to bring them up off the land, that same land that some of us seem to despise and seem to be talking foolishness

about. So let us get on with the whole question of trying to be as self-sufficient as it is humanly possible. We know we do not grow wheat – some people will tell us that – but we have cassava and we can make the same flour. Breadfruit can make the same flour, sweet potato can make flour, yam can make flour, it is the same starch, and the good old corn meal pap is still one of the best porridges in the world, with a piece of bay leaf that you can pick from your tree or somebody's tree. We do not need to import bay leaf in a bottle. Go to the supermarkets and look on the shelves and you will see bay leaf in a bottle, and it does not smell like anything. They say the salt has lost its savour? Well, the bay leaf has lost its smell, and all those herbs they have in bottles have lost their smells as well. They smell like nothing. Marjoram, thyme, I never thought that Bajans would reach such a stage when they would be so lazy as to go and buy those things in a market when they could push it in a little pot or something. We are accustomed to growing those things just around the house and I say they are perfectly right to charge you the prices they charge for those things. If you are going to buy them, then you are the fool, they are not the fools, the money is coming into their hands.

Mr. President, I should like to turn my attention now to Head 34 which deals with Education. Education, to my mind, as far as I understood it when I was at school, came from the word "educio", meaning "I extract, I draw out what is within" and I still believe that Latin is one of the best subjects out, it helps you with your English. I feel, and I have always felt, that education brings out the best in people. A well educated person is a simple, humble, dignified person and I think we keep misunderstanding what education really means. I thank God that I have had some people in whose hands I put mine and I was proud to do it. I will still do it too, because sitting over there is one of my teachers. I am very proud of Senator Straughn. The thing is that when you put your hands in the hands of people at four years old, like Muriel Bourne and St. Clair Morrison, and many of our well loved teachers, some of whom have passed on, they saw to it that Grammar was very necessary and essential. I feel, Mr. President, that Grammar must be taught again in the schools as a separate and distinct subject.

11.10 a.m.

I had a joke recently when there was this young teacher speaking to an elderly teacher and he asked her what was her job. She said, "I teach". Of course, she did not say it that way. He said, "I hope you do not teach English." She was not reflecting anything at all that was suitable for that old teacher to emulate or to think about. The misuse and abuse of the verbs, the nouns, the pronouns, the loose and hanging sentences. Can't begin a letter. There is no opening, no body and no conclusion. You are left hanging in the air to find out why was this

letter sent to me. What does it say? You have to call somebody to find out what the letter is about.

Then, many of the people will tell you they deserve promotion because they have a degree. If you do not get back to the basics and make people understand that grammar is real and that effective speaking is in itself a sense of dignity and self worth that is very important... It therefore behooves people to understand that they must not try to be so modernistic in their approach to the English language. I cannot see how you could be asked to write an essay and you have not had the basic preparation in grammar.

Sometimes those of us who have tried our best over the years to communicate effectively with people find them laughing at certain speeches. I recall one evening I went to a function and the man said, "If I were to..." These people laughed. My face was so serious and when I came down one of the young ladies came to me and said, "How he could be talking about if he were..." I said, "Where did you go to school? Who taught you? The person then did not know the English language. He did not know grammar because you should not have been laughing at the person. I think the man is sorry for you, now."

These are things that people do not seem to understand which make them look foolish. We hear them and I am asking that people who are communicating to take special note and get their own Nesfield Grammar Book and Ridout. Get their spelling book and don't be ashamed. Make sure when you double the consonant. You have to do those things. If you do not do them and keep on...

Life is a learning experience. Somebody told me one day that "since he has finished his education..." You never finish your education. Life is a school and that is why we have so many people who are misfits. They do not know anything about the English language. They do not understand grammar and they keep on using singular subjects and plural verbs and they sound badly and because they are lifting their tone their friends think they sound good. All these funny things like bad pronunciation make you feel a bit sick. Sometimes you feel you would laugh and then you feel sad. I want to see grammar being taught back in the schools as separate. Everytime you say this you hear people saying we have English Language and they have to write this and that. How are you going to write a good report to any funding agency, let's say that that was your job? The funding agency would laugh from word one, because you do not know what you are explaining.

Some people wonder why some people get money from funding agencies. It is because they can express themselves properly and the moment the funding agency sees that proposal they go with it plus your

little communication. That is how you come to get money. A lot of people are able to succeed because – let me tell you – the mighty English language is a beautiful language.

We must also go back to making these children learn verse. Go to the library and give them an exercise in going to the library. When they come back they will have to tell the teachers about the books they read. These are the things that are going to make us continue on an upward path.

The next thing I want to see being taught in every school... and I do not follow the foolishness when I am in somebody's country I still have to do what I do in my country. If you send your child to school in China do not think they will teach it the way you teach it in Barbados. They will use their own methods. I think that religious and moral education is very necessary for every single school. Give the children something on mornings to think about. Let them read a verse from the Bible and explain it. No time could be wasted in bringing up somebody in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. You are setting a good moral and spiritual standard for that child's whole development. That is education. You understand around you. You are able to speak about the things around you. That is what education is.

Another area that I want to see more exposure being given to is tertiary education. We hear of a number of people going to tertiary institutions in Barbados. Many young people at the Community College are doing fashion design. It was not unrealistic when Elsa Klensch came here that almost everyone of the people had gone through the Community College of Barbados. Thank God for that Community College. For 2 years, hard work. Some of them realise now how hard it was to get through that kind of thing where you have to use Maths, English, all the subjects you know, to draw fashions, to devise patterns, measurements, how you had to come up with various styles.

I am pleased that there are many young men and women on those courses and they do very well. A number of them are working for a number of people in Barbados, for the same tourists we keep talking about. Some people come in and want to have something made right away and these people are so well equipped. People in Jamaica and England have always wondered how Barbadians could look at a style in a book and cut and make it. Both the tailors and the dressmakers. It is one of the real gifts which we have. If we think of marketing that seriously through the Community College with the extension of the business community assisting them so that as soon as they graduate the business community will take them under their wing, they can get orders because the same way you order privately you can order through them. I think that is a way of helping them.

Now, the National Development Foundation on the other hand. They come to us and get a small loan to buy their raw materials and indeed many of them have done this. They are on their way. They are not begging anybody for anything – "We are proud. We have something to offer. "We are not beggars." That is all because of the foresight of those people who have put that institution in place.

Mr. President, when I see we are turning out pharmacists and various technical people from that institution it makes me feel very proud to be a Barbadian. Also when I see the young people from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic making desks and chairs and so forth that again makes me feel proud.
11.20 a.m.

You can order from these students, and I am telling you this now, from the Skills Training. This is why I am saying it has not been sold enough to people because people do not know. Perhaps hoteliers would like the service but they do not know of it. The upholstery they are doing in this retraining programme is fantastic. I understand now that some hotels have given them their furniture to be upholstered. They thought they did a wonderful job. No longer are those people going to throw away furniture because they cannot get it upholstered properly. Also the kinds of tables, chairs, stools and all the very things they can build for you, I know because I have ordered things for my unit and they have built the tables and stools with proper specification.

They have folding tables that you can take around, unfold a table, put it up and teach your class if you want to teach a class in the open air or whatever. I am saying these things are not publicised enough. How many times do we see it on television promoting these young people and given them a feeling that they have done something at last that is good? We only promote the ill and we do not seek to promote the good.

Also in that area I should very much like to compliment the School for Continuing Education. I am a member of the Advisory Committee but that has nothing to do with the work that has been done there by Dr. Bradley Niles. Of course, he has helped with a lot of other things. But there are many teachers now that have gone back to that institution and given of their talents. I think that is a step in the right direction. Some of us did not realise we had a problem with literacy in Barbados but it is hurtful to think that some people are reaching the age of 40, some even younger, and they cannot write their names. This tertiary institution has been able to develop a project, get a former headmistress to assist with that project, and some other former teachers. Those people can sign for their own money now. They can do a number of things they could not do before. They did it very quietly. They did

not go about embarrassing anybody because say what you like people feel a little embarrassed if they are not able to write their names so the recruiting process has to be very delicate.

The other programme, and I am saying why I think these institutions deserve more help because of what they are doing even with their limited resources. They have had programmes for taxi drivers, people from the Sanitation Department, you just name it. They have had a 2-year Diploma Course for secretaries that has shown a secretary in a new light. The secretaries are moving on up all because of an institution like that which seeks to go out into the community and have classes all around the island, not only for the people in Bridgetown so they may learn skills and continue their education. That is what it is about.

Some of these people never made a cent before. Now they have earned skills through the Skills Training, the Polytechnic and the Community College. All I want to see with that is that the skill is matched with exchange programmes taking some of those young people with fashion to California and even France. It can be done. Do not tell me it cannot be done. It does not have to be done with Government's money. All the persons involved have to do is to write a proper proposal to funding agencies and on behalf of Barbados they will be doing it so that when anybody starts ringing about the money being spent, you can laugh at them because it would not be one-cent of the Government's money. You have been able to get that money to help your own fellow Barbadians to see what the big world has to offer.

Some of them may be attracted to do modelling, as we have quite a few Barbadians who are outside. Only last week I met a young lady who had spent 4 years in France. She has a wonderful job in Italy as a model. Many of our girls are doing it in London and the United States of America. The sky is the limit when you have acquired a skill because in the wide world there is always upward mobility when you acquire a skill.

Mr. President, under the area of Health, Head 36, I want to say here that I am proud of the record we have established with our health care in Barbados. We have looked at people, if you want to say from the very womb to the tomb. We have been catering to the children even before they are born with all the different exercises and classes for mothers and children and also for persons who are suffering from special diseases. For people who are suffering from heart diseases there are various organisations and groups who are able to utilise our Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I think that is a step in the right direction. Many doctors have put themselves at their disposal.

It is true when you have a programme of health which has been affected by the way how some people eat,

then these lifestyle diseases can cause you to spend a lot of money that you need not have spent. What we are very interested in, and I have seen good steps in that direction, but I think the staff of the Nutrition Centre needs so many more people because there are a number of polyclinics in this island. If they go to a few of them then there is nobody in the office. People are depending on that service on how to eat properly. They give them various booklets and pamphlets. They do follow up on them. They check when they have had blood sugar tests to see how it is going and what the diet is doing for them.

These polyclinics are a blessing in disguise because many of the senior citizens who could not afford to pay a doctor are able to be seen, treated and educated at these polyclinics. There is need for more staff there as well as at the Nutrition Centre. When I say staff, I mean doctors too. We know we cannot do everything through Government but what I am saying is that those people who have money in our society, or who have access to funding, should be only too happy to pass on the information to either the Minister of Health, the Matron of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, or someone because we have seen recently, and before, people giving gifts of machinery, kidney or whatever.

In our community we have to be more caring and stop talking about the Government. The Government is only a few people. They are not even 100 but we are the thousands out there. We have a lot of power. We are the people. Therefore we must try to see how we can help those who are in need, see how our organisations can get together as some are doing, and I congratulate them, to buy certain pieces of machinery that we need to improve our health.

Preventative medicine now is the thing. Those people who have already got a disease they have it. But we have to take great care of our young ones teaching them the right health and eating habits so that they do not become obese, lose their teeth early or get bad eyesight early. All of these foods are available locally that can help people to be healthy. We do not have to spend as much money in the future if we do this on health care as we would have spent on preventative medicine so people would not be affected severely and we would have a whole sick population who cannot really produce anything. I would like to see an industrial nurse in every industrial place in this country and where they cannot have one industrial nurse they could share that industrial nurse between 5 or 6 companies. But they should have a team. I visited a factory one day when one of the ladies fell ill and it was very fortunate, God rest her, that the late Marjorie Taitt was accompanying us on that trip, because she was able to fill in and I turned to the Manager and said, Sir,

you see the need? You see why I have been calling for industrial nurses? With all these hundreds of women you have here....

11.30 a.m.

I know Senator Mazie Barker-Welch will be touching on women. I don't mean your Senator Barker there. But of course he loves women, he has children and he has a wife so there is nothing wrong with that. I know we feel very strongly about these large groups of women working in these places and they have health problems and therefore people are going to carry those problems to work. It is only natural. Sometimes they have problems with stress and strain and there is nobody to talk to them with any background in psychology, no nurse or anything and therefore this is something I believe. I am not sure, but Honorable Senator Clarke will correct me, as to whether Government has it as a must for the industrial estates. But I hope if it is not a must it will be made a must because we must cater to the health of our people. Sometimes we only talk about producing. Tell me how can a feeble soul who is weak produce anything? There used to be an old saying about two poor cows making up good dung. But my grandmother used to say they cannot even dung. So therefore if you are weak and feeble you are not able to produce anything and especially people who work by the piece. You have to produce so many collars or so many cuffs or so many whatever it is to get money or at the end of the week you will go home with \$60, because your health is impaired in some way and there is nobody there to spot the first sign and send you to get a check.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, you have got 2 more minutes.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President in that 2 minutes I should like to touch on consumer affairs and I should like to congratulate first of all the Ministry for the Consumer Education but of course we need more and more of that. We need it to be built into the schools' curricula, because it is very much part of home economics or human ecology, on the CXC syllabus. So we have to think very seriously about building that into the school curricula.

Also, the question of re-training of our retrenched workers. I should like to congratulate them for doing that because here you are seeing that people who did not really have a skill were just working counting things or something like that in a factory. Now they are acquiring different skills, as I said, upholstery, carpentry, auto-mechanics, food preservation, you name it, they are acquiring it. Again here I must stress I want to see that the educational television is fully utilized in bringing over these things to the children. I do not think that that medium is utilized enough and it should be utilized to its fullest and also our local CBC television to get across the message of the re-training and the training that you are doing.

I should like to see more being done in the area of people working in cottage industries doing handicraft and the work being collected once more from their homes. It used to happen before. And they can be paid and they will still be able to do their housework and do a craft and acquire money and not be beggars or not be worrying anybody at any Welfare Department. That has been done before and I would like to see that being done in its entirety around Barbados – a very intensive and sustained programme on cottage type industry which can keep a lot of people at home but keep money in their pockets.

I would like to stress here that under the area of tourism I still go back to the fact that we have to introduce everything local to eat and to wear to the tourist. We have to get back into the area of having little exhibitions when the tourist boats come in. I thought of the highway just opposite Pelican Village having the Police Band or local folk singers down there and as the tourist pass up they can purchase their trinkets and things like that and go on their way. And people can set up drinks machines and the tourist will be able to buy fruit drinks and things like that. All in all we Barbadians have to be very sure that we make Barbados safe for ourselves and in doing that we will make it safe for the tourist.

We have to ensure that we keep Barbados clean and in doing that we will be keeping it clean for the tourist. We have to have a well ordered society. Parents have got to let their children understand, you are not ruling me I am ruling you and they will not walk about and confuse the hotels and behave however they feel like and nobody can speak to them.

Mr. President, I think seriously, and I know that with God at the helm, Barbados can make it and I promise and pledge that until every drop of breath has left my body I will continue the fight for us to be committed people to this lovely country, Barbados. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Inniss.

SENATOR W. LeR. INNIS: Mr. President, we have had the overview, the lengthy overview from the Honourable Minister. We then had the critical comments from the spokesman for the Opposition and we have had various contributions thereafter.

Very seldom do I believe that there is any reason to repeat anything that has been said and has been said well unless for some reason I did not hear what was said. I would therefore, Mr. President, just concentrate on making a few comments on a few Heads this morning.

It was significant that the Honourable Minister made mention of the fact that among the objectives of these estimates is the restoration of law and order. I do

not believe that many Ministers who have had the honour to introduce this type of Bill in the past would have had to make that comment and that is indicative of the particular times in which we live, that we all must now pay a serious attention to the restoration of law and order.

The fact that it has to be restored means that it has broken down or is breaking down at the least. I do not think that anyone who lives in present day Barbados can even try to pretend that there is not a wave of lawlessness going through this country. A wave of lawlessness that has never been experienced, at least during my life time before.

There were times when others would try to make fun of it and tell us there is lawlessness in New York as well, but we do not live in New York. And we would like the people from New York to come emulate our life style but some of us are so short sighted that we believe we must copy everything in New York, including New York lawlessness rather than show them that they should see how peaceful law abiding citizens live. We must say, "what happen you get mug in the subway in New York so you can get mugged in the bus stand in Fairchild Street".

Some of these people who speak about New York would be well advised to know that there are cities and communities in the United States of America which are now more peaceful than Barbados. I have had the pleasure of staying in Indiana where people leave their doors open and drive around and return home. You do not see policemen around. People live comfortably. So we do not have to accept that lawlessness is a necessary fact and way of life. Again, you know when we have deprivation, unemployment and poverty that it does contribute somewhat to people becoming misfit to the society and looking for the easy way out by robbery, *et cetera*. Again, too many apologists are using unemployment and poverty as an excuse for what is nothing but crude behaviour, lawlessness and unforgivable conduct.
11.40 a.m.

I challenge anyone to tell me that the Barbadian of 1993, in spite of the difficulties, could experience the kind of poverty which the Barbadian of 40 or 50 years ago would experience. When little children who can visit their grandparents now and say, "Grandma, you do not have a water heater. How do you live?" What water heater would we have known of except the saucepan or the stove if it was extremely cold? Some people had to get the bucket overnight and put it out in the sun in the early morning and that was their water heater. Now our life standards have increased. We are taking things for granted and using every silly excuse to say that Barbados has changed because of unemployment and we have some poor people. We have always had poor people. We will always have poor people.

Sir, that brings me to the point that we have a duty to support our Police Force. We know that there was a time when the Police Force was going through a period, partly brought on by themselves because of the actions of a few foolish members from time to time who would take advantage of certain members of the public. Those people must be weeded out. But by and large as a nation we must support our Police Force. We must have an efficient Police Force which understands what instruction is. We are not speaking of a repressive Force. We are not speaking about a brutal Force but we are speaking about an efficient Force which understands its job first in terms of crime prevention and thereafter in terms of crime detection and eventual prosecution.

Sir, I have been reading the Annual Report by the Commissioner of Police for 1990 as well as that Report for 1991. In these years, I noticed that the Commissioner in speaking about the question of promotion and, if I may quote from the Annual Report of 1990, Mr. President, which is already a document of this House on page 5:

"Promotions are still being made under the 1954 Promotion Rules. It is believed that they have served their purpose. In excess of 20 years, efforts were being made to have these amended without success. It is necessary to have those amended so the Commissioner may have more control over those to be promoted, *et cetera*."

In 1991, he speaks again and I quote:

"The hydra-headed problem of promotion which continues to plague the Force. No junior promotions were made in the General Force for 1991. A few senior promotions were and junior positions remain vacant much to the dismay of junior aspirants."

Sir, I am not here at this time to say whether the old promotion regulations are adequate or inadequate. I will say that naturally one would expect the operations of the Police Force to be in the hand of the Commissioner of Police and his senior officers. But clearly, no Police Force or its leadership can be an order unto itself. It must be answerable to some other authority, person or persons. The same Report of the Commissioner states that there is some dissatisfaction. I do not know if it is justified or not justified. But what I am saying is that one must look to see what is the reason for this particular point being made year after year. Address the matter. It may mean telling the Commissioner that there is nothing wrong with the regulations. Get ahead with your work. It may mean other people saying that we admit there is something wrong with the regulations and we will do something about it. There should neither be reason nor excuse for dissatisfaction in the Force because of any method of promotion. If it is either a reason or excuse, whichever it is, the

problem needs to be addressed because a dissatisfied Police Force cannot be an efficient Police Force.

The point of promotions must be important to anyone in any organisation. In anyone's ambition, when one starts at the bottom of the ladder one would expect to reach if not to the top at least halfway up. There are very few people in life who are satisfied to die in the same position in which they were born. It is one of the things that you have to understand. In a society like ours, one fights for upward mobility.

On the last occasion, I spoke on this matter and I made mention of something which struck me as strange. Newspaper reports week after week and year after year refer to what a Sergeant so and so is solving a serious crime. On the last occasion, I wondered why after all these years a Sergeant so and so was not an Inspector so and so or a Superintendent so and so. If the police's function is to investigate crime and bring criminals to justice, since we cannot believe everything that the newspaper tells us but sometimes you see photographs, why has he been a Sergeant for 10 years? It is one of the things that strikes me as strange. I repeat it to look at the opposite side of the fence today and I want to put it on record. I know nothing of the Sergeant. He is not a friend of mine. I am just a citizen who reads the newspapers and keeps seeing this ace Sergeant's name coming up all of the time. I was wondering if this ace Sergeant can detect crime but cannot pass exams. I do not know. But if there is nothing before us, the mind has to work and one wonders why. Now I have a different situation today. If you are looking for those who can pass exams, what happens now to these people who are going and studying and returning to the Police Force and they are now completely dissatisfied that after 5 years of study they remain sergeants as well?

Sir, we have to be very careful. All the university degrees in the world cannot make a policeman. We have to be very clear about that. It is short-sighted to believe that the Police Force must only attract a few sound bad men. Well, that would be absurd. We must have a mix. We need those who will benefit from education and part of the compensation would be to receive accelerated promotion. There are some who will never become Commissioners but we look also at their work.

It is my belief, Mr. President, that after promoting persons who go off and study and return with degrees, very often law degrees, I suspect that you may find some elements of the existing Force resisting the idea that the same constable and the same sergeant whom they trained would be their leaders sometime in the future. But the Force must not be so short-sighted, because it must ask what kind of police force do we need in the 20th century. If you are saying that education assists in the Teaching Service, education assists in the general Civil Service,

education assists in industry, why should education not assist in the Police Force? If I were a member of the Police Force, I would want to see it an educated police force, because there is still room for the hard-working officer who does not have the benefit of formal university training but who is a good policeman, who works hard, who understands his duty. He must still be promoted. It happens in the Civil Service. You have people join as Clerical Officers and become Permanent Secretaries, you have others with university training who start a quarter way up, halfway up and some do not make Permanent Secretaries, because sometimes you misplace trust in the piece of degree, so it works both ways.

11.50 a.m

I would think, Mr. President, that the Police Force has a good opportunity, because many of those who go off to study are policemen of 8 and 10 years' standing. So you already know if there is any policing in them and the decision should be made at the time of the grant of study leave. If I do not think that your further education can benefit the Force, I will not let you get further training at the expense of the public. When I speak about benefiting the Force, I mean if because of your demeanour, because of your aptitude, because of your interest and conduct you only want to write exams and bypass the system, that is not the kind of person we are talking about. We are speaking about good policemen who add academic qualification to their policing skills. It is a waste of time to have them there sleeping at the same level, because they will be lost to the Force and the money spent on their training will not be wasted, because you hope they will still be in Barbados, but the Force will still be where it was 10 years ago.

Another thing we must look at, Mr. President, to give some kind of satisfaction to policemen. When they put their lives at risk – and I think that very often we do not consider the kind of risks involved in policing – you hear a noise around your house and you call the police, as though when a policeman comes he is some super human. He has the same flesh and blood. A knife could take care of him the same way it could take care of you, but you call the police. He will clearly understand that it is his job, for which he has been trained, and he is supposed to come, but we find that sometimes it is thought that the policeman makes a mistake, we have all our bleeding heart liberals pulling down the Police Force. They are killers, they are murderers, they are this, they are that.

Mr. President, I am not advocating police brutality, I am saying that the Police Force is sometimes put under unnecessary pressure from a few so called liberals. The public has recently taken upon itself to join the words of those liberals and we saw within recent months an attack on members of the Police Force. Where are the comments of all these citizens who have been speaking out in favour of the police and against the criminals who have been attacking the police now? They have been markedly

silent. While it is their right and duty to protect the public from police brutality, we want to hear their voices just as loud and just as clear to condemn the wanton acts of aggression against members of the Police Force.

Our system, Mr. President, is becoming so slow and the wheels of justice are now turning so slowly that sometimes you wonder if there is any correlation between the work of the police and the work of the courts. I would think that we need for a strong, sharp message to be sent to the criminal element when it can be seen that shortly after an arrest we could read about the wheels of justice turning quickly and the culprit is paying the price of his actions. But when you read of brutal actions and serious crime; and sometimes for 3 years you hear nothing more about that, "what happened to the man who got killed down so and so?" "What happened to the spate of rapes?" The public hears nothing for about 2 or 3 years, because it could take as long as that before these matters could get before the courts now.

I get the impression that we are now accepting delay in the court system as a necessary evil, but does it really have to be like that? Are we making enough effort to ensure that the court system become far more efficient? I will submit, Mr. President, that we have to look at the reasons for the inefficiency. Various agencies and organisations have tried to target the inefficiency, and some of it does not take the kind of money that one would imagine, to hear you know it is a poor country and it takes millions of dollars to make our system more efficient.

Let us look at a simple thing. In the year of our Lord 1993 a Judge of the High Court of Barbados sits down with a piece of pencil or a pen to write out every word that a witness says. How can we explain that in 1993? It does not take a fortune to have the necessary equipment for the courts to be automated. Other persons and other places have done it. The prices are known. Indeed, you know, it is not a saving of money, a Judge's salary is far higher than a Stenographer's, and when you have a Judge turned into a Stenographer, it means you are slowing him down. He could only do half a Judge's work, because half the work is stenographic work and you are paying a highly placed person to do a clerical function, to write down what somebody is saying, and the witnesses and the lawyers must talk like babbling children. "M'Lud, I submit that," and you stop that His Lordship could write down "I submit". You cannot talk too fast, because he cannot write it down, so in a whole day half day's work is done, through no fault of the presiding officer, but because he must wait to write down what the witnesses say. If the lawyer wants his submission to be recorded, he cannot speak as I have been speaking here all morning. I have no doubt that when I am finished speaking everything I say will be recorded faithfully. We can get equipment for Parliament, as they should have it, but those who go to

Parliament know the price. We can get it for the courts. It is not as elaborate as this, it is not as much as this, and I am saying the time has come when we have to start taking this thing seriously.

Let us face it. When people are in public life, in political life, a lot of action is motivated by how many votes will I get. I suspect that may be a necessary evil, because you could do the best and still if you do not get any votes you cannot continue doing it. There are no votes in the court directly. I do not know if that is the reason why it is so often overlooked, but I am saying when our system of justice breaks down, the votes that the politicians get will be no use to them. Our courts are the last, that is the final bulwark between the citizen and the protection of our democratic process of life. It is the courts at the final day on which we have to rely if we wish to protect our democracy, and I am urging upon the powers that be to ensure that the courts are not treated like the second spring, they are given their full rights.

Some money has been spent recently, Mr. President, in making our Court of Appeal operational. For a long time there has been a call for a Court of Appeal and at last within recent times we got a Court of Appeal. What is the point of establishing a Court of Appeal if we are not going to make sure that all the other things that go to make it efficient are in place? Otherwise, the initial investment would be money partly wasted.

12.00 noon.

There are still cases which have been heard in 1987 and 1988 that have not yet got before the Court of Appeal. Questions must be asked. Why have they not got there yet? It is not that the Court of Appeal judges do not want to deal with the cases but they can only deal with what is put before them. There is an old adage "Justice delayed is justice denied". It is just not an expression. It is a fact. How can we speak about justice if a man is languishing in prison for 2 or 3 years and when the case comes before the Court of Appeal it pronounces he was always innocent? Can you take away the 2 or 3 years of incarceration which that man has suffered?

There have been cases that when the appeal came before the Court the man had already spent all the time and gone home. He had to leave his house and return to Court to hear his appeal to say he should not be in prison any more. That is not right. We do not even have the consolation prize to say such a person is compensated. There is no amount of compensation that can really pay for a man's imprisonment. At least it would have been a consolation prize if he received some kind of compensation for being in prison for a long time when he was innocent. When the Court of Appeal holds you were never guilty it means you were never guilty.

Inquests. This is now like a litany. It is like when you go to a church that has a set order of service and you go to church every Sunday and you hear the same service and the same litany. People associate the Courts year after year with a backlog of inquests. It is not just the matter of a formality of having inquests in Court. There are many women and children out there in our society who cannot receive compensation that is due to them because there was no inquest. We do not know officially how the person died and therefore insurance companies are saying, and correctly so in Law, that they cannot deal at that stage yet. They have to wait for the findings of the inquest. Is it going to cost a fortune to make some temporary arrangement for a backlog of inquests to be taken care of? There must be legal – and you don't have to be a lawyer quite frankly to deal with an inquest – but since our tradition has always been to have a legal person there must be some funds to be found to make temporary provision for relieving that backlog so that the present magistrate can get ahead with the current work and make sure that the backlog is not perpetuated.

These are the kinds of things that only those who suffer at the hands of the system know about. They are not the kinds of things you hear on the call-in programme every day or you read in the newspapers every day but there are people out there who are suffering because of this kind of problem.

When you have this backlog of cases you can find that sometimes 2 adjournments can bring your case into another year. If for some reason a case has to be adjourned twice because of the backlog sometimes, it means that you are a year behind. People cannot understand why this is so.

I am submitting, Mr. President, that we have to look at these things carefully and do not just let year after year the world's asking for an improvement in the justice system fall on deaf ears and say, "let it ride and next year somebody else will come and say the same thing again. We will forget it until next time we get around to the Estimates period again."

Mr. President, I would like at this stage to take a short look at education. This is one area in which everybody is an expert. Every Tom, Dick and Harry knows what is best for education in this country. Before I am asked to practise what I preach and asked why do I want to pontificate on it when I am criticising some of those who are pontificating I shall set my qualification to pontificate. I have spent a lot of time and training in education. I consider myself always as an educator. Not that I have all the answers or most of the answers but at least I have a little insight into looking at some of the problems.

You are amazed when you only have to make a man or a woman the chairman of the PTA and he or she knows

how to solve the educational policy in Barbados. Your Chief Education Officer who would be trained, practising it every day, your teachers and headteachers who are trained in it say the problems are not so straightforward, "We have to put our heads together. We have to try." But, make the village blacksmith PTA President next week and every problem will be solved by some glorious speech. If he can use words, God help you. It could be a he or a she.

I would submit, Mr. President, that our educational system is not the disaster that some of the people in this country would want us to believe. Of course it has problems. It needs correcting. We need stopping a lot of holes but it is not a disaster. Many persons if they had this system in their country would feel proud. We must stop burning up our energy in pulling it down and instead direct our energies in looking for the weaknesses and stopping them up.

The Minister of Education has recently spoken about certain reforms. if you look at it broadly I think you can use a broad heading from 11+ to 14+. Lest anybody thinks that that in itself will solve all the problems, I am sorry for them. It seems as though, although all the details have not been spelled out, there might be some merit to the proposals. We have to examine the proposals and see wherein lies the merit.

One of the things I would like people to understand is no matter what system you introduce you must have assessment and at some stage assessment will weed out the sheep from the goats. There are some persons in this country who try to give the impression that whenever there is an examination there is something wrong. Don't examine anybody. But, you must examine. Let us look at cricket which again every Barbadian is an authority on. Some fellows are good at school level and can play school cricket but they cannot get into a club after school. Others can get into a club but they cannot make the Barbados team. A select band will make the West Indies team. I am saying that when you find Garfield Sobers and you tie one of his hands behind his back and you put a bat in the other hand, he will still be better than many of us when we have 2 hands and a bat in those 2 hands. Some persons have gifts that others do not have. It does not mean that we should all strive to be a Sobers. We strive to be our best but we recognise that in particular areas we cannot reach the top. Some can be better off expending that energy to become good footballers because that is where their aptitude is.

I would say then that if there is 1 problem with the system it is that too often we have made it appear as though you were either in the academic stream or you were a drop out. That is one of the areas we have to correct. I can remember a few years ago you would hear people say, "Well, she's not bright. So, let she go and do typing. She's a half a fool, so she can do typing." Would you

believe that some of those people after they did typing would turn up in somebody's office 20 years after and say, "I am a secretary. I can type. I have 30 words per minute or 40 words." But common sense and experience have now shown us that you don't have to be dull to do typing because the secretary is not only a person who can do typing. You must understand the English language, communication skills. You must have basic commonsense. It is not a matter that you cannot make it in this grade so you go into typing.

I know a lady, Mr. President, who was very annoyed with her nephew because he has 5 "O" levels and he says he wants to be a refrigeration technician. She cannot understand why. He should go into the Civil Service or become a clerk. In her days if a tie was not around your neck you did not have a respectable job, but the marketplace will take care of a lot of these prejudices. When the refrigeration man is earning 3 or 4 times the salaries of the clerk and the school teacher, many of his friends will say, "I want the job that pays the money. You keep the tie and give me the cheque." We school teachers have had to live for a long time with many of our students laughing, "Thank you for what you put in my head, boy, but I wish I could give you a job now to earn half of my pay." To the school teachers it is part and parcel of the job, it goes with the trade. If you were trying to become rich you would have left it. You pass on information and the information is passed on very often to assist others to do much better financially than you have done.

I think, Mr. President, that is one of the greatest satisfactions of anyone who has gone into teaching, who is really a school teacher. You feel proud. You do not see your students with envy but with pleasure. That is one of my students. You are proud that you have produced the person who many people think you should be envying. The President of the Senate points at me. I hope I make him proud as he says, "that is one of my students". That is how life goes around this place.

To those who are the experts on education one of the things they mistake is the significant difference between education and training. People are telling you now that when a child is 11 years old you must make them carpenters, electricians and cooks in the school. That is not education. That is teaching for a particular skill.

12.10 p.m.

There was a Minister of Education in this country some years ago who said he would like to hear the Barbadian carpenters at the workbench quoting Shakespeare. That is not an idle dream. That is what it should be. You educate people for life, not to do a particular job. When you have your broad education you are able to simulate the various skills and other disciplines into which you find yourself. While we must not use our academic training to mean that only those who excel in the

pure academic training are those worthy of success, we have to recognise that you do not take those children at 10, 11 and 12 and decide there and then these are the carpenters, doctors and electricians. You decide to train citizens who still have enough time to specialise in their particular area as depending upon their aptitude and ability.

We often speak, Mr. President, of the levelling process. Education is a good leveller but some people would like to see it levelled down. There are some people in this country who would like to reduce education to the lowest common denominator. Since everybody cannot get up, pull everybody down. Not only in education but society. We like to lessen standards. We hate standards to be too high in this country. I have never seen people being called experts so quickly as in Barbados. Sometimes you pick up a newspaper and read "So and So is an expert in this and an expert in that". Wherein lies the expertise? What has he done to deserve this label? But you think that if you cheapen it all of us could get into the boat and become experts overnight.

Mr. President, while we cater for all the broad cross-section of our students, we have to recognise that there is nothing to be ashamed of being bright. Some people now want you to be ashamed to know you are educationally gifted. Even in the old communist countries they had institutions for their gifted scholars. Every country needs an intellectual elite. I am not discussing snobs. That is not what I am talking about. I am speaking about people whose minds must be trained to be put at the disposal of their country. You cannot level down everybody. You have to provide facilities to accommodate the brightest at one end and the dullest at the other end and the vast majority of us will find a place somewhere in-between. But now people have to feel ashamed because they are bright and fast movers. Every device is being used to pull back those and to criticise any institution that is producing people of scholarship.

You recognise some people in the present system at 11+. You recognise some at "O" levels, others at "A" levels, some when they get the Barbados Scholarship. But in between there are some who are excellent at 11+ and fall by the wayside before they get to 6th Form. They are some who fail the 11+ and end up in leading professions in this country because they developed at a later stage. What we must provide is the opportunity for our people to develop, recognising that all do not develop at the same rate and speed.

This country, Mr. President, has prided itself for many years in its education. I would say it is something of which we must be justly proud. I think I will speak without any fear of contradiction that any child in this country who can benefit from a primary education can find a place in a primary school. That is not the case in some of the

other Caribbean countries. Any child in this country who can benefit from secondary education can find a place in a secondary school of some kind maybe school A or B type but if you are of secondary age you can find a school to attend.

My plea, Mr. President, is for this group of students who cannot find a school in Barbados, and I speak for the disabled, our society is still at a stage where it is not paying enough attention to the disabled among us. There are children with physical as well as mental disabilities and they cannot all find places in this country. There can be some debate as to whether or not they should be integrated into normal schools or not. Certainly, there can be no debate that every Government owes it to the children of this country, especially those who are disabled, to make sure that the ability which they have – because, remember, he may be disabled, but not incapable – to let these people develop to the extent of their capabilities.

I am saying that if you want to find out a sophisticated society, you look at the society which takes care of those in need, the aged, disabled among them, people who cannot help themselves in the same way that some of us may be able to help ourselves. These people are not asking for hand-outs. They are asking for opportunities. When they are given the opportunities, you would be surprised to see what they can do.

I spend a lot of time, if I may say it, Mr. President, working with groups among the disabled in this country. I will say the disabled people are some of the most thankful citizens in this country. They love Minister Keith Simmons, the present Minister of Justice and Public Safety by his very presence among them. I am not saying what he has said. They speak with me. They say "I know Mr. Simmons is going to be at Church tomorrow when we go". That in itself is interpreted by them that they have a contact with Government. There is somebody in Government who cares. I am passing on the word to others who will follow in the Ministry that they had better earn the love and respect of those children as the present Minister of Justice and Public Safety has done. Nobody had to teach them that. They feel it and express it.

When you have such a disability you already start with the others ahead of you in the race. Is it asking too much for us, even in these days when funds are short, to make provision for those who have been neglected for so long? Since there is not enough space in public schools, some private organisations have had to come in. They are suffering. They need help. I would give credit to the present Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs when he first took over the Ministry I know he was instrumental in increasing the grant to some of these institutions.

The Learning Centre is one of those institutions that is doing a great work with limited funds. Its teachers are

doing a work of mercy. They are not recognised. I wish to put it on record, not for Hansard only, but for those who are to follow up on it, that when we sit and look around for people who are getting medals and honours, let us look among those who work with the disabled and let them get some public recognition. I know teachers in these schools, some of them can get better jobs. Some can go in Swan Street and work for better pay but they see it as their life's task to devote it to the disabled children of others. They are not paid in dollars and cents. I believe they will get their reward in Heaven but we must give them some recognition on earth as well. While we work towards Heaven we still live on earth. A little recognition sometimes does as much as a few dollars.

I repeat, Sir, when the time comes for recognition for honours, look among those who give service without the television cameras, not those who join clubs and organisations of prestige hoping that if they get the presidency for enough years something will go along with it but those who selflessly, without any hope of reward have given their life struggle, the Challenor School, the Learning Centre, to name 2 institutions where a great work is done with very small resources.

12.20 p.m.

The Minister mentioned in his opening remarks that the school meals service was extended to the Challenor School and some other private institution. I am calling on the Ministry to extend it to the Learning Centre. They are our Barbadian children there including the children of poor Barbadians. I know what I am talking about. Some of them have scholarships. We go around some of the better off members of the community and beg them to fund a student because we cannot see a student turning up who needs it but must be turned away because there is not enough money to keep that child in a school. I hope this appeal, Mr. President, will not fall on deaf ears. Let us take a closer look.

I heard the Minister in recent times mentioning lots of things that the Government intends to do for the disabled. I am calling on the Minister publicly to put into action the words which he has said and the words which have opened the expectations of our disabled. I cannot stress it too much that I would ask that 1993... I know the Estimates are there already. I know they cannot go back and slip in something at this present time but where there is a will there is a way. If the willingness is shown I know that the way will come.

In closing, Mr. President, I would think that if we really want to have a good Barbados we would see education as something for life. We educate people for

living and if it is inculcated into our lives that you educate people for life and for living you will have no problems with tourism. As Senator Fraser was saying you do not have to do anything for tourists you do it for yourself and let the tourist enjoy it. If you inculcate the correct values, Barbadians would know that an attack against the tourist is not only a wicked and criminal attack as it is against anybody else but they would also know it is an attack against the economy because that would have been shown to them in life. Barbadians will learn that tourists are not a crowd of rich white people who have more money than sense, that they must rob and mug. They would know it is an industry to be fostered and that they are guests to our country and must be treated with respect but before you can treat the visitor with respect you must be taught to treat your own with respect. You must be taught to treat your parents with respect, to treat your teachers with respect. Barbadians will learn that when they try to pull down the leaders of the society, whether it be the political leaders, religious leaders or any other kind of leader, that you can disagree with a man's politics, you can disagree with a man's religion, you can attack him vociferously but you will not pull down the institutions of this country. You will learn that you do not go to the law courts and demean yourselves by acting in an unseemly fashion in the law courts because you are not bringing only yourself into disrepute but you are bringing law and order into disrepute and bringing your country into disrepute.

Senator Fraser has to come and keep stressing on agriculture and food comes first and eat what you grow because that is part of your education. You would not need every different forum to take out their little bit because in the schools we must see education as an integrated process where we are taught how to live and I commend to our educators that they have a programme of civics. Because it is not for self-publication or as a personal gain but it means that if we appreciate what one means to love one's country, if one can understand one's civic duty, if one understands that there is nothing called Government buildings. Where does the Government get buildings from? When you deface buildings you deface our buildings. Governments come and Governments go but Barbados will go on. When you have a programme of civics where you integrate the values, where you look at our constitution to see how it can be improved, see its strengths and its weaknesses we will be turning out people who are ready for the Barbados of the 21st century. I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Thank you, Mr. President. In giving my approval to the 1993/94 estimates I am going to look mainly at Head 39 - The Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment, Head 28 - The Ministry of Justice and Public Safety and Head 36

- The Ministry of Health. I am going to give mainly general remarks in those areas but look at specific areas.

The first area, Mr. President, I would like to look at is the area of Health with the St. Joseph Hospital. There has been a lot of talk in this country in recent weeks and during the debate downstairs, both the Estimates and the Budget on the subject of the proposed subsidy that is given to the St. Joseph Hospital and the question arise to my mind around the whole question of how people view the importance of resource allocation to health care. I saw in the newspapers that the Opposition chief spokesman for the Budget even went to the point of likening the subsidy or at least making a comparison between the Transport Board, at least the whole idea of not giving help to the Transport Board workers and trying to compare that in relation to giving a subsidy towards the St. Joseph Hospital.

I am saying, Mr. President, the kind of comparison made by a non economist, someone who would see health care as a social concern and not an economic concern. But I cannot understand a learned economist and any modern economist for that matter, who is worth his or her salt and who know the arguments that exist in the whole allocation of health care by the private market system and we have to recognise that when we look at the arguments we are looking at the disadvantages and advantages within that private market system and when we look at how that system can achieve society's social objectives in terms of looking at efficiency and equity or social justice then I am saying that a learned economist would know the problems involved in maybe looking at a private market system alone without Government intervention.

This does not mean of course that when the private market systems fail that automatically there is a need for the state to intervene and that will bring all the success. What I am saying is that if you understand the economics of the area then you would recognise that in a democratic society and when we are talking about looking for social justice then we cannot, for arguments sake, say that the private market system could exist alone and not have Government intervention but I will try to point that out a little clearer as I go on.

I think that the Opposition's confusion, however, stems from the difficulty of measuring health care and I am saying that there is always the problem of the benefits derived from certain types of care. For arguments sake if you are having communicable disease, to get treatment for that is not only of benefit to you but it would be a benefit to a number of others. The example that I can give, if for arguments sake, you are treated for whooping cough you not only reduce the probability of your getting the

disease but also the probability of others contracting that disease and you cannot measure it easily. So I am saying that some people want to measure benefits in relation also to who gets the treatment. This could be some of the problems with the Opposition's argument. In terms of if a particular set of people is worthy of the kind of treatment, it could be the poor against the better off. You may say better off people should deserve a better level of care than poor people. That also could be one of the arguments. Also, I think that this came up very strongly that some people look at the volume of persons treated. This came up in the arguments on the St. Joseph Hospital. Since this Hospital is catering to this small number of people, why should it be there?

12.30 p.m.

Sir, I am saying that there is always a question of what proportion of the country's resources should be devoted to the maintenance of its citizen's health. That is always a question. I am saying that in a democratic society we must ensure that social justice is done and that it is achieved. There are certain objectives that we aim for in a society like this. I can name maybe three of those objectives. We look for a minimum standard of treatment for everyone in need and we look at equality of cost. We have to look at those objectives in a little bit more detail to understand clearly what I am talking about.

In a private market system, the poor may not be able to purchase the treatment that they need. For example, if a charge is made for a treatment on a contagious disease and if it is expensive, a poor person would not get that treatment. As a result, hundreds of people could be put at an increasing risk of getting that disease. The system can lead to inequality in another area because people with a higher income would be more likely to purchase better treatment. Hence, you have unequal treatment for equal need. Another thing we can look at is this. We can see that people could be asked to pay the same price but the sacrifice that a poor person may have to make in order to pay that price, of course, would be greater than the person who is better off.

Sir, all of these things you have to question in your mind when you are looking at the private market system. It is not necessarily a clear case of saying that it is being privately run and, therefore, Government should not intervene. We are talking about a hospital that is in a working class area. Government can intervene in a number of ways with provision. It can also intervene also in terms of regulation and taxation or with subsidization.

We are talking about the St. Joseph Hospital in terms of having a subsidy. We are looking at it also in terms that a number of working class people can go to this hospital and get free treatment along with people who have the

capacity to pay. We are talking about a situation also in the North where it is very difficult to get to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as easily as the people in the southern areas or the Bridgetown area or even the upper St. James area. We are talking about a hospital where a subsidy is being given to and where there is going to be an Emergency Department. We have seen in recent weeks people in the northern area who had illnesses and two of them that I can recall died. It was said that if they could have got to the Hospital in time they would have never had died like that. Forty-five minutes of waiting before an ambulance got there. I heard the argument that we can try to buy some more ambulances and, therefore, let the ambulance get to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in a half hour and what good roads we have. Of course, that is another question in relation to what you call good from one point. But we recognise that those roads in that area will soon be looked at coming onto the highway too.

Sir, I am saying that even, if you look at the difficulty of even getting an ambulance in the northern area on time, it takes a half hour before it can get there and then another half hour to get to town. In 45 minutes the person is dead because they cannot get the services. You can understand the kind of assistance that a hospital needs so that it can treat its poor people in the area. We are also looking at the situation even when there can be transportation by car where if you have to hire a taxi, it is expensive from that point. I think it is over \$60 for one trip up and \$60 back down. In an emergency, no one knows how much they might be charged. You can understand the difficulty of a poor person. I am not talking about people who are better off and who might be working getting from that point to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

We can look at the whole question of overcrowding at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Look at the kind of pressure that that puts on people from the North who are poor again, working class people, and who do not have the kind of contacts that the better off might have to call their private doctor and make contact with the hospital and then let the Hospital decide that it is an emergency and this person is coming. Those poor people are there waiting in an overcrowded situation to see if they can get attended when they get there. Yet, we have a hospital that is in the North that could attend to those people if there was only help from a source like the intervention by the Government.

Sir, I really cannot understand how the Opposition's representative for that area do not understand the people who live there and furthermore understand the problems that exist. But none of those people live in the area and seem not to know anything about the situation. I can appreciate the problems that we are going to have with that kind of argument and if it influences anything.

There is another problem in the area of doctors. This happened only a few weeks ago where this young lady died. Again, the family was trying to contact a doctor in the area to try to get help for the doctor to come to the house. Of course, there was no help. No doctors to come for that kind of assistance. There are not many doctors who work in that area anyhow and the ones who work in that area are not willing to come out anyway. Therefore, it is not a situation where you are in St. Michael or something like that where you can go to a clinic at night to get assistance.

So you see the kind of situation. I am talking also about the psychological trauma of the family when people cannot have the comfort of knowing that if anything should happen we have somewhere to go in an emergency. I am saying it is not to be taken as lightly as you would like. 12.40 p.m.

Mr. President, we can go on arguing about that for a long time, but I would not want to do that. I just wanted to clear up a few points on the necessity of having Government intervention in, if one call it so, the private market system, the dire need to have that, if you are catering to a society, and if you understand the culture of that society, and if you understand that there are working people there who must be attended to. I am saying that if we know that we are talking about a country area and we understand that in the north — you see, there is this question of whether the north should be serviced, as though there is some feeling, some bias against having something that is of that nature in the north. Why should they have it? There is no need for you to have it down there, and yet you have so many people who can come there and be attended. I am saying we have to get away from that kind of bias and look at the problems that people suffer.

That St. Joseph Hospital, in the middle of St. Peter, should cater to employment for people from the northern area. I am saying that the possibilities exist that people in the northern area can get employment at that hospital and I want to see a number of people from the northern area employed there. It is true and we understand that a lot of people from the north come to the southern area to have employment and therefore we cannot have all the employment. I know there will be the argument with me how do you expect to send your people up here and then when you have something no one must come down, but I am saying that we must ensure that our people in the area also get some of the employment, and a large bit of the employment, in that area. It lends comfort to the people to be working close by and also lends to people getting to work in more comfort and ease, and therefore easing the burden and the pressure of stress in a lot of workers in trying to find transportation that is now posing a big problem in this country, because it is not yet organised as well in the new system. I am saying that that in itself is

posing a problem. Therefore, to find an area where we can get close employment might assist in that area in terms of the comfort.

Mr. President, I would like to leave that area and look at the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, and just for a brief moment to look at the whole question of crime. I am not going to spend a long time on this area, but I want to say that we know that crime is socially undesirable. I want to look at it in relation to a few ways on how it impacts on employment and to say that it can have a very negative impact on employment, in many ways.

For argument's sake, widespread theft can lead to a substantial loss of production, and the labour that goes into planning and carrying out robbery could have been used in the production of other commodities. It is argued that criminals do rationally plan how they are going to utilise their time and how they are going to utilise the whole concept of criminal activity in terms of ensuring that the benefits outweigh the cost. So that if they recognise that they are not going to get as much from stealing a necklace, the cost would not be worth it, they would not steal that necklace. If they feel that their chances of being caught easily are greater than the benefits that they are going to get from breaking your house and taking your property, then they will not do it. It is a kind of rational decision, so I am saying that we have to look at it in terms of how also the time is utilised to see what we can do about that, even from that area, so that production is lost due to crime.

We have to look at employment also in terms of how it affects the victim, because people's incentive to work is seriously impaired if everything they purchase out of their hard earned income is simply abstracted by someone else, and someone who has not worked for it. So you can imagine the psychological effect on the victim.

I brought those points and I know that there are lots of others in the other areas as to why it is necessary for us to have control of crime, and that control has benefits in terms of reducing crime. We know that, but we also have to look at the costs that are involved. There are costs of apprehending, convicting, the punishment of the criminals, and then the preventative activities such as police patrols. I want to look at that for a bit, because there was a lot of argument in the debate during the last few weeks that although it is argued that the Government should not tax anyone else, they should not tax insurances, they should not tax the various areas, yet there was a solution, if one should say, or a suggestion raised that they should tax people at least \$5.00 insurance, people who have their property insured, in order to pay for the addition to the Police Force that is being requested by the Police Force. I am saying that there are a number of suggestions that are being made in terms of trying to find ways of controlling crime.

I am very convinced that we need to increase the numbers in our Police Force, but I am saying that in the same way – and you heard me mention earlier that there might be a need for Government intervention when we need things done, when we have a private market system going, then there might also be the need in this regard for us to have greater reliance on the private sector in this regard, where I am asking for private assistance to Government in relation to police patrols. I am saying that we can work out a system where police patrols are paid for, you can pay for it annually, for those people who are better off, for those people who can afford the payment. We recognise that some areas are greater targets than others and therefore I am saying that for house patrols and business patrols we can have assistance from the private sector in the private market in terms of paying for those patrols. So I can imagine having police patrols by individuals and they will pay for the man hours. The policemen will not belong to the people, so do not let us run off and say I have now given the private sector a reason to own the police. The man hours will be paid for and based on how many man hours that individuals pay for then you can have patrols in the areas. This can help to alleviate crime.

12.50 p.m.

Now, we will look at the whole system of free riders. Everybody will say if I pay for that she or he will ride free. That is a question and that is one of the problems you will have to look at but what I am saying is that never mind who pays at least it will assist. We have to look at it that if we are talking about getting back to the community system then we have to understand that there is a need for communities to come together and even pay for that system so that when we have house patrols in the area during the day you can pay for it based on what hours you want them to come by. Then it would be a community effort if it is not an individual effort.

I am saying that might not supply the 200 policemen being asked for. It might not supply 100 but if we have some help maybe we can get 50 or 75 trained police patrols who can patrol those areas and ensure the alleviation of a lot of the crime. As I said earlier, when the criminals recognise there is a presence of policemen in the area and the cost of being caught may be greater than the benefits to accrue then they will be more likely to stay away from criminal activity.

Mr. President, I want to leave that for a moment and look at the question of workers under the Ministry of Labour, the proposed wage freeze, the proposed incomes policy and the impact that it is having on us. A lot of talk has been going backwards and forth about this proposed incomes policy and a number of persons want to blame the workers for the proposed introduction of the incomes policy. Some politicians in the Opposition who want to

score cheap political points want to blame the workers' representatives. I want to put this issue into perspective by looking at the employers' response to the downturn in the economy, the workers' expectations, the trade unions' historical relationship with the Democratic Labour Party Government and their present Government's responsibility to the nation.

Let me declare and I suppose everyone in here knows that I am a trade unionist but I want to say that we in Barbados in the trade union movement to a large extent have historically identified with a social ideology that was the popular base of the 1991 manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party. The majority of Barbadians, including trade union members and their representatives, supported and rallied behind that ideology. As a matter of fact, in the Caribbean from as far back as the late 1959 to early 1960's trade union representatives in the Caribbean and their members supported the major political parties which were in the forefront for change in the independence struggles to break the economic stronghold of the foreign ownership in these territories. We know the history of that.

The trade unions were willing partners to these governments and supported ideas of industrialisation and nationalisation in the various territories and at varying levels and in varying ways. Through this policy the State became the largest employer. Senator Barker yesterday said that it employed 20% of the workforce. I am saying that it became the largest employer throughout the territories.

I am trying to show how trade unions became involved to the point that the trade unions ensured that governments became good employers. Of course, the government of the time, what I call the romantic period of the 60's where things were booming and the governments did everything in their power to ensure that they were good employers and created avenues for employment by making full use of the new state enterprises that were established.

We know that a number of public enterprises were established in this country and some of the Caribbean islands. As a matter of fact some of the islands do not know how many public enterprises they have. They do not have anything on record in relation to that. There were a number of public enterprises and some people call them statutory boards that were established under state direction.

Let us see what is happening now. Mr. President, the recession and turbulent times have led to significant change in the role of government in its practice of industrial relations. People now see governments and trade unionists, representatives and members as not being progressive. The same governments that they supported the social ideology of, they now see as not being progressive because of the recession and the turbulent times and the pain that these times are causing.

I am saying that the Democratic Labour Party Government in this country has therefore had a drift from the social ideology that we supported and the ideology that was used as the popular base in this manifesto. People in Barbados still on the whole want to identify with that ideology and feel it is the only ideology that will work for them. No other group has shown that they are worthy of that kind of support. But, because of the drift that I am talking about in terms of a social ideology that the Democratic Labour Party has had to go under, the workers are hurting and they are hurting badly and they want people to identify with that pain.

I am saying to you that as a workers' representative and as a person who has studied history in detail that that drift has to be a temporary one. The Government has adopted these unpopular measures because of its need to get the economy back on track and also because of its dependence on the international lending agencies, not because the Prime Minister goes home at night and studies how to put some bad measures in place to affect the manufacturers or the producers or the workers. We have to be realistic and keep focus.

When this crisis is over or when it has subsided, the Democratic Labour Party must get back to its historical, ideological tenets otherwise it will not be the Democratic Labour Party. It will have to change its name. I am saying the position is there. It has had a drift and we have to be realistic. Whether we want to believe it or not that is what has happened. It is a drift. It is not a purpose thing that the Government has said let us do this. This is not what we want to put in place. We are talking about a drift because of the times and we have to understand that. When we recognise a drift and we admit that drift, then we can go from there. If you do not understand your problems, if you are not prepared to deal with them then you will never get over them.

1.00 p.m.

Sir, when things are good we hardly critically analyse the situation. It is no use blaming the workers for the need for incomes policy as I have seen a number of people do out there because it is felt that they are not productive. The management in this country needs to lead in the areas of productivity. They are accustomed leading in all of the areas of employment before and all of a sudden, as it comes to a question of productivity, you hear the blame go on the workers that they do not work, therefore productivity is down, and they have to understand how to commit themselves to work. I agree with that. That is what we preach all day but a lot of people in this country have a wrong concept about productivity. I am not going to go into a lesson on productivity here today.

I did not listen to the television debate but I see in the newspaper that the Opposition's chief spokesman on the Budget again looked at the whole question of the Prime

Minister's attempt to ease the pressure on the foreign reserves by reducing imports and cutting consumption of goods and services while leaving the productive sector intact and it did not work. Of course, he did not carry through his arguments. He never does, really. That is why we would not hope to get...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Senator is really misleading the Chamber. She has taken something out of context and has not gone on to state that the Honourable Member, Mr. Owen Arthur, when he stated that the Government was dealing in that particular instance, that it also failed to deal with the productive sector. In fact, Mr. Arthur spoke at length on the productive sector so when she purports to say that he did not go on to finish his argument, she is misleading the Chamber in the most serious way.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. I need to say this. Yesterday when we were introducing the Bill on the first reading I made the point, and I believe all Honourable Members avoided reference to anything to do with the Budget debate. It has no relationship whatsoever to our activity. Senator Walkes, in my opinion, was out of order to bring it in here. It has no meaning in here. I think we need to avoid the whole matter. We are dealing with the Appropriation Bill and not with any comments by anybody in the Other Place in relation to the Budget.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I am sorry if I am out of order for mentioning the areas in the Budget but I mentioned that because of what I saw in the newspaper. I thought that usually we could mention things that were in the newspapers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no. Let us ignore what is in the newspaper. Proceed.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: We have to ignore what is in the newspapers? We do not mention what is in the newspapers in here?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not because it is in the newspaper. If it relates to the Appropriation Bill, fine but not otherwise.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: The whole question of the productive sector not performing has been an issue in this country for the past week. There are comments to the effect that the productive sector was left intact but it did not work although the Prime Minister tried to ease the foreign reserve situation by doing this. Therefore, I am saying rather than blaming the workers

that the productive has gone on an economic strike, they have gone under and we have to ask ourselves why they have done that, although they were given the incentives to perform or were allowed to be intact but they did not perform.

Workers should not be blamed for the uncompetitiveness and low productivity because we recognise that in a capitalist economy you must have rising productivity and wages move with rising productivity. The entrepreneurs in this country must have vision and thinking. The private sector must find ways to expand the economy and seek avenues to create foreign exchange. Maybe a little later I will say a bit more about that. The trade unions have basically taken a nationalistic approach in their response to the measures by the realisation that the economic crisis in general was not solely Government's making but that industrial instability could not contribute in any significant way to the solution of the crisis. If workers are going to be nationalistic, and bear their share of the burden, then the employers must be willing to sacrifice and share in that burden and accept reduction in their profits on their investment.

In this country the productive sector has depended extensively on foreign goods to manufacture their products locally and then sell the same products on the local market after they have had a large percentage of foreign imports. By doing this, they are not finding markets overseas. Thus they are creating a foreign exchange problem because they are raping the Government of its foreign exchange. Each time the Government has to replenish them with foreign exchange to get new goods, you will find they will get profits and become rich but the workers, the Government, and the country, will become poorer as a whole in the meantime. That is why I say they must have vision and thinking and must be able to find ways and means of creating markets overseas and get foreign exchange and not necessarily trying to find excuses when they do not have large profits to send home workers.

1.10 p.m.

Someone suggested where a company had millions in dollars in profits, over \$11 million, but because they had dropped about \$800 000 from the 1981 position they declared that they were going to lay off workers and this is the situation. You are not having a deficit you are having a drop on your 1991 profits and that is an excuse to lay off a number of workers and just send them home. I am saying there is no kind of commitment at all to workers. What are we saying in this country? Are we saying that workers who have put in their sweat and their tears for all those years are worth nothing to us? Do we not find them a part of our company that we want to retain them and let them continue with our companies. Now is the time because things are not as good and we can just send them home, let us get rid of them and we would not have them around us any more because they demand too much, because workers also will

be looking for job security and job stability. They love what they do. Hundreds and thousands of them love what they do. I am saying that we have to look at that.

The whole question of privatisation comes to my mind because it is being seen in this country as a negative thing and I am saying that it does not necessarily have to be seen as that. It could be seen as very positive in the process of democratic development and I am saying that popular consciousness is now ensuring that we enter into economic democracy.

This is our third stage of democracy. The first two stages that have gone, economic democracy will be the third stage and I am saying that we need a social policy in privatisation not a question of trying to sell off to the highest bidder but to get workers to feel that this is a transfer of some the rewards for their labour and not seen as something they should not have.

Comments were made and I think Senator Barker made them in here yesterday in terms of the BNOC having profits. At the moment it is doing well and there should not be divestment at this time for that. Are you saying that workers do not have a right to be part of a company that is doing well? That they should only be part of a company when it is doing badly. Is that what we are asking?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President on a point of order. I was not making that point I was talking about selling out things to foreigners for one and I was looking at the whole history of the BNOC that when you sell out to foreigners what is to stop them in the future from stopping oil production and going back to the situation that obtained before we actually nationalised the company. I never was against workers getting a share in the company.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thanks for the clarification, Senator Barker.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we have gone beyond 1.00 o'clock, I propose a suspension now.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I am going to finish in two minutes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right, you may have your two minutes.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: I am making the point, Mr. President, that workers should share in enterprises that are doing well and very well. That this is the time to let workers have some benefits, not only for themselves that they can have profits that can feed on to their children, that they can build businesses, companies later on to assist with their families and with their children and

that we have to look at having a social policy to do this and bring the benefits to the workers which they deserve, so that divestment can then be seen as a positive thing if it is done in that way and I am saying we have to look at that to ensure that it is done properly.

Mr. President, would you give me a few minutes in terms of the incomes policy so I will wrap up my talk?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh no, I will give you one more minute, Senator Walkes.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: The incomes policy must have efficiency and equity and that is why maybe it might not be a good thing for it to be legislated because none of us know what is going to happen at a later time and therefore we need to be able to look at ways and means of changing what is happening if circumstances should change. So I am saying that Barbados still operates in the work place as a kind of plantocracy and we need to be able to understand the culture of what is happening and that the international lending agencies need to understand the culture of a country and we should not be just slaves to any kind of policies without thinking seriously of discussion and the Government does not need to have any unilateral decisions, no secrets and no surprises on the workers and their representatives but they need to have dialogue in this country. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I move that this sitting be suspended now until 2.30 p.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed and Mr. President suspended the sitting until 2.30 p.m. 1.18 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

ELUCIDATION

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I do not rise to make my invention on the Estimates but to seek Your Honour's approval to have a matter clarified, elucidated or whatever you wish. It has been drawn to my attention that in one of today's newspapers there is information which was provided to the Senate yesterday, which information has been found to be altogether incorrect. I consider that the Senate should have in its records at an early date an explanation and correction of that erroneous information which was fed in yesterday. I am inviting Your Honour to agree that Senator Clarke, on a point of elucidation, presents this correct information for the records.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. President. Yesterday in my presentation I relied on some figures which appear in the Memorandum to the Draft Estimates 1993-94 at Table No. 7 on page 4. The correct data should read as follows:

Under the caption General Public Services, the 1993-94 figures should read \$188 918 011.

The Defence and Security figure remains the same and that is at \$19 996 780.

The Education figure remains the same at \$216 244 448.

The Health figure remains the same at \$174 382 576.

The Social Security and Welfare figure has changed. The figure should now read \$90 785 777.

The Housing and Community amenities figure remains the same at \$17 886 372.

The Other Community and Social Services figure has changed. It should now read \$22 618 633.

The Economic Services figure has changed. It should now read \$174 202 337.

There are no other changes. In my winding up speech with your permission, Sir, I shall have much to say on the relative changes. I thank you and I thank the Chamber for allowing me to make the corrections.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are welcome. Senator Barker-Welch.

Order No. I (resumed).

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. President, I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill which is now being debated in this Chamber. A great thinker, I am not sure if it is a man or woman, once said that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. I shall be endeavouring in my contribution to light a few candles.

Mr. President, during the course of this Appropriation Bill debate, we have heard some interesting and thoughtful contributions from Senators. Some interesting suggestions have come up and, in general, the contributions were of substance. Unfortunately, we have also had the sort of political diatribe that makes newspaper headlines but does nothing to raise the standard of debate or to provide the sort of constructive criticism which we need at this time.

We all know and appreciate that Barbados along with several other countries is going through a difficult financial time. Money is hard to come by with the result that many of the freenesses to which Bajans were accustomed

thing to know that just around the corner from my house two days ago a woman was walking with her groceries and she got them taken away and her hand cut in the meantime. I am saying there must be something that we can all do together to help those people because I am not convinced that it is just the financial strictures. I am not convinced about that, Mr. President, and I do hope that people will not just lay down arms and say, Oh, well, we can't do any better, the people cannot get anything to eat so they go and steal and all that. I do not believe that. I think, Mr. President, if we all get together and give a united front, if the newspapers will do their part instead of spreading false figures and false information, if they would do that.... Some of the things I have said here, I have never seen them in the newspaper. I have never seen them go down and interview somebody who is doing something good for the country. They do it from time to time, but it should be a standing rule, especially at this time, that they should get the positive side and not confuse people's heads because Barbadians are strange people. They take the newspaper as gospel. A lot of people take the newspaper and they read it faithfully on mornings, every word, and they say, "Hey, it was in the newspaper, the newspaper said so, so it must be so". I call on the newspapers to do their duty as citizens of Barbados and let us bring back Barbados in the moral way to where it was and in the financial way even a little better than it was before. I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the last speaker, the Honourable Senator Barker-Welch spoke of lighting a candle in darkness. Indeed, Sir, she said that it took a lot of courage. I agree, Sir, that it takes a lot of courage to light a candle to initiate the requiem mass of the Party to which she belongs.

I also wonder, Sir, if that was not her intention to light the requiem mass whether she was doing what Edward Seaga beseeched the people of Jamaica last year to do when there was a division in this party to sing a sankey, light a candle and come home and whether she, herself, is lighting a candle singing a sankey intending to come home to the roots of her father within the bosom of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We shall see.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir, we shall see. Especially since she expects next year to provide a better outturn than this year and I will hold her to those words, next year, that in the event that we are still in the same position she will be welcomed on this side and even, Sir, to cross from St. Michael Central to St. Michael North East and put the vote the right place.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Now you have your invitation.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Having said that, Sir, I find myself here rising to debate the Appropriation Bill and to debate what is in effect, Government's plans for its expenditure and its revenue over the next financial year. Basically, Sir, having been prepared on the basis, to a large part of what has happened in the last financial year and much of what has happened, Sir, in the last financial year has been found or can be found in the document which was laid by the Honourable Senator Lewis yesterday – the Economic Report for 1992. And that is part of the basis upon which Government prepares its plan for the financial year coming up, in this respect 1993/94. Over the last few days we have heard a number of speeches which have changed in nature somewhat from when we first came in here in 1991 and forgive me if I just refer briefly to one or two points that were made by Honourable Senators in this Chamber within the last few days. I think perhaps it would be remiss of me if I did not point out and congratulate Senator Phillips on his speech particularly as it related to development within the tourism industry and what Government should be doing. I would say, Sir, that perhaps quite cleverly it is perhaps the most scathing indictment of Government's tourism policy I have heard in this Chamber in the last 3 years. I applaud him, Sir, for that courage.

In respect, Sir, of the Honourable Senator Clarke's outline, Senator Clarke sought at the beginning of his presentation to raise 5 goals as the goals of this Government in the upcoming year and indeed in years to come.

3.20 p.m.

If I remember correctly, Sir, he spoke of seeking and maintaining stability and equilibrium in the balance of payments position in the hope that we keep 2 to 3 months support there in foreign reserve. (2) He spoke of a growth of 3 per cent in the economy. (3) He spoke of holding inflation below 5 per cent. (4) He spoke of restoration of law and order. (5) He spoke of increase in employment.

Sir, even a peripheral glance of those outlines will indicate that the order in which they come belies a lack of understanding as to how things work. To believe that one can restore law and order without dealing with the problem of unemployment, Sir, is to be in a fallacy. But to get to the more substantive point, Sir.

Only one of those five goals in the last year has been attainable on the part of this Government. That one goal is the protection of the balance of payments has been at the expense of the other four goals. We heard talk last year by the Right Honourable Prime Minister which could be found in the Estimates debate of 1992-93 where the Right Honourable Prime Minister perhaps then more conservative than Senator Clarke spoke to the House and said these words at page 1501 of Hansard.

"It is anticipated that there will be real growth of 1.2 per cent and that all of our efforts will be focused in that direction. The major engines of this growth will be tourism (which had a 2 per cent decline last year), construction (which had a 17 per cent decline last year) and the business and financial sectors."

Sir, yet again we had yesterday Senator Clarke compounding that by now telling us that Government expects a 3 per cent growth in the economy this year. From where, Sir? At a time when this Government has been registering declines in the productive sectors to the extent that your revenue, the \$925 million at nominal cost that they said they earned last year from tourism, is still below the 1988 receipts. Five years later, with inflation having gone up by 6 per cent in each of those years almost, your nominal rate of receipt is still below what you received in 1988. Yet, this Government comes year after year telling the people of this country that it expects to see growth. Fraudulent, I say.

Sir, this Government told us as well that they expected to see a boost in the construction sector and that would have gone in a large measure to dealing with the question of unemployment. What do we see instead, Sir? We see a situation where unemployment is over 25 per cent in Barbados and where more than 31 000 people are out of work in this country in a work force of 124 000. Yet, Sir, they told us last year and the year before that unemployment was going to be dealt with by the boost in Government's capital works programme and boost in the construction sector. What do we have instead, Sir? We have the Ministry of Finance in their own words telling us that construction activity has not been able to pick up largely because of the high interest rates of Government, the inability to access those interest rates and those funds in order to build, and also by the level to which Government has carried up the cost of building through the high rates of indirect taxation at a time when they have brought people's purchasing power down by their other fiscal policies.

Sir, what do we have? Year after year, I submit that we come in here and we say the same thing. We hear the same thing from Government. We hear anticipated growth. We even have the Central Bank jumping in on the act now when last year at the end of July they had the temerity to tell the public of this country that they expected that the economy would grow.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: That is true. Hope springs the turner cannot be the dictator by which the Government runs the affairs of a country, Sir. The task of forecasting in the Ministry of Finance and in the Central

Bank has become as nebulous as a husband forecasting whether his wife is going to quarrel with him when he gets home late from work. It was never meant for forecasting within economics to be as nebulous and as tenuous as that, Sir. I believe that those who are economists in here will tell you that there are people who have made a profession of perfecting their ability to forecast accurately so that Government and companies can properly do their business and plan for years to come.

What else have we heard in here, Sir? We heard what can only be described as a painful and tangled defence of the fact that the Prime Minister as well as the Ministry of Finance wants us in this country to believe that this economy of Barbados contracted by only 4 per cent last year in that the real output was at 4 per cent, but that the nominal output contracted by 6.9 per cent. We had the example of a person trying to defend the indefensible by stating that it could depend on how much quality attached to the new thing and talking all kinds of things which led Senator Bellamy to say that he really felt now that there was no way that he could understand economics if what the previous speaker had said was true. If the other members in the House of Assembly who are in the Government are not prepared to go to the same lengths to defend that kind of nonsense as when I hear it being defended by this member in here, Sir, I can only believe or speculate that the reason he is defending it is because he derives his sole and only authority from one man and that is in Bay Street.

Sir, if what Senator Beckles said in respect of real output and nominal output is to be true and that is that nominal output can exceed real output, it would mean that the wholesale cost which is used as the deflator cost on nominal output to arrive at real output would have had to have fallen. There is no indication that any wholesale cost in Barbados had fallen over the last few years. Indeed, it is to the contrary. Rather than having fallen if one looks at the retail price index and the rate of inflation, the logical conclusion is that wholesale prices in Barbados have gone up. If they have gone up, it means that when you take those wholesale costs and put them on to the nominal cost your real output must be greater than your nominal output. To that extent, Sir, we continue to assert that, if Government wants us to believe that nominal output fell by 6.9 per cent in this country, real output accordingly had to have fallen by at least 9 per cent and not any 4 per cent. That is on the basis of Government's own figures. Do you know what is sad, Sir? We have seen over the last 2 to 3 years figures being thrown about and bandied about in a way, Sir, that we cannot trust them. No less than in the report laid by the Honourable Senator Lewis yesterday, because what this Government is attempting to tell the people of this country is that it can put in arriving at a figure for nominal GDP, GDP at factor cost, Sir, it is supposed to use a figure of the total imports of goods and services, but instead of using the figure for the

total imports of goods and services, this Government has used a figure that is less than the figure for imports of goods alone. All the figures tally back up to arrive at 6.9% drop in nominal growth.

3.30 p.m.

Sir, if they put in the true figures, it will mean that nominal output in this country has dropped by as much as 10% and real output, by the time you add in the wholesale cost, which we know has not dropped, is approaching 13 to 14%. Let this Government deny it. Let this Government deny the fact that in the Economic Report that was laid in this Chamber yesterday the imports of goods and services were estimated to be \$976.9 million, at page 55, but yet the estimate for imports of goods alone was over \$1 billion. When they start to factor in, on page 50, the debit figure for travel and the debit figure for other services, your total figure for imports of goods and services is over \$1.1 billion. When you do the necessary subtractions at the bottom of page 55, it means that nominal output has fallen far in excess of 6.9%.

Sir, is it fraudulent? Is it in the same manner...

Aside.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Blame? This Prime Minister does not feel like he should take blame for anything. Is it fraudulent? Can this Government honestly tell the people of this country that this economy only contracted 4%? I do not intend to be part and parcel of any plan that will result in the deception of the Barbadian population. I do not intend to sit down in here and see figures being bandied about and asking us to believe that they are true and accurate because they come from the Ministry, or from wherever else, when indeed they do not reflect what is happening out there.

Sir, it is a blatant admission on the part of this Government that nominal output has fallen far in excess, and what do we have instead? Senator Beckles trying to justify that it can happen, trying to justify that all of a sudden the principles of economics are going to work in a way that no economist has known them to work to date, but maybe that is because he is not a practising economist. As a businessman, is he saying that if the cost of inputs to manufactured beer drops that he is going to maintain the price of beer at the same level as when his wholesale cost for the inputs was higher? Sir, if that is the case, Senator Beckles is ripe for price control regulation. If I did not know better, I would be tempted to say that his mind was labouring under a defect of reason.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Then it is good that you do know better.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: If I did not know better, Sir, but I know better than that.

Sir, what else do we have to deal with? We have Senator Beckles also trying to justify the position of going to a zero deficit. All I have to say to Senator Beckles is that he is young to the Chamber and therefore he should perhaps read the debate of 1967 when the former Prime Minister, Errol Barrow, assailed all those who sought to tell him that he should run a zero deficit, and made the point that to run a zero deficit as a developing country would be to strangle the baby before it could even start to creep. That is all I have to say on him and that, Sir. I am sure he will receive guidance as to where to find those remarks in Hansard.

Sir, the reality is that we are continuing to decline at a time when countries around us are experiencing positive growth, when countries in the industrial world are experiencing positive growth, and even the Prime Minister, when he attempted to tell us that there were international recessionary conditions in the industrialised world, in the OECD countries, made the mistake of going on and quoting the figures which showed that the only country in the OECD that experienced negative growth was the United Kingdom, and they experienced negative growth of 0.7%. Every other OECD country experienced growth, so do not let us hear this excuse about international recessionary times. And worse still, when we come home to the Caribbean the only two countries other than Barbados last year that experienced negative growth in the Caribbean are Cuba and Haiti. Is that the kind of psychological warfare that has been wrought on this country by this Prime Minister? That we can now be comfortably placed in a grouping with Cuba and Haiti, who have problems for decades and centuries?

Sir, Senator Barker-Welch quite correctly said that Rome was not built in a day, but what she failed to tell this Chamber is that while Nero was fiddling Rome burnt down in a day. In the same way the Right Honourable Prime Minister has presided over the decay of this country's economy and society in so short a space of time that many of us still have to wonder whether what we see reflects what is really happening.

Sir, when one can hear Senator Walkes who, in my opinion – and one thing I have always praised her for is the loyalty which she shows to her political party, and loyalty is an important asset – is the most rabidly loyal supporter of the Democratic Labour Party in this Chamber, can publicly state and admit that the Democratic Labour Party has gone adrift from its traditional principles – she did not even say "has gone adrift", she is leaving it in the present participle, "is drifting" so it is still happening, I feel a certain amount of empathy for her, and I wondered whether before she rose to speak the words that did not go through her mind at the time were the same words that Sir Thomas Moore uttered to himself on the eve of his execution: "Had I but served my God as well as I had served my King..."

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I object to that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes, have you risen on a point of order?

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Yes, on a point of order. I object to that. I do not know who would be my king and I do not know how the Senator would know what was going through my mind. I would like strongly to object to that comment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Mottley, you will withdraw that comment.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No, Sir, I only said I but wondered. I never said that was what was going through her mind.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh, you wondered.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I see. All right. Fair enough. She did not make it as a statement, Senator Walkes.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: But, Sir, I appreciate the difficulty she is having, because it is clear to all that this country has been the recipient of similar developmental policies pursued by both parties over a period of time. When the present Prime Minister took over it was as though all were thrown through the window and, Sir, what do we have? A continual effort to state figures, predictions of growth, predictions of unemployment when there is nothing that suggests that at the end of each and every year.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, it is a startling fact that in 1991 this Democratic Labour Party Government was elected and for every year so far – I echo the words of Senator Barker – there has been a virtual wage freeze and now we are being told there must be another wage freeze for the next 2 years so that it means that what you were earning in 1991 you will be earning in 1995 or 1996 at a time when prices are going up by 6% and 7% a year, at a time when the Prime Minister is extracting more in taxes from you, at a time when interest rates are higher than they were before 1991, at a time when land tax rates are higher, at a time when having told you last year that the direct tax reform measures were going to be revenue neutral, we see this year they have resulted in over \$80 million in increased revenue to Government. Where is it coming from, Sir? It has to come from somewhere.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Faith.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am tired having faith, Sir. I am not participating in any measure that leads to the deception of Barbadian people any more. Last year the Prime Minister came to this Parliament and told us that he was expecting to derive \$77 million in international financing to finance structural adjustment in this economy in order to get the productive sectors going again. He did not get any and I ask the question what did he know at the time that there was never any agreement between himself and the World Bank and the IADB as far as a year ago on measures that needed to be agreed upon for them to get those funds for structural adjustment.

He did not get it last year. He talked about \$77 million last year and did not get it. You would have thought that he would have learned from that. What happened this year? He comes this year and now tries to tell us that having told us he would raise \$77 million last year by that means he is trying to tell us this year that he is going to raise \$59 million from the IADB, \$26 million from the World Bank. Let us get something straight here, Sir. We are not talking about project loans like the sewerage project loan. We are talking about loans for structural adjustment. While the Barbados Government may still be eligible for project loans funds for which we must find bridging financing before we draw down the money, we cannot draw down any funds for structural adjustment until there has been an agreement between the Barbados Government and the IADB and the World Bank of certain fundamental aspects of our macro-economic policy.

The Prime Minister needs to tell this country if when he puts these figures in here he knew there was still no agreement between himself and the World Bank and the IADB. If he did, Sir, would it be too much to ask him whether that is knowingly deceiving the population?

In the same way the Prime Minister told us this year that he is seeking to raise \$58.7 million from other sources primarily being those from the commercial banks. This is foreign financing, not local, but yet, 3 or 4 weeks ago we came in here to approve a loan of some US\$12 million that took the Government the better part of a year to raise when it was trying to raise \$20 million. If they could not raise \$20 million how will it raise \$58 million.

Yet, this is the basis upon which the Prime Minister has laid this document and has purported to have this document laid as a... I had better not say that. We are supposed to rely on this. We are supposed to believe that Government says it can spend money on St. Joseph Hospital again because it is getting revenue from x or y somewhere in this document. We are supposed to believe that Government can spend money in the rehabilitation of the educational sector in the rehabilitation of all other social sectors of Government which by the way have all received cuts again on the basis of what is in here. We have to rely on this.

or became used to have to be trimmed down. But that is in keeping with any person who is in charge of a house or a business. When times become tight, you have to cut and contrive. You have to trim and you have to put some things on hold. It is in the same way that the women of Barbados and the men, too, after the World War II – I was a little girl at the time – had to cut and contrive. So I can vouch for the fact that Barbadians have the capacity and the resilience to combat any seeming misfortune. Government has to do the same thing. They have to be careful about the money they spend and after all Government has to look after all of the families of this country. I am convinced that this Government is shepherding us through this difficult period without the sort of devastation which has occurred in many other places. I do not only refer to very small islands or territories. I refer to places like the great United States of America where the cut in the social services has left that place limping. It has been very interesting to find that the new President has had to make some very hard decisions. It was amazing to find that after the polls were completed people seem to understand what was going on and are supporting him.

Of course, we must have criticisms, Mr. President. It is necessary in our democratic system that we have people who make criticisms and who sometimes can give us a little help along the way. As I said before, I am here this afternoon to light candles and not to curse the darkness. There are several candles burning in this little country in spite of the lack of financial resources. One thing that has happened, Mr. President, in certain areas when I meet some of the women folk and so on, I find that this period of adversity has thrown up a lot of inventiveness and capabilities that we did not know were there. In fact, we took these resources for granted because our standard of living in Barbados has risen over the years and people have become accustomed to living a free and easy life. But it is amazing now that they have to tighten their belts to see the useful things they are doing. Instead of bemoaning, they are getting up and making ends meet.

Barbados is fortunate that we are a small community and everybody is everybody else's neighbour. I say fortunate because no one in Barbados has to go through this very serious time without friends and without support. We have to learn to be our brother's keeper. It is in times like these when we can point out to those people who understand that we are to be our brother's keeper.

2.40 p.m.

In spite of the fact that resources have been cut, the social services in Barbados, themselves having a big cut, are still managing to provide the sort of care that is necessary in Barbados at a time like this. Especially at this time we think of the youth of this country. It is customary for people to blame the youth for all sorts of things and to forget that the youth have come from within the society, so

some of the same people who are talking they themselves are to blame, because they have not been the proper role models. The youth of this country are doing a very good job. It is a pity that a few of them going the wrong way has caused the stress to all of us, Mr. President.

The Youth and Community Department of this Government continues to provide projects. Right now there are over 100 groups that use the community centres as their headquarters, and do you know that many of these youths assist in the upkeep by keeping the community centres clean, and they are showing that they can be responsible citizens? Not only do we have the groups at the community centres, but we do have special programmes and projects organised by the Youth and Community Development. All these are geared towards self development.

A very innovative project is underway right now. I refer to the Youth in Business Project. This programme provides training for young entrepreneurs in an effort to assist them in making their goods and services more marketable. We have to thank the Organisation of American States, because they have co-sponsored this programme. We also have a directory of these young business persons. Plans are underway right now for 2 satellite centres to be set up, one in Bush Hall and one in Speightstown. These centres will have equipment, already the OAS has given computers, where the young people will be able to go to get information and advice on how to run their business, because the entrepreneurship route, even with very small businesses, is a way that Barbados can get back on the right track.

These centres will consolidate operations, all to do with Youth in Business, and some of these centres will be used as production units. I know of one centre in St. Joseph that was used as a production unit. These young people had learned how to make baskets and they sat at the centre every day and made baskets for some of the firms. I am sure many of you know the tiny baskets with miniature rum, sugar and so on. A lot of them were made in St. Joseph through one of these programmes. This Youth in Business will encourage youth. They have a lot of ideas, but sometimes they might not understand how to market their products or how to project themselves.

We can look forward in November of this year for a Youth in Business Week, a kind of an Expo, where the businesses of these youths will be on display. I think it was about 3 to 4 years ago we first thought of exposing them by bringing them to one centre and displaying their goods. I remember purchasing some handkerchiefs made of handkerchief linen that were so very well done. This young girl lives in St. Philip and she makes lots of kerchiefs, just a simple thing like that, but there are so many other things that the young people are doing.

One other very interesting thing about these community centres is that during the year, maybe July/August, we run sports and games. It was very heart-warming last year, about November, when I was asked, in my capacity as Parliamentary Secretary in that Ministry, to attend the function where these young people were getting their prizes. I really was surprised. This was in the Steel Shed, and that Steel Shed was filled with young people from all of the community centres. They had played dominoes, road tennis, all sorts of games, and they were extremely proud. But the thing about that function was that the people who had won did not have their own community centre, but they had a lot of initiative. We have to feel very proud when we have instances of this where the young people are showing that they can be responsible citizens.

One very interesting fact, too, about these centres is that a children's programme is being carried on at several of these centres. I find that rather interesting, because sometimes I know you go to speak to clubs and associations and you find people from the ages of 16 and up in the organisation, but sometimes they are little ones, brothers and sisters, at home who need some sort of socialisation, and this is a good way of getting it. At some of these centres these children's programmes have been introduced and they are carried on by volunteers from the community. That is very important. You know, people in Barbados look at the Government to do everything, and as one Senator said this morning about the Government buildings, what Government buildings? They are our buildings, this country is ours and we ought to volunteer whenever possible to do something to help the community, so it is a very good feature to see the community being involved in having, apart from the big group of adolescents and so on, groups of children. Whilst the darkness seems to be around, the candles are being lit.

2.50 p.m.

To my mind, the most significant development in the area of the youth is the Barbados Youth Service. That Barbados Youth Service, started just a little more than a year ago, has already become very important to this country. On a recent visit there, one could not help but feel the enthusiasm. It was contagious. Above all there was discipline. You know, Mr. President, that is something lacking in our society. We have given people free education. They get tertiary and all sorts of education but at the same time they lack the discipline.

While I am on that, one of the things people lack is patriotism. We teach them all sorts of things and Barbadians for the most part do not really and truly understand patriotism. Maybe we should do – Senator Fraser mentioned Goebbels – a bit of propaganda. I prefer to call it information. I think that every school child and every person in this country should understand what

patriotism is. When they see our flag what they should do. But, I am afraid, Mr. President, that some politicians do not even know the National Anthem. It is a disgrace. You should go to some countries and see the way the people treat their flag. Everyone is at attention and it is considered a horrible thing if you do something else, move around or fidget, while the national anthem is being played. I have to congratulate the staff of the Barbados Youth Service. It is a small staff. We do not have the resources. They have worked wonders on some youth whom we would consider almost beyond repair, so to speak. To go to that St. Lucy Centre and see how they respond, shows it was just a question of opportunity. They just needed somebody to point them in the right way. I am very pleased that in the curriculum of the Barbados Youth Service is a period of moral and ethical training. That is something that Barbados could do with a lot of.

My one regret is that at the moment resources are limited but we have enough persons in Barbados qualified who ought to be able to give an hour or 2 a week to the Barbados Youth Service. We have a lot of persons who have just retired – I am thinking of our teachers who at 60 retire and are still extremely active and their life has been with the sort of training where they will be able to deal with these youth from across the country.

We hope that the people of the country will take on these youth and let them understand we are behind them and supporting them and that the good of the country depends on them. This Youth Service at the St. Lucy Centre is a fit place. There is a lot of space and there is a lot of land. I envisage in the future, and I know that this is among the plans for the Barbados Youth Service, that it will become a self-supporting unit with emphasis on agriculture. I think there is more than 10 acres of land there just waiting for these youth to get down to it.

They are also trained in skills and we are planning to have some sort of remedial education. That is very important. A lot of the young people leave school without assimilating all that they were taught. Some of them cannot read properly and you know that reading is very necessary if you want to get on. You have to be able to read instructions, you have to be able to sign things, to do little tasks just by the written word. We are hoping that remedial education will be taught up there and also some of the young people there will be able to carry on with their CXC's.

On the last visit I was there I noticed a young lady who seemed to have great leadership potential. She was handling herself well. I was told that she has a good number of "O" levels and 2 "A" levels and she is not working so she is occupying her time with the Barbados Youth Service. She is one of the members there.

A very good feature of their routine is a camp. We feel that everybody knows everybody and everybody communicates, but it is not so. There is a lot of socialising that has been left out of some of these children's lives: to know how to deal and talk with people. The camp they attend gives them a chance to interact with each other and also to keep fit.

Now, that is one of my pet theories. People in Barbados need to be fitter and I think if they are fitter they will behave better. These young people walk several miles on mornings. It is a joy to see them. I would wish that everybody here would go to St. Lucy and see what those young people are making of their lives.

I would love if every young person in Barbados could have a shot at the Barbados Youth Service. You would not have to be there at 16 but what I am thinking of is between 16 and 20. There would be a cut-off age. When you go to university you would still have to do a year with the Youth Service. I think that would turn around Barbados. At the moment, we are doing the best with what we have.

Senator Ada Straughn who is not now in her seat made valuable contribution this morning. Of course, when it comes to education, she really knows what she is talking about. It would be a good thing if some people would take that advice and talk about what they know. When she tells you something about education it is gospel. She was giving some very interesting suggestions about Erdiston and education in Barbados. She also made mention of the Women's Bureau and I would like to say a few words on that.

Mr. President, forgive me if I am not using Head after Head because I think this encompasses all of what our money is going to be spent on. The Women's Bureau which was founded in 1976 like most fringe departments suffered from lack of staff but they are doing good work and I am very proud that last year the Government of Barbados saw fit to put into black and white which was never done before by any Government the National Policy Statement on Women. It can be made a document of the House. It is a very important document.

This is what we are going by. In it the Government has acknowledged the contribution which women have made in Barbados over the years. I quote:

"Women entrepreneurs in trade crafts and services contribute to meeting the needs of the Community and to economic growth. Many of the agricultural workers and farmers providing food for local consumption and crops for exports are also women."

We have the Government's National Policy Statement on Women and I am looking forward for an increase in staff

and also some other amenities that go with the Bureau of Women's Affairs because if the women of this Island of Barbados are happy, if they get what they deserve, the whole Island is happy. There are more households headed by women than by men. If you fix the women's area you will have fixed a whole society. There can be no development without women. Everything has to be cut. 3.00 p.m.

In the Department of Women's Affairs, in spite of the fact that the Women's Bureau was not able to get money they were able to put on in the International Women's Day this year, March 8, one of the best exhibitions and seminars I have ever seen in Barbados. Those of you who went to that exhibition would know what I am speaking about. That exhibition was made with the cooperative efforts of Dr. Angelita Sandiford and Miss Marvo Alleyne, the Head of the Women's Bureau. They worked long and hard to get that going. They did not get any money from Government but we have to thank Texaco who gave the money for the seminar. This seminar dealt with design of the products, packaging and food preservation. The funds also provided lunch for the participants. It was so successful that the women themselves who attended have asked for a follow-up which the Women's Bureau is going to organise.

The Women's Bureau is being helped also by outside agencies as are women's groups all over the world. That is why agencies such as UNIFEM, UNDP, UNICEF and in Barbados we have the National Development Foundation, Women in Development and WAND were set up because they are there to help with the various seminars and functions of the Department of Women's Affairs.

I heard an aside that the Government cut the money from the Department of Women's Affairs. We are going to show that even although that is so, as I have said before, we will be lighting a candle. We would not go on and curse the darkness. It takes a little exertion to get up and light a candle in the darkness. I guess that shows that those people who curse the darkness just sit down there and curse it but those who want to light the candle have to get up. They have to find matches. They have to find a candle and they have to get that little light. I am shedding a little light in this darkness this evening.

Sir, in spite of the fact that resources are limited, as I have been saying, the services which we provide for our less fortunate persons have continued. We have continued in the matter of welfare. I am sure I, along with a lot of other people, would wish we did not have this welfare, what I call handing out. It is not, to my mind, the best thing to be handing out things but you have to. There are some people who need the help so we have to provide that help. It is our bounden duty to do so.

The Welfare Department is not only responsible for handing out things. Do you know that the

Welfare Department also counsels families? The Welfare Department has a very serious function in that their counsel problem families and problem children. Several times money is useful, yes, but you can imagine a troubled family, that the correct counselling sometimes can bring a lot more relief than the actual money. Last year, 8 786 persons were recipients of welfare grants. We paid the water rates for 2 967 persons. We pay water rates for old persons. We paid electricity rates for 767 persons. Those are the figures up to December, 1992. That programming is going on.

We also have in the Welfare Department legal aid which helps people who, through no fault of their own, cannot afford to have a lawyer look into legal matters for them. The National Assistance Board is also doing a good job. These are areas of light. I know we can never hope to look after every single person that needs help. No country can do that. But I am convinced that we have in these welfare services a cadre of persons who are committed to the care of persons who are less fortunate.

In the case of the National Assistance Bureau, it is the senior citizens. The National Assistance Bureau continues to provide quality service especially for senior citizens. Not only quality service but they have also arranged picnics, cruises and making the senior citizens feel part of the community. As we know, people are living longer and longer these days so we have a lot of senior citizens out there who are not senile. They are quite healthy but they lack communication with other people. Sometimes they are left alone in the house but the National Assistance Bureau tries very hard, with the limited resources, to look after people's homes. All of these services go to show that this Government does care about what happens to its citizens, especially in this period of structural adjustment.

Also, as we know, there are classes for people who are laid off to enable them to get into something else. I think that is welcome. Rome was not built in a day. These things take time. I am confident that within a certain time span the people in Barbados will come to remember this period in our lives as a testing time.

Senator Inniss talked about the disabled. That is something that concerns us very much. In the Ministry where I am that subject is being given a great deal of consideration. Senator Inniss said he heard the Minister outline some of the plans we had and he wondered whether we would really get into it. I can say we are going to be taking a good look at what is happening with the disabled along with the other groups of interested persons and non-governmental persons. The non-governmental organisation of this country, especially the Women's non-governmental organisations – the Men's non-governmental organisation gives a lot of money – but the Women's organisations help with older people and put

water here and there in various people's homes. They also put in lights. They are very caring.

I have just returned from a conference on the disabled although I feel that everybody is disabled in some way or another. The name of this conference was "Disabled but Capable". We had several lectures by people who were themselves disabled, in wheel chairs and blind people and for all of these years that I have been living – nearly time for me to go back to my Saviour – and I was touched because of the way that these people had to be helped. Some of them could help themselves a lot but for instance, Carson Small was in our group and of course he had to be helped all the time. It is different, when you see Carson, you say, "Hello Carson" and you make a joke and talk but when you have to get up from a hotel and get in a bus and travel is another matter. There were several other people like that and some persons who were deaf. There was someone signing. I was very proud to know that we, in Barbados, have already gone a little way forward in that in that we have someone making the news for the hearing impaired. But it really made me think a lot about the disabled and how we have to do everything we can to get them back into the society and doing the things that they are capable of and also to help them with independent living so that they can help themselves.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. President, I hope that by this time next year we will be singing a different song because if the people of Barbados, if the private sector, the public sector, the youth, the old people and everybody gets in and cooperates we will be able to ride out the storm. It is no good coming in here and making a big harangue about numbers and this and that. Let me tell you, we have to think about people. We love statistics and especially if you are a mathematician you like to show off how much you know about figures but I am telling you, we are talking now about people, the human resources in this country. The human resources in this country are formidable if they would just get together. We do not expect, Mr. President, that the Opposition is going to come in here and say, "Oh we love you, everything is all right", but we do expect that they will speak correctly, they will speak from factual knowledge. Sometimes they do sometimes they don't. But we also expect that after all this debating that we will see out there a cooperation in trying to serve the country, in trying to get people together to understand that we can make a difference.

I said at the beginning, Mr. President, that I was thinking of lighting a candle in the darkness. Those examples I have given you provide some proof that there are good things going on in the midst of all of the adversity which we have and I hope, Mr. President, that this country, the young and the old will get back on the path that we were several years ago when we did not have to be afraid to get out of your car. It is a very serious

Yet, if we know that Government could not raise \$20 million last year on the international financial markets how will it raise \$58 million this year when the economy has declined more than it did the year before and when the most startling figure of all is now available to the public and that is that gross capital reformation in this country dropped by 53% last year. In other words, investment dropped by 53% last year.

At a time when this Government, the Central Bank and all the independent impartial economists who want us to believe that they are independent and impartial – at least Senator Alleyne tells you he is a Government member but the rest of them want to walk about and make you feel they are independent and impartial while at the same time they are negotiating with jobs for Government. That is the kind of hypocrisy we have in this country – investment fell from \$580.4 million to \$268.5 million last year. If there is any indication of the lack of confidence in this Government and particularly in the Minister of Finance it is that. When people stop investing, it is a sign that signals danger. It is not only danger now but it is danger in 10 or 15 years when the Prime Minister might not even be about here.

If we are going to reap the benefits in our economy, investment must take place and the benefits will be reaped in the future in the same way as plants. I suppose that if this Government has presided over sugar cane dropping from 111 000 tonnes in 1986 to 54 000 tonnes last year and less this year it is too much to ask it to understand the basic principles of reaping and sowing.

Sir, Senator Beckles talked yesterday at length but what Senator Beckles has not told this Chamber is that we are in the position today because of Government's macro-economic policy since 1986. Government's high interest rates, Government's credit policy. We are in the position today because Government felt it could cut expenditure in a year without its having any effect on the rest of the economy. We will not hear that from Senator Beckles. What is interesting is that in the context of all of this, when it is asserted that there was a virtual wages freeze in this country last year and the year before, the figures in the Annual Statistical Digest of the Central Bank of Barbados support it, because those figures show at page 197, that in 1990 the level index was 182.7 in 1991 the wages index is 182.6. What is more, Senator Clarke in his enthusiasm contradicted Senator Barker yesterday and named a document of this House, a memorandum from the Chief Labour Officer dated March 15, 1993. If I may quote from that document of this House "there were few agreements reached in 1992. Where they did occur payments were made as wage changes or *ex gratia* payments."

3.50 p.m.

It was a gift. The average change in wages was of the order of under 4%, that is 3.79%. That is the Chief Labour

Officer speaking. Yet the same Senator Clarke indicated to us that inflation was in excess of 6%. Now, Sir, if prices are going up by 6% and your wages are still going up, but going up by less than 4%, you must be in a worse position than you were the year before. It does not take a Solomon to understand that.

This Government is prepared, Sir, because of its inability to have the political courage, and has gone about devaluing the currency by devaluing people's purchasing power to an extent that we are now seeing social conditions in this country we had thought, and that many of you in here told me that were over and finished with in this country, and that I never thought I would see in my lifetime but would only hear from those older than me, but we are beginning to see them again.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY were ordered by Mr. PRESIDENT to be expunged from the records.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I want to know, Sir, that a time when social conditions in Barbados are deteriorating whether it is true that the contracting company which was the major contracting company at St. Joseph, whether the name of that person is the half brother of the Chairman of the Board, and whether that contract was for \$11 million or not, and whether that \$11 million could not be better spent in providing welfare and community development services for the people of this country particularly those who have been laid off.

I would want to know, Sir, whether the \$2 million that is in the Estimates this year for Sherbourne Centre could not have been better directed at beefing up the welfare budget which has dropped tremendously over the last 2 years by over 30%, whether the intentions of Senator Barker-Welch could not be realised by giving her that increased expenditure in there. But instead, where does it go? In a building to spend \$2 million when you need another \$22 million on top of that to complete the building and we do not know where that \$22 million is coming from, false economy.

Sir, the \$2 million additional that has gone to the Defence Force, all who get up and talk about the Police and law and order, they need more men. Why has not that \$2 million gone in increased expenditure to the Police and not the Defence Force? A lack of vision, a lack of priorities and worse of all, a lack of understanding that belies ignorance.

Sir, I want to know whether the P.S. International we hear about with the Guatemalan sugar whether that company did not do business also with the Arawak Cement Plant and whether it did not do business with the Agro Processing Plant we have in Barbados. That is what I

want to know because if I hear what I hear about them and an indictment by a related company...

Mr. PRESIDENT: About them who?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: "Them" meaning the noun before, Process Supply Incorporated. "Them" usually means the noun before, Sir. I would like to know whether their involvement with the Government of Barbados extends beyond the exportation of nasty sugar from Guatemala? I want to know whether indeed and in fact every single Government building I have seen being done in the last 2 years has windows marked "P. Security". I find myself asking because I was...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Marked what? P. Security?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: P's Securities. It is a little white and blue sticker. A visit to the Magistrates Court in Bridgetown which was done last week would show them. I believe they have gone on almost every Government building that has been renovated or constructed in the last few years. I want to know...

SENATOR A. MORRISON: On a point of clarification, Sir. The Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation has never carried out repairs to the Government buildings here. Is that mark on that building below here, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right Senator Morrison. You will have your opportunity to speak.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I am just asking a question for clarification.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But it is not a point of order. You will have your opportunity.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I said a point of clarification. I just asked her if she could clarify that.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I trust that the Clerk of this Parliament has better judgement than to make sure that does not come in here because we like to see these long windows that have a certain amount of historical importance to us.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you suggesting that we must not be able to have these windows anymore?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No, Sir. I want these windows to stay. I do not want to see P's Securities on the windows in here either.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This is something you print on the windows?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: It is a sticker on windows.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not understand it but do go on.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I want to know whether there is any coincidence or how come all of a sudden this company appears to be the major supplier of Government windows on Government buildings. I would like to know. I do not want to talk about corruption. I would not talk about corruption but I am just asking these questions because I want my conscience to be allayed. I heard Senator Walkes talk about the need for a hospital in the north today and about whether we can continue to try to fool ourselves that the public of this country will accept that a hospital when only 30 beds out of 100 is for the public, can be a hospital for the north of this country. It is ignorance or is it fraudulent? We were told in 1986 that the north deserved a hospital. We were led to believe that hospital would have been built for the people of the north but now we are being told that 3 out of every 10 people who come can only get a place. Yet we continue to vote another \$4 million in expenditure this year in the Estimates for St. Joseph Hospital when we have already spent \$26 million, \$6 million in the purchase and \$20 million in the renovation.
4.00 p.m.

Sir, this Government has made a lot about privatisation. It is talking, Sir, about even privatising the National Oil Company but if we take a look at the figures in the Economic Report on Energy and we look at the output of energy, the output of oil as a percentage of our overall domestic crude oil output, Sir, we will see that in 1981 it fell to a low - page 60 of that report. It fell to a low of 60.7% and it was after that, Sir, that the decision was taken to ensure that the Barbados Government had control of its energy output. But, Sir, what are we going to do? A company that is profitable that has carried domestic output back up to 55.9% year before last. They stopped drilling last year and they dropped back down to 35% because they could not get credit from the National Bank, lack of foresight in the Government's policy again. Are we going to sell it now, Sir, so that we do not have control over the level of output once again? Are we going to make the same mistake that has been made in the past, when it relates to our energy sector, or should I be surprised, Sir, because this is the same Government that continues to allow Mobil to have a 15% return after taxation so that Barbados has the highest gasoline cost anywhere in the Caribbean at \$6.20 per gallon and yet still we hear the Prime Minister talking about an incomes policy as if that is the only component to production, Sir. Gas cost, transportation cost a component, Sir, and those can be dealt with easily rather than begging a man to take less money, Sir. But, Sir, that is the ignorance that belies all this debate about incomes policy. Nobody is denying, Sir, that in

times like these there must be an element to reach a certain amount of productivity but the Prime Minister has tried to elevate this debate on incomes policy to the level that the average man in the street may feel that if he gives back a piece of money as in the case of the public workers, that was taken from them – 8%. Or if he does as the Minister of Health wants him to do and voluntarily contribute 2% of his salary that that will solve the evils facing this economy when in truth and in fact reduction of consumption and reduction of impulse by way of narrowing a man's ability to spend on them will only lessen the situation but not solve it. And it will only be solved if the productive sectors are working again. When we can earn more from tourism than \$925 million which is less than we earned in 1988 and that is the nominal value as I have said. When we can export more than the \$253 million that we exported last year which is less than the \$584 million that we were exporting in 1985, when we can earn more from sugar by producing more than 54 000 tonnes to a level like what we were producing in 1986 of 111 000 tonnes that is when our problems will begin to be solved. Look at it, the Prime Minister wrote an 8% pay cut on the civil servants of this country and we are no better off, 18 months after they have given up or had taken from them 8% of their salary. Indeed, Sir, I make bold to say that we are worse off 18 months later after he took 8%. That was a wage cut. What he wants now is a wage freeze. Now, if he could not succeed giving a wage cut, how is he going to succeed with a wage freeze?

Sir, that is the type of intellectual dishonesty that is being perpetrated upon the people of this country, Sir. I am saying, Sir, the time has come for all those who feel that it is better to serve their God better than it is to serve their king, to stand up, Sir, and say enough is enough.

When we look, Sir, at the situation with the Transport Board, could you believe, Sir, that this Government spent \$40 million on the Transport Board to turn around now and say it wants to sell it. After spending \$40 million on it, they are now saying they want to sell it, Sir? Something is wrong, Sir. And as I said, Sir, if I did not know better I would tend to say their minds were labouring under defective reasoning.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is a good thing you know better, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, it is always a good thing to know better. Sir, this Government does not understand and any examination of the external debt profile of Barbados would reveal that this Government does not understand, Sir, that there has to be a certain amount of investment infrastructurally and in the productive sectors if development is going to take place. And the most telling point of this, Sir, is a review of a document prepared by the Statistical section of the Research Department dated

March 15, 1993, external debt and debt servicing. I make this a document of the House, Sir, if it has not already been made one.

Sir, if I turn to page 23 of this document. This document lists every single loan that is still outstanding on the part of the Government of Barbados. It lists the date on which the agreement took place for the loan. Let us look down on whom we borrowed it from and the interest rate. There are perhaps, Sir, the first six loans which show the Democratic Labour party at least in those days understood more about development financing and developing than this one does now.

There are six loans relating to dairy, water, sugar cane industry, Seawall Airports. But, Sir, let us look at the rest of the loans. Coming immediately after that, Sir, we see a whole list of loans in excess of 25 that were entered into by the Barbados Labour Party Government for things as diverse as industrial development, petroleum exploration, the Spring Hall land lease development project, the urban project, Heywoods, the Northern Access Highway, the Tom Adams Highway, the Oistins Fishing Project, the education World Bank loan, the Community College, the Student revolving loan funds, rural development, the building of polyclinics, the seaports, the fishing ports, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Glebe Polyclinic...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, but what is your point?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, if I be allowed the opportunity to make the point all will find out, Sir. The student revolving loan fund, coastal conservation and then, Sir, we look at the interest rates attached to those, all ranging between 2 and 10%, the majority being at concessionary rates of finance at 2% but we look at the loans undertaken by this Government since 1986 – not for an Oistins Project, not for the Port, not for any housing, Sir, as we did with USAID Housing Project but all for balance of payments support, Sir, and all at rates of interest. The Barclays Bank Loan, Sir, just before election – 14%. Interest rates all of a sudden now at 10, 8 and 14% and the point is this, that the time when the Labour Party undertook the majority of these loans in the late seventies and the early eighties interest rates were higher than they are now. Despite high interest rates, we were able to get loans at rates of concession at 2 per cent, 4 per cent and 6 per cent. But this Government while interest rates have fallen in the last few years is still paying interest rates of 14 1/2 per cent. Sir, this is an inability to manage and an admission, Sir, of incompetence.

4.10 p.m.

Sir, I have not even bothered to talk about the National Cultural Foundation today and the fact that it has not made a report for over 7 or 8 years and continues

to get money from Government without being accountable to Government. I have even talked about the fact, Sir, that the National Cultural Foundation is making a fool of themselves in walking about Bridgetown begging for money like how beggars on the street beg for money to be able to stage what is this year's premier festival. If Senator Phillips can make a plea for horse racing which he says and I agree with him has done so much for Barbados' international reputation, what about Crop-Over, Sir? It brings in over 40,000 visitors for that two week period. But yet this Government is prepared to leave that to the whims and fancies of whether somebody is prepared to respond to the questions of a beggar.

That is the scoured nature of this Government's programmes. What really has me upset, Sir, is that this is the third year now that I am participating in this exercise on the Estimates. I have sat down in here for the last 3 years and outside of this Chamber for 2 years before that and I have heard this Government continue to tell people for the first 3 or 4 of those years that everything was okay. Nothing was wrong. When Henry Forde told this country that devaluation was on the agenda with the IMF, Erskine Sandiford called him a liar and based the whole election campaign of 1991 on that fact. Yet, Sir, the Honourable Minister in the Ministry of Finance can admit and told the public of this country recently in the last few weeks that devaluation was always on the agenda. Who is the liar, Sir?

I have lived the last few years in here to hear all these predictions about growth. As a friend of mine would put it, the Central Bank is now talking out of the four corners of its mouth and still talking about growth. Sir, tell the Central Bank to go and sit down with the Ministry of Finance and look at page 55 of the Economic Report and tell us how the figure for imports of goods and services can be less than the figure for imports of goods alone. That is what the Central Bank can go and do, Sir. Go and teach the Ministry of Finance. There is no way that the Ministry of Finance, having the reputation that it has had over the years in this country, had any right of putting out documents that are not even worth the paper that they are written on.

Sir, gross cannot be less than net. A gross figure cannot be less than a net figure. Any shopkeeper whether it is in Brereton, St. Philip or Bush Hall, Yard Gap in St. Michael knows that, Sir, far less the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, you have two more minutes.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. I am obliged to you, Sir.

I am saying, Sir, that we continue to hear the same thing year after year and the same mournful pleas. They asked for a chance in September 1991 after they

perpetrated an exercise of deception, Sir. Having been given that chance for the 18 months, Sir, Barbados at March 23, 1993 finds itself in a worse position. Are these statements that continue to be foisted on the people of this country part of a fraudulent exercise to deceive the people? Because, Sir, if they are, neither myself nor the Barbados Labour Party can continue to sit down or even to begin to talk about walking hand in hand with anybody. When Senator Barker-Welch spoke about co-operation, let us understand that the first tenant of negotiation is that there must be full and frank disclosure. There has been no full and frank disclosure to the people of this country. If there would have been, the Minister of Finance would not be basing his foreign financing of the deficit on figures that he knows that he has not reached an agreement with people to get yet.

Sir, I am saying that the best thing that the Minister of Finance can do at this time is this. His ears are deaf to pleas against him to resign. Sir, if I were to say, I know they would still be deaf. But it is my contention that members on that honourable side have a duty that is greater to their country than is greater to their leader. Not for me, because I do not stand to gain from anything. The time must come when those members on that side have to ask themselves certain questions about their continuous support, knowing full well that all that they have been presiding over is decline, after decline, after decline. I do not want to end at devastation, Sir. Let us stop at decline for now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, your time has expired.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir, I am wrapping up now. It brings to mind, Sir, words that were used by the British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee. - "The old man seems determined to stick to office like a dirty old piece of chewing gum on the leg of a chair. He is incorrigibly limpid and is always trying new tricks to keep himself firm upon the rock." Those words could truly be said of the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 1993. Sir, I should like in commencing my debate on this Bill to make reference in the initial stage to remarks made by Senator Barker where he painted a very dramatic picture of the suffering and deprivation in this land of ours. Sir, I would like to say that the Barbados that I know over the years is where we have had to grapple with certain situations when money was tight and things were not as bountiful as we had become accustomed. But I have full confidence in the resilience in the Barbadian character. I have seen that resilience coming out in the last 18 months where our people have been able to at least eke out a feed. Some nonetheless might use praedial larceny and things of that nature in order to exist. They have been able to pick a fruit here or there.

They have been able to pick and eat breadfruit and mangoes and by and by the resilience of my people come through even in the toughest of times. I do not take too kindly to remarks where we are made to look as if we are suffering to the extent as we see depicted on the television screen every night in other lands. This is a matter of comparison.

Sir, I am not saying that we have a bed of roses in Barbados. But I am saying that it is not what we see in Somalia and other parts of the world such as Russia where people have to join the bread-line in order to get something to eat. In this respect, Sir, I think that given the conditions in Barbados today and how people have responded that I have seen the agriculture non-sugar come into its own for the first time in this country where plenty of food has been planted. I have seen people going to the fields and digging yams and potatoes. I have seen teachers inside the yam ground for the last few years digging their own yams. I have seen people using breadfruit and all of the ground provisions that we have been accustomed to in order to exist. I do not understand this dramatic thing even to the point where the Honourable Senator Barker deprived our men of their manhood.

4.20 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President. I did not want to interrupt the Honourable Senator, but he backed up my point when he said that people are resorting to praedial larceny in order to survive. I stand by my original statement that his policies have run the country to such an extent that he has had to admit that people have to resort to stealing in order to eke out a living.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: I said even the ones who have had to use praedial larceny in order to get something to eat. That is not the general tone in Barbados. I said even some who have been so poor that they had to go and raid crops. Not all hungry people raid crops anyhow, so get that straight.

The point I was making, Sir, was that he has deprived our menfolk of their manhood. I thought he was rising on that point. As a matter of fact, Sir, he has gone even further and reduced our menfolk to being eunuchs, in the true sense of the word, if you take his argument to the true conclusion. This is unfortunate in this day and age.

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: That is what you said.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let us not have the cross talk, please. Senator Morrison is speaking. Let us hear him and him alone. I do not want the cross talk from either side of the House.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Senator Barker does not understand the full import of his remarks when he is making these speeches, Sir. When they are reduced of all their temperamental verbosity, one gets the true thing he is trying to say. The naked truth comes to light and then it is very disconcerting to him. He did not know he had said all those things.

But to follow on from the point about food, Sir, it is my view that this country is on the road back to feeding itself. I think that a massive planting of breadfruit trees in this country – and I am thinking of the long term, because we get the downs and the ups – is needed in this country. I would embark on the planting of 100 000 breadfruit trees and 100 000 coconut trees, because I believe that the coconut plants, which are being very well utilised today in this country could be a way of feeding tourists with coconut water instead of spring water.

The guava is very natural to the Scotland District. We can culture the guava plant to produce a bigger guava and plant any amount of guava trees. Any household now with young children to raise can afford to plant various fruit trees on their 2-acre plots and they would go a far way to reduce the high level of expenditure which people expend at the supermarket day after day buying exotic juices from abroad. We are on the threshold of new initiatives which could put our people in good stead for the future. So much for that.

I have heard references in here about the sugar crop and that we have reduced sugar to the level of 54 000 tonnes in this one year, but several factors have contributed to the decline in the sugar production in this country which have nothing to do with the Government, because we had the sugar producers and Sugar Factories Limited over the years reducing the factories in various parts of the country and in closing down factories on the pretext that they were going to enjoy the kind of economies of scale in having less factories and more factory space.

Remember, Sir, it started with Searles Factory. Over the years Christ Church parish and the parish of St. Philip have been the traditional areas, because of the low rainfall and shallow soils, for the very high sucrose content in our sugar. When we closed Searles most of the small farmers in the area were reduced to the point where they could not get their canes to the factory in time, and it meant that some went out of agriculture. We know that in those days Searles Factory had the highest recovery rate in sugar production in this country. At one time Searles even subsidised the operations at Bulkeley Factory, because of the high purity of its sugar in production due to the very high sucrose content of canes in St. Philip and Christ Church. That factory was dismantled in order to make Haymans a factory for the first time, and they took all the equipment from Searles to Haymans in St. Peter.

After they had shut down all the syrup factories in the beginning, Gibbons and Newton, they said they were making syrup at Foursquare. No sooner had that been done, the next thing we knew Foursquare went through the eddoes too. Then we went to Carrington. With the closure of Searles and Foursquare in Christ Church and St. Philip, leaving one factory in St. Philip, Carrington, people suffered very long delays in having their canes reaped and getting them to the factory, because sometimes you got one load for a whole week and some poor peasants had to wait sometimes for 2 weeks before they could get their canes to the factory, leading to a loss of juice content and the canes becoming rotten. The kind of experience the peasant farmer experienced at those times was very much against him continuing in agriculture and sugar cane production, so the acreage was reduced.

The sugar producers at that time used to blame the then DLP administration because certain land subdivisions were allowed and they figured that because of the closure of Searles there was no need even to plant canes. The Government at that time was accused of allowing subdivisions, but the Government had never applied for a subdivision. The same estate managers used to apply and fill up the Town Planning Office with various applications for subdivisions, a lot of which were refused. After the fiasco with Searles and Foursquare, then Sugar Factories Limited went on to build a completely new factory, Portvale, in that part of the island and the cost of that factory was astronomical. Nobody knows the true cost of putting that factory out there at Blowers Plantation, which put a big drain on the resources of the same sugar producers and Sugar Factories Limited.

Over time the sugar plantations have become so, shall I say, lazy that we had a problem with cane burning. After we decided to end the controlled burning the problem disappeared and all the work that was done on cane research was diverted for a whole period to producing a variety which could withstand the burning. In truth, the whole research effort entered into chaos because they spent years trying to get a type that was resistant to cane burning with the result that in these latter years there are not very many good varieties around because it takes a lot of research and time. All those things have combined to have us in the position that we are today *vis-a-vis* sugar cane production.

4.30 p.m.

The whole fact remains that the plantation managers became lazy. You see ratoons coming back year after year for 7 and 8 crops. They just have the cane in the ground ostensibly to show that they have canes growing, but after 4 or 5 crops there is not much in those fields of canes. If you go through St. Thomas, the high rainfall belt, you will see canes since October last year with arrows. When a cane produces an arrow at that point in time, it is finished

growing. There is no more cane. It is already ripe because the ratoons have become dross in the field.

You cannot put at our doorstep the fact that there is low production as though it is anything to do with the Government. We have always given agriculture the flip that it needs. Even when the former Prime Minister, Mr. Barrow, made that famous cane-blade speech, he never did anything to interfere with cane production in this country. He was making a different kind of point. He even went to the fields at Wildey and cut green canes in order to ask people to come back and cut the canes. He did more than anybody else I know of. He went and actually cut the canes. He had nothing against cane production.

As far as the market at Oistin is concerned, the Minister of Agriculture has been able to get some remedy for the problems and it is hoped that in a couple of weeks there might be an improved situation at that market. The problems have been identified and we are hoping that when the repairs are carried out that we will have a better situation at the Oistin market.

Sir, I now come to the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation to which I belong. Under policy information, I wish to give a brief description of the works in hand for this upcoming financial year. Let me begin by saying that the Ministry's road programme is divided into 5 categories. We have road reconstruction, rehabilitation, highway improvement, routine maintenance and periodic maintenance.

Under road reconstruction I have the report that we have been able to secure funding from the Caribbean Development Bank and we will be able to do 3 roads this financial year. The first road is a continuation of Highway 2A which has been the subject of many complaints during the past month and which is the second stage to Highway 2A where we are coming from Westmoreland to Warrens in St. Michael. The first phase was Mile and a Quarter in St. Peter to Westmoreland and this is the second stage, a new section that we have to improve, 7.7 kilometres of road.

There is going to be a total rebuilding process of the entire stretch of road. We are going to realign several sections, build one major new bridge at Lancaster and east of the School Meals Centre at Lancaster and provide several culverts.

There is going to be work carried out at Clermont. This work involves reconstruction of the road at Clermont which is 1.4 kilometres long between Cave Hill, opposite Queen's College and Highway 2A, Warrens. There is some minor realignment which we intend to do and sidewalks are provided on both sides of the road. There is also Canewood Road under highway reconstruction. Between

Highway E, near Lears Junction and Highway 2 Jackson, this road is 11.3 kilometres long and the work will involve a reconstruction and provision of sidewalks in the built up area and the strengthening of one bridge. The loan is for US\$9.6 million and it is expected that we will start this project sometime in May this year. Hopefully, we will get some construction going within another month or so.

Road rehabilitation. Government has received a loan from the World Bank despite the talk which the Opposition would have us believe that the bank is not funding anything for Barbados because we are not in any financial position to receive loans. That World Bank loan totals US\$21 million and it is to carry out a series of projects over a 4-year period.

During the 1993-94 fiscal year, the roads listed are to be rehabilitated. I will read for the benefit of the Senate:

Highway 1 which is also in a very bad state of disrepair from Spring Garden Roundabout via Paynes Bay, Holetown, Gibbes, Speightstown to Church Street Junction;

Bath Village in Christ Church, Highway 7 junction to the St. Lawrence Gap;

Highway T – Newton Roundabout, Lodge Road to Oistin including improvement at Church Street Junction;

Highway U – Enterprise, Chancery Lane, Wilcoxs to Fairy Valley Junction;

Highway 4 – Stewart Hill, Massiah Street, Woodland Turnpike, St. George to Carmichael Road Junction and also Maxwell Hill from Graeme Hall to Highway T, Oistin Hill.

Sir, these are the ones to be done in this financial year. The Ministry already has all its work completed and all the roads that have to be rehabilitated in this country. Engineering drawings have already been done and everything is in order and we are only waiting for the financing in order to be able to carry out these works. We are on schedule and we have carried out an extensive surveillance of the entire island. We know where the roads are, the amounts of people who use the roads and the economic roads in Barbados. The staff in the Ministry have carried out all of the traffic surveys and they are all documented and waiting for financing. We are well aware that finance is not so plentiful and we will do these in phases over the next 3 years beginning with those roads which I have just outlined to this House.

There is some periodic maintenance of certain roads in this country. This involves the resurfacing of existing roads using either hot mix or the conventional asphalt

process. Both types have worked and are to be undertaken during the year and the programme which forms part of the counterpart funding of the World Bank are shown as I will read to you, Sir.

4.40 p.m.

Sir, in the next financial year, which I have not read out, there is going to be a big project from Searles to Six X Roads to improve the junction at Six X Roads and build side walks. There is going to be a pilot project which will involve 160 kilometres of high priority roads. This project aims to raise standards and prevent the deterioration of the existing network. Those roads involve resurfacing of certain highways. We expect work on these roads will start some time in July this year.

There is routine maintenance to be carried out on certain roads in the area of St. Philip and Christ Church. The area is bounded by Highways 5, 6 and 7. Tenders are to be issued for the carrying out of these particular roadworks. We are doing some culverts on Highway 1 at Treasure Beach and Buccaneer Bay which is part of the work to be done in order to assist the Highway 1 complete resurfacing. We are going to do some drainage projects. We will be able to do at least 130 wells in this financial year by way of cleaning and digging at least 32 new wells.

We are not going to undertake any major building programmes but we have already started work on the Fisheries Building at Hincks Street. We intend to carry out that work in this financial year to completion. Work being done on the West Wing of Parliament will also be carried on in this financial year with the funds which have been allocated to the Ministry under the Works Programme.

In the Scotland District funds are very limited. We cannot carry out any major roadworks in that area. We have been able to resite a house at Cane Garden which was in a very precarious position. The Cane Garden Road will be dealt with in another financial year.

Sir, in the area of licensing in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation, the Licensing Department which deals with the licensing of minibuses, route taxis, ZRs, ZMs *et cetera*, is very concerned about the behaviour of these small route taxis on our Highways. We have been trying where we see people behaving in a way contrary to the law to get the names and numbers of those drivers who now operate illegally. Now we have legalised the ones that were operating illegally before and made them into ZRs, there is now a new set of people who have been plying the routes, especially in the parish of St. George. We have been using those numbers we heard about and drawing them to the attention of the Police as well as the insurance companies. Despite efforts by the insurance companies not to renew their insurance, and also by the Police to bring them before the Courts, it still continues.

We have been in contact with the Legal Department of Government. We will have to bring an amendment to the Traffic Laws in order to make certain offences arrestable offences and also to bring down heavier fines in an effort to control this madness which now prevails on the roads of Barbados. We are working very feverishly in order to bring some kind of sanity to the kind of disgusting behaviour which is now experienced by pedestrians and other motorists who have to use our roads in these most unfortunate times.

These drivers tend to take over the whole road. They park anywhere. They block the whole road when they come to a stop. No other vehicle can pass. They do it for the whole day. They come to junctions and come in front of all other vehicles and cut in front of vehicles in a way as if they own the roads without any regard for the police or anybody for that matter. Something has to be done in order to bring some kind of discipline into these drivers.

Sir, as far as the Barbados Water Authority is concerned, there have been a lot of complaints in recent months about water problems in this country especially in areas like Apes Hill. The residents have been complaining of not getting any water at all. The Barbados Water Authority has been working very hard trying to get things moving. We have had to put southern Apes Hill on the Castle Grant reservoir with the result that they have had shortages as well because we find by doing that then the people in northern Apes Hill have also suffered. We used to pump water from Golden Ridge to the same Castle Grant in order to feed those areas. It means we have to carry out some more works this year. We have had temporary solutions but this has been a very dry season and the water levels have been very low. I had the figure here on the amount of water which has been consumed by the people of Barbados during the past months which is fantastic.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you saying you had temporary help by St. Lucians? Did you have to bring in St. Lucians? Is that what you are doing?

SENATOR A. MORRISON: No. We have been pumping water from one reservoir to the next in order to boost the water supply for a particular area. We have been pumping water from our Golden Ridge reservoir to Castle Grant to help serve that area when there has been an extra demand on the water.

Apparently our water resources have been estimated by Stanley Associates, 1978, at 54.7 million gallons per day of which approximately 7 million gallons is surface water from the Scotland District. That has not yet been tapped. The present demand for water supply in this country has risen to 35.5 million gallons per day which is a fantastic figure. It is almost the total water available in this country that is now being pumped.

The Barbados Water Authority has been pumping that amount of water per day and this is the dry season which is a real drain on our resources. The annual average amount we have been accustomed to for the past years is 30 million gallons of water per day. We are now at 32 million gallons per day in this year. Normally, Sir, in the wet season we usually pump about 39 million gallons per day and the annual average is almost 30 million. Now we have gone all of a sudden to 32 million gallons per day. So you will understand, Sir, from those figures that it is a serious drain on our water resources. Perhaps too, the problem is that we have had problems at Hampton Pumping Station in the last couple of months. Actually it has occurred about 7 times in the last 4 or 5 months and we have had to upgrade the electrical system at Hampton in order to cope with the pressure. It meant then that people were inconvenienced in Christ Church and parts of St. Philip until we got those things rectified. 4.50 p.m.

One cannot predict when a pump will malfunction and when that happens, Sir, it means it throws the householder into a frenzy because there is no water coming through. Anyhow, Sir, power has been restored and we are hoping to dig a third well at Hampton, in this financial year, in order to help cope with the water problems in this country.

We are making two more bore holes at Applewhaites where there is a source that has been identified in the last 2 or 3 years and we have had assistance from the St. Kitts Government in using their equipment to dig holes. We are going to dig 2 more bore holes at Applewhaites and that should reduce some of the pressure on the midland areas.

Waterworks, in their capital works programme will be carrying out those works as well as install tanks at Apes Hill where they can pump water to the tanks which will help to relieve the people in Apes Hill, St. James in this financial year, if all goes well.

We are handicapped, Sir, in even embarking on too elaborate a capital works programme for Waterworks in that we are required under the loan agreement for the South Coast Sewerage Project to provide the counterpart financing for that project which is in the vicinity for this year of about \$7.7 million. So that would more or less curtail our capital works programme for the Water Authority by that amount.

We have already identified that source of funds and we will be well able to carry out our part under the Loan Agreement for the Barbados Government. So much for the Waterworks.

Sir, if I may turn to the Airport Development. Now, I can only tell Honourable Members that we are ready to carry out the Airport expansion study. A firm of consultants has been identified and I believe in another 6 weeks or so we may be able to sign the contract in order to have that feasibility study carried out where we will try to be in line to upgrade the airport and to keep abreast of the times in order to go into the twenty-first century with the possible renovations and amendments at the airport.

Sir, in that study we are trying to emphasise the need for greater security at the airport and better security arrangements which would conform to the International Civil Aviation requirements as well as to have an eye on the commercial aspect of the Airport development by way of providing more shops and things of that nature which would enhance the revenue coming from the airport development. That study will soon be on the way. Just as soon as we are able to sign the contract with the particular firm and all the details have been ironed out, in few weeks we will be able to announce the firm which we have been able to identify to be doing our feasibility study for phase 1. Hopefully in a matter of another 5 or 6 weeks we will be able to sign the contract document. It has been legally prepared and vetted and will soon be available for signing by the Government of Barbados and the contracting firm.

Sir, there are other areas which we cannot do this year because we have problems at the airport in certain maintenance areas but we know money is not that much readily available. The airport suffers from a leaking roof which is due to the design of that roof at the Grantley Adams International Airport. It leaks very badly when there is rain and it could be very dangerous to people walking through the arrival hall at times. In that area in particular there is a lot of water coming down and we have to be very careful. We have to keep the maids always on guard to continually mop water in that area and we were hoping that we would be able to secure the necessary funding this year from the Ministry of Finance to carry out repairs. Not total repairs, but to do it in a piecemeal fashion, one area at a time, where we can do our own resealing because the whole top has got to be resealed. These concrete roofs have their own defects and that has proven to be a very defective job in the last 2 years or so and we are exposed to any amount of water at any time, as long as there is a big downpour of rain. We would like to get that remedied as time goes on.

We have also been trying to keep the parking apron of the airport up to date by routine maintenance but we still continue to be plagued in some respects by not having sufficient funds at times to carry out the necessary repairs that are needed in those areas. We have got to be able to provide even more parking space eventually because there is a new B747/400 which has a wider wing span than normal 747 jets, maybe another 15 feet, and it would need a wider area.

We are hoping to do some work east of the present parking apron to be able to accommodate that kind of jet because it might be the new direction for British Airways when they introduce that type of jet to the Caribbean area. We have got to be able to provide the kind of facility that would accommodate a jet of that nature and not to be caught off side because we need that kind of people coming down here to help the tourism product so our airport should be at least abreast all the time of these things.

Most of what the airport would require, Sir, would be subsumed in the feasibility study which I mentioned before and that would take care of any projections or any necessary things to be carried out by the airport at this time.

As far as the Port Department is concerned, it is now settling down to realising its potential. There has been a slight profit this year, I believe. They have covered their tracks and there is a slight profit and things seem to be working.
5.00 p.m.

Things seem to be working and the labour problem has been solved. Everyone seems to be happy at the Port again and I think that if the ships start coming back we might be able to realise a more profitable venture whereby it will be able to pay for itself. There is a joint undertaking to be undertaken by the private sector in improving the baggage hall at the Port Authority and when it is completed there will be provided a modern kind of outlook. So that when people come off the ships it will make Barbados a place filled with lights and one can see a different picture on arrival at the Port.

Sir, as far as the Barbados Transport Board is concerned, I do not know how much I can say about that. But I would like to report that under the present arrangement, since we have been able to come off about 14 routes in St. Michael, the Board has been able to balance in a certain way. If it continues in that way, I believe that it will be able to pay for itself provided other things remain constant. The new policy which is not fully enunciated up to now because we have been committed to this privatisation of the Board by March 31st. That was a commitment given. I do not know if we can do that by this March 31st. But in the meantime we have been projecting a policy whereby we were thinking of the Transport Board doing the long hauls as well as the St. Joseph and St. Andrew which it is the duty of the Government to take up those routes underneath the hill, since nobody else will do those routes. We would convey the school children and old people as well as those long distance routes in addition to the cross-country routes which we now ply such as Oistins to Speightstown and things like that. Now we have

shifted the new policy to a one man operation. We seem to have cut down the overall cost very much. That is why the returns seem to be coming more near to the expenditure which we have embarked upon in the payment of salaries and wages. We need to have a further evaluation.

In the meantime, Sir, we are awaiting the result of a transportation study which would show up the areas where we can run our buses and where the service is needed. As well as, Sir, we are thinking about our Transport Commission which will become a regulatory body for the whole transport services in this country. We want the particular authority to deal with licensing on all of these matters such as the routes and things like that so that we will have a different approach to the whole transportation area in this country because it needs to be rationalized and organised in a manner whereby some authority could bring the kind of disciplinary procedures to bear on the activities of the various aspects of our transportation. We are hoping that when we have that study that we will be able to come here and give you a fuller outline of what is being proposed and what we hope to achieve with the new findings which we get from that study. It is in that area that we hope to make a meaningful impact on the chaos which now exist on our roads as far as these concessionaires are concerned.

Sir, I cannot commit myself to any definite statement at this stage as far as the Transport Board is concerned but would rather wait to see how matters develop in a month or so. But we are committed to privatisation since it was taken as a Cabinet decision by which we have already given away some routes to the minibuses and ZRs. We are not going to get rid of the Transport Board in its entirety because there is a big social need for some authority like the Transport Board to be still in existence if only to bring some level of maturity to the other people who now ply the routes and expect that they can dominate as they wish.

The Transport Board has suffered during the years as a result of these incursions into its routes and we have had to give up route after route. One such route has been the Gall Hill route in Christ Church which was a route that has any amount of traveling people. The minibuses have completely taken over that route. We have lost the Pine which is a very profitable route. After the minibuses have taken over some of the routes of the Transport Board by encroaching on our boundaries, we see now the ZRs encroaching on the minibuses. There is complete chaos out there. The minibuses are now complaining for the things that are done by the ZRs. In rationalizing the use of those vehicles at the time when we made 260 ZRs legal and thinking that by doing that we would have some kind of order, it has tended to create more disorder in the whole transportation system. Because of that, Sir, we have to keep trying our best in order to work out solutions which would be to the benefit of the traveling public and to save the public from any major disaster which is bound to occur

eventually in this country if the small buses continue to run as they are now being run on our roads without any regard to life or limb. One of the most unfortunate things in this country is that the same school children whom you would like to protect from these things, they are the ones who believe in the minibus and ZR drivers. Being in this area of Government these days is one of those exercises where you cannot win. Those very persons you would like to protect and would wish they would understand that it is dangerous. I understand that some ZRs carry as much as 35 little children packed in those little things. They wait for the minibuses. We in the Ministry are trying to solve problems. What do we do when we have reached the stage where the very persons you would like to protect are the ones who are the chief supporters of that kind of system? We can only keep trying, Sir.

5.10 p.m.

It is our desire and our bounden duty to come up with systems. We favour the type of ZR which carries 10 to 15 people and we have that in the law. We hope as time goes by that we will be able to weed out those smaller vehicles. When they come to change them we will insist that they get bigger vehicles in an effort to make it more feasible to the travelling public and to stop the worry which goes on in this country day by day. We are plagued with those complaints. We are inundated almost every day with complaints from all over the country about the kind of behaviour exhibited by these people who drive these small vehicles and without any regard for life or limb.

We have decided to try hard and we hope that when we have been able to create that Transport Commission that it will set down the guidelines and rules by which these people operate and to which they will have to conform. The Commission will have the full power to do the things necessary to put them in their places. That power now resides in our Chief Technical Director. He has the statutory right to do certain things, but he is not functioning in that regard, because he is the Chief Technical Director in the Ministry and his name is only there at that point, because you had to put it on somebody, and he cannot be expected to function in that area of coming down hard on people when he is occupied in the Ministry's engineering, roadworks and building. It is unfortunate that it is like that, because of the way in which the laws developed over the years.

The Chief Licensing Officer has been writing people day by day. We have asked him to threaten them so that they would conform to good practices on the road, but we seem to be beating against a wall. It is only when you decide to take away a licence they come begging and would try to conform, but we have to be very drastic in the future, because we need the transportation in this country and we will try our best to retain that much of

the Transport Board which would help to keep things from going completely out of hand and in complete chaos, much to the destruction of our travelling public.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Morrison, you have 2 more minutes.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I did not know the time had gone so swiftly. I have not been able to talk about international transport, but with those remarks I should like to endear Honourable Senators to the Appropriation Bill. I can assure this Senate that, given the funds we have in hand for this financial year, my Ministry will get about its job of providing the kind of inputs and carrying out certain works this year, that we will be able to get things moving and, hopefully, that we would paint a better picture this financial year as far as construction goes than we have been able to do in the last financial year. We know that the contract for the Highway 2A Project has already been awarded and soon from now we will be able to get some kind of work moving, hopefully in the month of May, as well as other work and we will continue to do the good work. As I said, in my Ministry we have all the evidence, we have all the engineering jobs, we have all the facts in order that when Barbados gets back to a point of more healthy finances we will be delivering the goods pronto, because we are ready to go, we have all our homework done and we will be able to do our part this year to make Barbados appear to be on the up and go for this financial year.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: Mr. President, I join this debate first of all to indicate my support for the Appropriation Bill which is before the Chamber. I want to indicate that I will be speaking very briefly, because I believe that every year when we come to this debate we hear many of the speeches repeated over and over again.

In this debate we have had some very interesting contributions. I particularly enjoyed the contribution from Senator Phillips on tourism. There were many others. Senator Fraser gave us good points on agriculture, we had a very interesting outline from our leader of the debate and no doubt the Independent Senators were able themselves to give some lift to the debate. I think we also had some interesting points from the Opposition.

My feeling is that the Estimates debate is an exercise in repetition. I can tell you that every year we come to the Senate Chamber and to the House of Assembly, and if you go back through the debates over the past 10 years and dig up the contributions, you have the same contribution just made by different persons, and for that reason I intend to be very brief. Speaking after Senator Morrison I was encouraged to stand and say a few words, because I

represented a constituency in Parliament and over the years I have been calling for a number of things to be done for the people of that area, St. James North.

Mr. President, the question of roads is something that always concerned the people of Barbados, as they concern not only the people of St. James. I was very glad that the Honourable Senator was able to outline some of the plans which his Ministry has in relation to the road programme for the island. In fact, I was very pleased that he was able to mention the Highway 2A road from Westmoreland to Redman's Village. That is a road that has been a source of some complaint now for many years. Having already completed the first phase of that road, I hope the Ministry will not find itself with the same difficulties we encountered in respect of the first phase.
5.20 p.m.

There were many people who encountered some difficulties with the contractors in relation to the first phase. I believe there should be an early opportunity for the Ministry to ensure that the problems which were encountered in relation to phase 1 are not faced in relation to Phase 2.

I feel also, Mr. President, that it is very important as we go into the second phase with that road we recognise that that Highway 2 road is perhaps the main link between the North of the country and Bridgetown. All those people who live in St. Lucy and St. Peter find the Highway 2 road the quickest access to Bridgetown since Highway 1 which is the alternative access to Bridgetown is a very busy highway, bearing in mind the amount of activity which is generated on that highway.

Even though there are plans to do Highway 1 it is certain they cannot do both highways together. I heard him mention a starting date of May this year. That no doubt is very timely and I hope the Ministry will be able to keep the starting time as outlined.

In relation to the resurfacing programme that is also of some concern to me because ~~as far back as 1987~~ the Ministry had ~~outlined a programme~~ for resurfacing many roads in this Island. In fact, way back then it devised a programme to go to Christ Church and do roads there and then they were going to do the St. Michael roads. I remember they finished the St. Michael and the Christ Church roads but they never got beyond that. Even now the roads in many of those parts of the country remain unfinished.

I have always made the point that the people of the country districts in this Island have made over the years one of the most significant contributions towards development of Barbados. If you look at all the country villages in this Island - St. John, St. Peter, St. Lucy, St. Joseph and St. Andrew, most of those people have

worked hard in the agricultural belt to ensure that the country produces sugar and the necessary foreign exchange to build this country. It is true that in more recent years many of those people have moved out of agriculture and sugar cane. Some of them went into tourism and other areas. I believe that in our governmental policies we should try to give back to those people in those villages some of what they have put into this country. Many of those people still have to walk through mud and some very bad roads in order to get to church at night. There is no street lighting in their villages and things of that nature.

In our governmental policies we should make every possible effort to ensure that the people who live in the city areas are not only provided with those facilities but ensure that people from the country and the country districts are also able to benefit from the resources which the Government dishes out in its annual estimates of expenditure.

Mr. President, this is most important because what we find is that the St. Michael areas are always highlighted first for any area of developmental activity, whether it is roads, whether it is street lighting, playing facilities, or community centres. The St. Michael areas and certain other areas, particularly if there is a Minister responsible for that area, are always able first to get the necessary facilities.

I have made a number of pleas in relation to areas in the country, in St. James and I have noted that many of these areas still remain without the facilities that have been called for. I am hoping even though the Honourable Senator Morrison was not able to outline them in his plans that he will find it possible during this financial year to do some work in some of those areas. The people of those areas will no doubt be looking forward to their share of the expenditure which is being spent by Government during this financial year.

To move from roads, Mr. President, to mention the area of construction. I believe that in every recession one of the first industries to get a set back is the construction industry. In any country whenever the country goes through economic difficulties construction is perhaps the first signal by its reduced activity. Whenever the economy begins to pick up again construction is the first signal of an upturn in the economy. I believe the fact that the Government is now able to restart many of these construction projects is some sign that the economy in this country is coming back.

The Holatown Police Station has restarted. I am very pleased to see that. A number of other projects have been restarted, the Sherbourne Project and the Highway 2A road. All of these are good signs to show that the economy is coming back. The golf project, the coastal conservation project. Construction is one of the areas which I believe should be given considerable attention by the Government

at this time. Once construction picks up the employment opportunities for many of those small artisans, carpenters, masons will no doubt come back to fruition.

We have a situation where the construction workers in this country have been very disorganised over the years. I believe it is about time that those people who are involved in building should get themselves formed into some sort of association where they can deal with the kind of problems that we faced particularly during the last recession. I can tell you as a fact that before the economy went through the IMF programme carpenters and masons were working for as much as \$85 and \$90 a day. It was possible during the past 10 months to get a good carpenter to do work for \$60 or \$70 a day. I believe it is about time that people who are involved in this industry recognise that they have to pull themselves together whether by means of forming an association or whatever if the construction industry is to maintain any balance of respectability.

If we look at it seriously, many of the people who work in construction industry make a very significant contribution towards the development of this country. It is important that they make their contribution towards the revenue of this island. Many of them are not on the payroll for national insurance, many are not paying income taxes and what is very significant is the fact that after they reach the age that they are no longer able to perform their services, when they reach 50-60 or whatever they do not benefit from the kind of pension which one would expect.

I believe it is about time that the people who are involved in that area of activity, construction, recognise that their calling is one which has a lot of respect. They work in many cases for more money than many professionals. I made the point to someone that many professionals, qualified people like lawyers and accountants, sometimes do not have as great a take-home pay as some of these artisans, well qualified carpenters and masons.

I believe that it is something that should be given some thought. I would therefore like to see Government during this coming financial year seek whatever effort possible to ensure that the construction industry is given whatever impetus or boost possible because once these people begin working again it helps generate the kind of activity to speed up the economic recovery that we are looking for and ensure that the country comes back to a proper footing.

5.30 p.m.

Now, Mr. President, we have looked at the various Heads of expenditure, the areas in which Government is going to be spending the revenue which they will be collecting during the year. I want to make this very clear that, in my view, no matter how much money is spent by

system without looking to introduce new procedures in many areas of our governmental activity, much of this money is going to go to waste.

I have always made the point that the bureaucratic procedures of Government have been one of the main stumbling blocks to the progress of this country. I can give you an example which I had from my own personal experience. I had to renew my road tax on my car, \$265 which I had to pay to Government. It took me about 40 minutes just to pay \$265 to Government. You go and stand in a line. I was a little fortunate or it could have taken me much longer because I went in the wrong line. When I got to the cashier she said "You are paying by cheque?" I said "Yes". She said, "You have to produce your ID". Fortunately I knew somebody upstairs.

Aside.

These are things that happen. The point I want to make is when it comes to simple things like collecting revenue, there should be a much speedier procedure. There are so many other areas of governmental activity that takes so long to do simple little things. No matter how much money we spend in this country, we will not be able, in my view, to touch the problems we face unless we begin to think in terms of changing procedures.

I believe there are too many areas of governmental activity where revenue is not collected. I believe there are many people who own vehicles who refuse to pay their road taxes because they are not prepared to spend 40 minutes in a line. I do not know if the figure would be as high as 20% or 30%. I would suggest that unless we deal with simple things like these we will not ever be able to deal with the problems which we face.

One of the areas also I believe that should concern us, Mr. President, is the question of employment. No doubt as we consider spending money, we will always want to look at the question of not only how many people are employed but how they are being employed in the country. I believe our employment situation, the figures have been put at different percentages – but the latest I heard was 23%. Someone said 25% but I believe 23% was the figure I saw in the Economic Report. What I am saying basically is that the question of employment is one of the areas we have to look at very seriously in this island. If people are not working, then one comes to recognise that the social conditions under which they live will deteriorate.

It is of great concern that we spend so much money on the educational system, on building schools and so on to find that many parents today are keeping their children at home on the basis that they do not have bus fare, lunch money or whatever to send their children to school. This is something that should concern us all. There is no doubt

about it. If we just look around the City and many villages we see young boys and girls of school age on the street during school hours. Sometimes 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 o'clock noon you can pass through certain streets and see many children of school age, not dressed in any particular uniform, on the street. I believe these are things that have to be dealt with. No doubt the social programmes will not ever be able to deal with all these situations which touch the lives of these people, therefore, it is very important that we recognise we have to beef up these particular areas.

Mr. President, as I indicated before we started, my remarks are going to be very brief. I want to indicate my support for the Bill which is before the Chamber. I have no doubt that as the year progresses we will be able to look more closely at the areas and the way in which we spend Government's money. I believe that we as members of this Chamber should all recognise that we have our part to play not only as members of this Chamber but as citizens of this country to ensure that people are kept abreast of what is happening. One of my concerns is that many people are misguided by the information which is circulated. We have to seek more and more, as we conduct our daily lives, to ensure that people are kept abreast of the activities which Government is carrying on and ensure that people are not led astray by people who are prepared to misinform.

With those brief words, Mr. President, I give my support to the measure.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, permit me from the outset to commend Senator Dr. Clarke for his readiness to listen to queries on the information which has been laid before us and to seek clarification of that information presented to this Chamber, also as well to permit me to take note of the ready cooperation of the public officer who has been assigned to the House to assist in these matters. I think it is because of the collaboration of these 2 gentlemen, and particularly the initiative of Senator Dr. Clarke, that we have had that information placed before this House. I say that to say this. If I had any lingering doubts about the contribution which the Senate can make to the enhancement of Government in this country, today's events convince me that any doubt should be erased. These went through the other House. They were debated I cannot say for how many days, but these matters were not picked up there.

I have to confess, Mr. President, that this debate puts Honourable Senators in a bit of a bind. It certainly puts me in a bit of a bind, that is, the timing of the debate. I cannot but get the feeling that it is almost an exercise in futility as a matter of record simply because the debate on the Appropriation Bill and the Budget has been completed in the Other Place. Therefore, the points which are raised here can have little or no effect on the final determination of matters as they relate to the financial policy of

the Government for the ensuing year. I hope, this is a point which the Cabinet would take note of. While I appreciate the necessity to have a single debate of the Appropriation Bill and the Budget, I think, at the same time, those with responsibility for governing the country should recognise what it can do to the self-esteem of this Chamber.

I want to ask a question, Mr. President, about this exercise. What is the significance of this debate on the Estimates of Expenditure? There is a lot of information which is brought here and I have to say that I want to register my strongest disgust at the shoddy information which is included in parts of that Economic Report. A document like that should not be placed before this Chamber. Senator Mottley was right when she raised some questions about it. There are other queries about it, some of which have been drawn to my attention as well by Senator Dr. Clarke. Public servants have to be more careful.

I disagree with Senator Mottley when she blames the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs for the data which appears in this document or the Economic Report. No Minister has the time to go through the computation of this statistical information and public servants have to take their responsibility seriously. You just cannot afford to give a Minister an important document unless it has been carefully checked. If you do that it is going to bring down the professionalism of the Service.

The significance of this exercise, Mr. President, as I understand it, is that firstly it tells us what is the public sector claim on the resources of the country. That claim has direct implications for the level of taxation which it will impose on the country. Put another way, the amount of revenue that has to be collected. The decision about the quantum of revenue has direct implications for the level of incentives, and the lack of inducements to investors in our country which in the final analysis will determine the possibilities for economic growth and the production of tradeable goods and services in this country.
5.40 p.m.

If, Mr. President, we follow carefully and in a logical fashion those four points which I have made about the significance of this debate, you will recognise that this annual debate of the Estimates is of greater significance than the budgetary debate. I make that point to underscore the big build-up to the Budget debate and because people fail to recognise that the budgetary exercise is the end result of this particular estimates debate.

I make a plea, Mr. President, for far more public attention to this Estimates debate as well as public scrutiny. If the budget debate can be televised, I am not asking to have a televised estimates debate, I think it should be carried on the radio stations. The same way other countries

in the Caribbean can broadcast their debates on radio, I think there are enough radio stations in Barbados that they can arrange among themselves to broadcast the debate. All four or five radio stations do not have to carry it at the same time but they can make arrangements among themselves to have this debate carried. It is too important a debate to be neglected in the way that we have done.

In Barbados, at this time, when I listen to the submissions of the Opposition and I listen to the responses of this side, the Government side, I detect a fundamental policy enigma. The Opposition is saying more services but less taxes.

Mr. President, I am sure you recognise that the sources for providing more services must come out of the national cake. They have to come out of the national cake but increases in taxation are a major disincentive to the growth in the national cake. What is the solution, though? I want to suggest that the efforts to increase taxation measures in order to maintain services in the context of a contracting economy is an exercise in futility because the national cake will decline as tax levels increase, and fewer resources will become available to provide the public goods which we are clamouring for.

I think it is Senator Barker who spoke about taxation and high interest rates. There isn't a single Senator in this Chamber who is unaware that taxation in any form is a disincentive to investment. I doubt there is a single Senator in this Chamber who is unaware that in the context of our economy the private sector is the major instrument of growth. It is something which I do not need to repeat. Consequently if you want to expand this economy in any sustainable way you have got to provide the environment in which the private sector is going to feel comfortable and will wish to invest and they are not going to do it for fun. They will do it because profits are there and those profits are sustainable.

Nobody in this Senate and no Government in Barbados has ever liked a regime of high interest rates. No Government of Barbados – this Government or any other Government. I think Senator Barker, with due respect to him, this is not his strong point, Senator Barker's strength is in measurement as I have said before. He is one of the strongest measurement people around. I give that to him. I have no doubt about that. The record will show when you come to measurement he is in a high class, but when you come to matters of interest rate policy and so on, no. And he has to be more careful. There is a supply side for money and there is a demand side for money. You can set a rate which is so low that the suppliers of finance do not supply. And you can set one that is so high that the demanders cannot demand. And in our contexts it is the Central Bank, in the final analysis which will sift

the information and advise the Minister of Finance on the appropriate rate, and they have to take demand and supply forces into consideration. You just do not pull a rate out of the hat like that and decide that is the rate. What I am concerned about, Mr. President, is not necessarily the interest rate, but the other bank charges. A lot of people do not pay attention to those "other charges" when they go to borrow and very often the other charges are the sting in the tail. You watch the interest rates but the real sting is the other charges, you do not see them. So whenever I have to go and borrow money, they can write up the documents but I always ask what is the effective rate of interest? If it does not satisfy me I say keep your money.

The trade unions will argue with Government for maintenance of the size of the work force in the public sector. However what I find is that the union leadership fails to stress that the major reason for importing persons into the public service is to provide a service to their customers. Mr. President this concerns me very deeply. Too many public servants in Barbados treat the public badly. They do not see them as customers or as clients. The attitude is take it or leave it. It is something that we have got to turn around. I believe that nothing short of continuing exposure to customer relations programmes is required in Barbados.

5.50 p.m.

It is unacceptable in 1993 that someone should go into a Government Department and public servants in spite of that person's presence should continue a conversation among themselves and that person who is a customer should have to wait two or three minutes until they are ready to talk to that person. It is unacceptable.

I believe that we are going to have to resolve this enigma to which I referred earlier in dealing with the level of taxation in Barbados. The private sector is complaining about it. Everybody is complaining about it. But the reason why any Government is going to have difficulty in resolving it has to do with the fact that it is very difficult to reduce services. The Government has got to take the bull by the horns and provide a solution for this high taxation regime. The only way that they can do it is by putting the axe on services.

I know there will be some people tomorrow who will be on my back. But my back is broad enough, Mr. President. I can deal with any of them. Barbados in 1993 in terms of its social structure is not the same as Barbados in 1953. I say that to say that the socio-economic policies which were justified in the 1950's and 1960's no longer exist today. In the 1950's, there was no large middle class in this country. There was the property owning class and the disenfranchised poor in terms of property. Not so today because you have a large middle class. I am saying that the policies of successive Governments of the 1950's, 1960's, 1970's and the 1980's have transformed the character of

the Barbadian society and large numbers of Barbadians are able to do more for themselves. If by those policy initiatives you have made those decisions, it is imperative that Government now start to re-examine its policy position. It is in that context I suggest that we need a fundamental rethinking of social policy in this country.

You have people in Barbados who are millionaires and who may have never contributed a penny to the NIS. When they reach the age of 65, all they have to do is say that I have arrived and they can get a non-contributory pension. I do not agree with that. We abide by it because it is the law. I do not agree with it. You have people in Barbados who work for large incomes who deliberately avoid paying a penny to the NIS and when they reach age 65 they come and bombard the Department for a non-contributory pension. Mr. President, I will be returning to this matter shortly. It is wrong, it should be stopped and it is a burden on the state.

I believe, Mr. President, if we are going to resolve this policy enigma in Barbados of which I spoke and which those in the Opposition will speak of but will never confront, we have got to think seriously about charging fees for services which are now provided by the taxpayers. We have got to think about providing loan facilities to replace resources which are now provided by the taxpayers. We have got to make sure that when people borrow money that they pay it back and not in the way they have done with the Student Revolving Loan Fund. I think that we have got to put in place systems to identify the needy and provide for their support. As President Clinton of the United States of America has said, we have to move people from welfare onto work-fare.

Sir, I believe that we have to dismantle inefficient loss making enterprises. Perhaps first we may have to start by dismantling the management. If when we dismantle the management the enterprise is still a loss maker, get rid of it altogether. I believe that we have got to provide for much stricter costing of the provision of public services and we have got to hold managers to stricter accountability. Also, Mr. President, I am of the view that services which can be more efficiently provided by the private sector should be put into the private sector. These suggestions, Mr. President, are just a few of the things which I believe that we will have to confront if we are going to resolve that policy enigma to which I referred.

Sir, I just want quickly to turn to page 6 and I hope that my friends in the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation are with me. Mr. President, I am concerned about some aspects of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Sometimes I travel around the Caribbean. I go to Trinidad, St. Lucia and Jamaica and I am embarrassed when I see the high quality and consistency of the quality in

the presentation of the product which those people offer to the public. I am embarrassed. When in Trinidad and you turn on the television, you are impressed with the quality. Jamaica is the same thing. St. Lucia is the same thing. Why can we not have it at CBC after so many years?

Mr. President, I am of the view that the fundamental reason why we are not receiving that from the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has to do with its management. It has to do with the environment of management. I believe that if we are going to tackle that problem head-on we have got to alter the environment of management at CBC. Notice carefully what I said. We must alter the environment within which management functions and we must hold that management to accountability. If when we alter that environment and the management still cannot function, get rid of that management. We cannot continue with this because it is a national humbug and the mass of the workers of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation are tarnished with a bad image and unjustifiably so.

I do not believe privatising CBC in the normal way of privatising is the answer. I am persuaded that the policy position set out in the 1991 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party is the road to go. If you are going to do any privatising at CBC, have it as a broad-base ownership where the credit unions, church groups, Employers Confederation and trade unions have a part of the equity in that place and the workers at CBC of course.

I want to turn quickly to page 8, Government Printing Office. I want to suggest, Mr. President, that this Office has the potential to earn far more money that is earned at present. The Office in terms of its capacity has not kept pace with the growth of public sector activity. I can tell you that just in the NIS alone, which is a relatively small Department of Government, we pay out hundreds of thousands of dollars for printing services. This Board has always insisted that the Government Printing Department should have first call on work from the NIS, but very often the position is that they cannot deliver on time. I believe that it is time to spend some money to make some money. Therefore, in my view, we need to think in terms of modernization and expansion of the capacity of that Government Department. It does good work and I believe that much income can be earned from that investment which I am advocating.

6.00 p.m.

I come to page 10, Mr. President, the NIS Department. In the Other Place the Member for Christ Church South made some comments about compliance in the NIS and I support those comments. Without being specific, he said at the time that more should be done about enforcing compliance in the NIS. I agree with him. I want to say that unless something is done, and done quickly, to strengthen compliance in the NIS, the generation after mine, might find that they are in trouble. Given the relative

growth of the informal sector in our economy in the last 5 years, more and more persons who are working are opting not to register and pay social security. Some people will say they are avoiding doing that because of the levies. Some people will say that if you remove the levies more people will pay social security.

I am concerned about the fact that there are large numbers of persons who are working, Barbadians and other persons living in Barbados, and are not paying social security. These particular difficulties we experience in Barbados at this time are bringing this problem to the forefront. There are many artisans in Barbados who never pay social security contributions because they never thought they would have been out of a job for so long, and at this time of difficulty they cannot receive unemployment benefits. I believe that there are certain measures which can be put in place to force some of these self-employed persons to honour their obligations.

I am told that there is a feeling in Barbados that the self-employed person does not have to pay social security. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to say that that is not true. Anyone in Barbados who earns in excess of \$21 a week is required by law to pay social security contributions. So this notion that if you are self-employed you do not have to pay social security is an erroneous notion.

I believe that the problem is not insurmountable. We can identify the major categories of self-employed persons in Barbados who are failing to comply. The first will be the minibus operators and the people who work for them. There are the vendors, and we can go down the road. But what is the mechanism? Many of these persons have to apply for licences in order to ply their trades. All we have to do is to insist that as a condition of renewal of that licence the person has got to provide a certificate of clearance issued by the Director of National Insurance. Once you do that, at one stroke you have forced a whole wide category of persons to comply with the Social Security Act.

Mr. President, I also believe that in the case of that class of persons whom it is difficult to identify, and therefore force to comply with the regulations, they can be caught quite simply. All we have to do as of now is to say anyone working for in excess of \$21 a week, who does not apply to the Director of National Insurance for a certificate of exemption which frees him from paying that NIS contribution, when you reach age 65 and you have not paid those contributions, nor do you have evidence of that certificate of exemption from the Director, you will not get the non-contributory pension. I think we should put a cut off age, we should put it at age 50. If you are at age 50 now in 1993, in 15 years' time you cannot receive a non-contributory pension if you cannot provide

those certificates of exemption. Why I say 15 years is because one should have a minimum of 500 contributions to qualify for the contributory pension.

I know, Mr. President, that if we do not take these kinds of actions now to enforce compliance, our social security system is going to experience the same difficulties which the United States social security system has experienced already.

I want to shift quickly, Mr. President, to pages 22 and 23, Revenue Collection. The Minister of Finance indicated that one of the sources of increased revenues would be enhanced efficiency in revenue collection. For quite some time I have been concerned and mystified as to how persons could be in possession of properties which clearly could not be supported by sources of income which are known to all, and they have not been investigated by the Inland Revenue Department. This would not happen in the United States of America, the Internal Revenue Service would investigate you and at the end of the day, if they find you guilty, you have to pay. I have often wondered what is the function of our revenue collecting agencies in Barbados, particularly the Inland Revenue Department. It seems to me that their concentration is on the set of people who are on the PAYE system. It is a fact, the only people who do not seem to know that there are persons with access to substantial wealth, who are not paying taxes and should be paying their fair share of taxes, are the personnel of the Inland Revenue Department. It is the bounden duty of the Minister of Finance to put fire under them and let them get up and do the work which they are being paid to do. I do not wish to say anything more on this matter now, but God spare life and I come back here again next year there are other things I will say.

I want to shift quickly, Mr. President, to Head 25, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Senator Barker had some things to say about the extent to which Government had failed to provide financing for agriculture. I indicated then that Senator Barker apparently was misinformed about the extent to which Government was supporting the destruction of the agricultural sector.
6.10 p.m.

It is common knowledge that sugar, and when we talk about sugar in Barbados we are talking about cropping agriculture, is literally bankrupt. My latest information is that between the factories and the growers the debt to the BNB would be in the region of just over \$220 million. Right now there are about 40 or 43 very heavily indebted plantations to the Barbados National Bank. These plantations were not run by the Government. Senator Barker was talking about 13 plantations owned by the Government. These are marginal properties and Senator Barker knows that. I am talking about properties which were in the hands of the private sector and for reasons

which have to do with bad management but some which have to do with external factors, the decline in the price of sugar and so on, and movements in the exchange rate against the U.S. dollar have put these properties in a position where they can no longer function.

I believe Senator Barker knows that the Government is restructuring and implementing a programme to rehabilitate the agriculture sector. I would have preferred to hear Senator Barker suggesting ways in which you can improve the restructuring programme of agriculture. I think the sooner the Government's programme is put in place the better for the agricultural sector of this country. Every day we delay the danger increases because if we delay too long the sugar crop for 1993-94 will not be planted, the canes will not be manured.

If production on the heavily indebted plantations are lost you will not have a large enough critical mass of production to keep the industry going. So the manufacturing capacity as well as the cultivation capacity will be lost. Therefore, I think what we have to do is to close ranks on this business of the restructuring of the agricultural sector, encourage all parties, the growers, the BNB and the receivers to get together and transfer the assets as quickly as possible to the Agricultural Credit Trust. Every day we wait to complete this matter the danger increases.

I think I heard Senator Barker telling us that in 1986 sugar production was 111 000 tonnes and last year it was just over 50 000 tonnes. The Government does not produce sugar. He was blaming the Government for things of which it is not guilty. I know Senator Barker must know better. Since 1982 the Government of the day established a sugar support scheme despite a lot of haggling over what the intervention price should be. The growers were asking for a very high price and the Government's advisors were saying no. Those estimates are inflated. Then they agreed on a support price but a very important condition is that if the average price which the growers and the manufacturers get for sugar, that is when you get receipts from local sugar sales and export sugar sales primarily EEC sugar sales if when you bring that together the average price exceeds the support price or the intervention price the Government does not have to get into it by way of subsidy. For some time the subsidy was unnecessary.

Senator Barker yesterday said that after the Barbados Labour Party left office its successor Governments would not provide the money. The record will show that is not true. Given the average price which you get after you bring together revenue from local sales and revenue from export sales, it was not necessary for the Government to intervene.

Mr. President, there is a lot more one could say on this matter of agriculture but I want to shift quickly to the matter of price controls on page 96. I am happy that

price controls will be dismantled. I am on record. I do not remember when I published the article and the title was "Are Price Controls Really Necessary?" I think many people are attracted to price controls out of sentimental reasons. Price controls have a hidden cost.

Senator Clarke was Minister of Trade and he would know one cost is the cost of the human resources. You have to devise a system of policing. Another hidden cost and a potentially large cost but which I hope is one we have never paid is the concentration of power in the hands of a single individual, a Minister to determine prices. Power corrupts and concentrated power can generate large corruption. I hope it is a cost which we never have to pay. I do not support price controls. Provide the information to the public, encourage competition, that is the best way to deal with price setting in the distributive sector.

Finally, Mr. President, the Cooperatives Department under Head 40. This Government has done quite a lot to strengthen cooperatives in the country. The new Cooperatives Act 1991 and the Regulations were passed quite recently. In the last 10 years cooperatives have made tremendous strides in Barbados. Not only in terms of the assets which they have attracted but they have been a countervailing force to other lending institutions. There are many small people in Barbados who have managed to get a house and a car and land by saving in the credit union and then borrowing to make the down payment.

It would be most undesirable if the recent reports we have been hearing about infelicities in the credit union movement are to have substantial foundation. I urge the Minister of Trade if the Cooperatives Act of 1991 and the Regulations have not yet been proclaimed in law to have it proclaimed immediately so that anyone who is caught perpetrating any infelicity in the cooperatives movement can be charged and tried under that Act.

There is something which is very special about the new legislation. If anyone commits an offense under that Act, if you discover the offense 50 years after that person can be tried for that offense. It makes provision for seizure of the person's assets to repay the money taken away from the organisation. Mr. President, I think we have to make examples of people who cannot trust themselves because they are inflicting damage on indigenous institutions.

Mr. President, Senator Mottley in making some useful points today, if you take out the political rhetoric which she seems so attracted to, made an observation about borrowing by the Barbados Labour Party in the 1970's. She observed that interest rates were high but yet they were able to borrow. I think the record needs to be set straight. If you turn to the Economic and Financial Statistics which is put out by the Central Bank you will find that when the Government of the Democratic Labour Party emitted office

in 1976 the foreign debt of this country was approximately \$50 million. That is an incontrovertible fact.

One of the reasons why the Barbados Labour Party Government was able to borrow that easily in the 1970s had to do with the success of the Democratic Labour Party Government in managing the affairs of the country between 1961 and 1976. During that period, the Democratic Labour Party Government generated the kinds of surpluses on current account and attracted the level of foreign investment that it did not have to resort to large external borrowings. That is a matter of record. The reason why the Barbados Labour Party was therefore able to go out and borrow was because our foreign debt service as a percentage of export earnings was minuscule, something which you could pay and not miss.

The other reason why the Barbados Labour Party Government was able to borrow was that the Arab Oil sheikhs had money and were recycling it through the international banking system and the bankers wanted to lend people money.
6.20 p.m.

I am sure, Mr. President, you are aware of the billions of bad loans which were made in Latin America, Central America and other parts of the world. I take offence when Senator Mottley tries to suggest that there was some particular merit about the Barbados Labour Party Government which enabled it to borrow. The circumstances are totally different today. The Democratic Labour Party prepared the wicket and the Barbados Labour Party batted on it. They batted on that wicket so well that by the time they left office in 1986 the foreign debt had moved from about \$50 million to \$553.5 million. This is from the Barbados Economic Report for 1982. It increased more than 1 000%.

Mr. President, these are difficult times. I believe we have to forget a lot of the rhetoric which we could bear the cost of when times are better. I have suggested that we must confront this policy of wanting to have more services and yet pay less taxes. I want less taxes. I want it not from a personal position. I want it from a national position. I know I cannot have a low tax regime and yet ask the Government to provide the services which it is providing.

Mr. President, on that note I support this Bill and I am much obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I perforce must join the debate, although at this time I am sure nobody wishes to hear too much, and so much ground has been covered. We were treated earlier today to a display of sound and fury because one of the unfortunate things is that persons come in here having not gotten over the Elections of 1991. We have to face up

to the effects of that and then they are not even here when one wants to reply.

I would like to place on record the fact that as far as I am aware, the Cabinet of Barbados has never had the subject of devaluation on its agenda as something it would even contemplate. It has never been an item on the agenda of the present Government of Barbados. When on the other side comment is made that a Minister of Government admitted that devaluation is on the agenda of the World Bank, that is a matter for the World Bank.

The second matter which I wish to comment on is the question of the funding as set out in the Memorandum to the Estimates and place on record for the debate that my understanding of the numbers shown relating to the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank funding relate to projects which are already known and agreed upon because no Minister of Finance could anticipate funding from any source and put it in a Memorandum of the Estimates. Whenever these numbers are shown in the Estimates as receipts receivable from the Inter-American Development Bank or any other agency, they always represent monies coming for projects or if they relate to other monies it would relate to agreed loans from those sources.

On the subject of agriculture and the matter relating to the sugar industry, I think Senator Alleyne touched on the fact that the substantial indebtedness of the sugar industry was built up over the years and especially during the last 12 years or so. Certainly from 1982 when by law the Government guaranteed price support payments for the sugar industry, there has been a systematic build-up of indebtedness to the Barbados National Bank which reached the stage that it was either the sugar industry be put into receivership or the Barbados National Bank be put into receivership. The Government took a firm decision that it would seek to provide support to the Barbados National Bank by relieving the Barbados National Bank's portfolio of the indebtedness by putting that indebtedness under the responsibility of the Agricultural Credit Trust.

Arrangements are continuing for the indebted estates to be leased to the Agricultural Credit Trust and become the responsibility of the Agriculture Management Company in terms of their continuing operations with a clear understanding that any profits which accrue from the working of these plantations and estates will have to be repaid to the Agricultural Credit Trust in order to work out the indebtedness.

In the same way the indebtedness of the sugar factories, which incidentally the numbers of the sugar factories were reduced systematically over a period of time because of the mistaken view that if you brought small factories together the larger size operations would be more

beneficial, what, in fact, happened was that by removing the smaller sugar factories from the several parishes, we reduced the capacity of the small farmers to plant canes successfully and we also interfered with the content of the sugar canes because of the delays in getting them to the factory and then the build-up in the factory yard. There are a lot of reasons why the sugar crop has declined over the years. The plantations have never been under the ownership of the Government of Barbados. It has always been a private sector industry and I am certain it will remain a private sector industry as long as there is a sugar industry.

Indeed, the Government of Barbados has taken a decision which the ADC will have to carry out, that its 2 more workable plantations, that of the Belle and River, should be placed under the direction of the Agriculture Credit Trust in an effort to see whether their indebtedness could also be worked out because the Government of Barbados has taken on the responsibility of the ADC's indebtedness to the Barbados National Bank in order that the ADC may be freed up in the same way the other plantations have been freed up.

This takes me to the question of the Belle. Comment was raised about why the Belle and other Government ADC owned plantations were also loss-making. There are a lot of reasons why the Belle would be a loss-making plantation but I do not think it is relevant for me to go over that at this time. What I need to say is that an agreement has been reached for the Belle to be made available to the Prisons Department, some 50 acres of the Belle Plantation, to enable the Prisons to develop a farm scheme which would see them planting sugar cane and vegetables, providing opportunities for training of prisoners, hopefully that when they come out of the Prisons they would have had some work ethic in them and they would, in fact, be willing to go and work for real money on the plantations. That, I understand to be one of the reasons.

Quite apart from that, there is also a programme to train them in livestock rearing. Lands at Lower Estate have been or will be made available to the Prisons Department to allow them to have a prison farm covering livestock on the one hand and sugar cane, ground provisions and other root crops on the other hand so that the Prisons would be either able to sell the produce to earn money or provide for the feeding of the inmates and sell to other Government institutions.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, although appearing to have a reduced provision in the Estimates, is embarking on one or two programmes which have to do with the enhancement of people.
6.30 p.m.

The two projects which I can think of, and there are more than 2, but the 2 that spring to my mind are the fruit orchard development project which has been long

in coming but the funds are now available for on-lending to farmers who wish to develop fruit orchards and also the livestock development project with funding from the European Investment Bank through which funds will be made available via the Barbados National Bank who assist farmers with the development of livestock. Indeed it is the livestock co-operatives of the country who should benefit most from this opportunity.

If I move away from agriculture and touch very briefly on comments, and I am just skipping a lot of things because comment was made about the archaic system of the law courts where judges have to sit down and write things out by long hand, my understanding is that the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety and the other authorities related to the courts are taking action to provide training opportunities in a computer aided transcription system for persons who will then serve in the courts, as legal secretaries, court secretaries or whatever one may call them, in support of the judges. It is my understanding that a system similar to that to be operated here at Parliament will apply where persons will use stenotype machines instead of the existing longhand/shorthand system. Indeed more than 20 years ago the stenotype system was introduced and then it fell by the wayside but things have a way of going in cycles so they are here with us again. They want to go to a stenotype system and for the information to be fed into the computer more speedily and produced so that this will assist. My only difficulty with the proposal is that it looks to me that it is going to take too long to train the people and it seems they will have to look to speeding up the whole operation and doing crash programmes of training to get the people ready in a much shorter time than is presently contemplated.

Comments were made about the need for vehicles and equipment for the Royal Barbados Police Force and the only thing I can do is to give the Honourable Members of the Senate the assurance that this has not escaped the attention of the Minister and I know that during the past 12 months, not only, have there been additional vehicles purchased but vehicles have been obtained as gifts for the police force from persons and agencies who are interested in the quality of the service which the Force should render. In addition Government is looking seriously at the computerisation of certain of the activities of the Royal Barbados Police Force which would aid in the detection of crime and there is to be a linkage between the computerisation of that department and the Immigration Department.

On the question of privatisation and divestment, let me say that the divestment of the assets at the BET, BARTEL and the Barbados Mills, all of these arrangements had provision for a buy back option after a number of years which will allow those shares to be made available to citizens of Barbados. It is because the Government was mindful of the need to provide investment opportunities to

citizens of the country, that in each instance although there was the divestment at the time ... yet there were provisions for these buy back options included in the agreements.

In the case of the Pine Hill Dairy the effort was to spread the investment among locals in Barbados, giving staff the first opportunity. In the same way let me give Senator Alleyne the assurance that the Government's intention is not to divest CBC, not to fully privatise CBC but to make some shares in CBC available to members of staff in the first instance. I regard it more as a case of employee participation in the shareholding of the company rather than out and out privatisation.

The same way the quantum of shares which will be available from the ICB, the intention is to make these available to members of staff in the first instance before there is any attempt to make them available to the public. However, in the case of BNOC, I have a little difficulty and I am sorry that Senator Barker is not here because I had intended saying to him some things about BNOC. People have a way of saying things which they know a little about and often seek to rewrite history. The truth of the matter about the BNOC is that when Mobil decided that they would just let the lands lie fallow, the Government was concerned and it is through the instrumentality of the Board of the National Petroleum Corporation that action was taken to obtain services from Petro-Canada International and the Canadian International Development Agency to examine the possibilities of rehabilitating the oil fields. When this was concluded the Government searched and was able to obtain a loan in order to purchase the assets of Mobil (Barbados) Limited. After those assets were purchased it was Petro Canada again and the Canadian International Development Agency that provided funding and technical assistance, including the recruitment of personnel to rehabilitate those fields at Woodbourne as an experiment in the first instance. That Woodbourne and the surrounding areas have turned out to provide us with substantial energy reserves is now a matter of record. Don't let us be foolish enough to say that the Government of the day wanted to do something about energy and it happened. It did not happen that way at all. Unfortunately history will never be truthfully told.

Finally, Mr. President, I do not wish to hold up the Senate, except to again say to Senator Alleyne that the Cooperative Societies Act was proclaimed on 15th March 1993 and the Regulations came into force on that day. I made a comment, less than a week ago, that something is wrong when we could have a piece of legislation as far reaching as the Cooperative Societies Act, coming into law and there is absolutely no fanfare when in fact, for many, many years, cooperative societies have laboured with an archaic law. They have groaned tremendously over the past many years and the legislation which is so important for

their governance, comes into law without the sound of a trumpet. This is something that the Government should really be trumpeting around the place.

In addition, Mr. President, I think we should take note in passing that the new Tourism Act also came into effect on 15th March, 1993 and this new Tourism Act is seen by Government as one of the vehicles which will facilitate the thrust of the tourism industry and the tourism sector as a means of facilitating the in-gathering of substantially more foreign exchange for this country.

With those very brief remarks I beg to support this resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. President, Before I actually get into the winding up of the debate, in my opening presentation there was an error and I would like to go on record and thank Senator Alleyne through his insistence which forced us to take another hard look at these figures and we discovered that on Table 7, page 4 of the Memorandum, under the category of General Public Services, the figure there should have read "\$188 818 011" and the percentage change was not, and I repeat not, a decrease of 53.68% but rather and this is the correct percentage decrease 6.8%. As a result, there was not a decline of 75.43 per cent but rather an increase of 2.4 per cent. Similarly, with Other Community and Social Services, the new figure is \$22 618 633 instead of \$26 076 030 and the percentage change is not 45.67 per cent but rather a positive increase of 59.4 per cent. The last category is Economic Services and the new figure is \$174 202 337 instead of \$341 202 607. The percentage change is not an increase of 84.49 per cent but rather a slight decline of 5.8 per cent.

6.40 p.m.

I just wanted, Mr. President, to read those into the record and to be sure now that we have the accurate and correct figures. I regret any inconveniences which the erroneous figures might have caused in terms of the presentations of Honourable Senators.

Now to turn to the winding up of the debate, I certainly have no intention of delaying the Chamber unnecessarily, but there are a few comments that I should like to address. Senator Barker, in his reply, stated that there was nothing to be gained by balancing the Budget, that is, balancing expenditures and revenues. I believe that he recited the late Prime Minister Barrow in 1967 as stating that development cannot take place unless, or words to the effect, that you have deficit financing.

I have already said in this Chamber, and I thought that Senator Barker would have paid some attention to it,

that there is nothing sacrosanct or sacred about a balanced budget, a deficit budget or a surplus budget in and of themselves. What is important is the state of the economy at that point in time and what policy goal you are seeking to achieve. In this case and at this point in time, we are seeking as our main priority to stabilize the balance of payments position and restore equilibrium. As a consequence, and it has been demonstrated and debated in here over and over again, to the extent that if you run a deficit budget, it tends to be inflationary. Since it is inflationary, there tends to be an increase in the demand for imports which would further aggravate the balance of payments position. Since it is a number one priority, it would be foolhardy at this point in time to talk about running a deficit budget. I hope that we would not find this monster raising its head again, but we should really look carefully at the state of the economy before we decide to ascribe any particular virtues to any type of budget that comes before us.

Senator Straughn raised the question about the apprenticeship programme for students of the Youth Service. This is a matter that will be discussed in a week or so and there is already provision for the National Training Board. I mentioned this in terms of the Technical, Vocational and Educational Council that will be established very soon in the new financial year which will take another hard look at the total Skills Training Programme and the Apprenticeship Programme and the articulation of programmes between the various training institutions in Barbados and the National Employment Bureau. I would like her to know that this matter is engaging our active attention.

Senator Bellamy raised the question of unleaded gasoline. The Cabinet of Barbados has already given its approval for unleaded gasoline to be brought into Barbados and some automobile dealers have already dealt with us on this matter. We recognise the new automobiles coming on stream are being built for unleaded gasoline and Barbados is lagging in this area. It is limiting the sources of vehicles coming into Barbados because we have not got unleaded gasoline. At this point in time, the final negotiations with Mobil are on stream and the question is whether Mobil and/or the other suppliers will bring the gasoline. Cabinet has already committed itself to unleaded gasoline in Barbados in the very near future.

Senator Walcott raised the question, or implied it, that unemployment may be a contributing factor in the crime wave which is now sweeping across Barbados. I think that in Barbados we have known poverty before and we have enjoyed a lower standard of living. Yet, in those times of greater hardship, poverty and crime did not seem to move together. Crime at that time was much less and poverty was greater. At least we have gone through that so we

are not guessing at this. We can have poverty existing in a society without having a corresponding increase in crime. This has happened already in Barbados. I think it is erroneous to link the two things together. We must get out of the habit of believing that every problem that occurs in the society is a problem that can be solved by economic considerations. I think that we need to look again at the role of the church. We have to look at our own value system and this has been dealt with before. But let us not confuse ourselves into believing that each problem that arises in the society is an economically related problem. There are other values and other concerns that we need to address. I think that, in many cases, when you see some of the people who have been committing some of the crimes in Barbados, certainly their economic deprivation has not been a contributing factor. The factor is a different value system and/or the inability to resist the temptation to think what you have should be mine without working to achieve what it is that you have.

6.50 p.m.

The question of noise pollution. I believe the Commissioner of Police has addressed this question and I think at this point in time it is languishing between the Commissioner of Police and the Ministry of Transport, but we clearly understand that these high decibel readings will over time present a health problem and we need to address it as a matter of urgency.

I said in my opening address that we are looking at a comprehensive environmental protection bill, and noise pollution, I can assure you, will be incorporated in that bill. I strongly support Senator Alleyne's call for widening the tax base and the National Insurance base. I am calling for a widening, not by changing the bands as they now exist, but rather to ensure that the people who are in those bands and who should be paying do in fact pay. This means more efficient methods of identifying the people who should pay and ensuring that they make their payments. Failure to do this means that those of us who pay our National Insurance, those of us who pay our PAYE will be forced to pay more if we want to maintain the level of service, while these shirkers in the society are able to get away with it. I think that the recipe advanced by Senator Alleyne is one worthwhile considering and adopting.

In closing, Mr. President, there are some suggestions and some cries I would like to throw out. We would like to ensure that there is great protection on our beaches for locals and visitors alike who use the beaches, because the economic situation will not allow us to put the number of lifeguards on all the beaches where we think they should be. We would like to ask those involved in the tourism sector to do again what the – I believe it was the JAYCEES who started the whole lifeguard system –

Mr. PRESIDENT: That's correct.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Yes, Mr. President was involved in that. I am again asking the tourism sector to adopt a beach, because when a tourist comes to a hotel, he or she drives around in a moke and may elect to bathe at any part of the island - Cattlewash, Bath – and I do believe that if a hotel would adopt a beach and have a lifeguard it would assist in reducing the potential for accidents at these beaches, and it would also bring tourism and offer security to people, especially visitors, who might not be able to recognise the potential danger that may be lurking at a given beach. I am throwing this out asking the hoteliers in particular to adopt a beach, because the citizens bathe all over the island once they come to a hotel, and to have a lifeguard there; by so doing we could reduce the incidence of crime and accidents on the beaches.

I am also asking, since the resources of the NCC are not as copious as they used to be – and copious is the word – or liquid, I would like to throw out to the business sector the idea – and this is already being done, some businesses are doing it – to adopt a roundabout and a bandstand. We are maintaining and restoring the bandstand at Hastings, we are doing the one at Fitts Village, we will be carrying out work at the Esplanade, but it is a perennial problem with Government property. We will build new buildings but we will never maintain them and we go on building more and more new buildings. I am asking the business sector to come forward and adopt a roundabout, have it cleared and keep it clean, one of those which have not already been adopted, and also a bandstand. There are 3 of them I am throwing out for attention, one at Hastings, one at the Esplanade and one at Fitts Village. There is one in the North as well, at Speightstown. These, of course, will be subject to Cabinet's approval.

Just in passing, Sir, there is an error which I picked up at page 60 in the Economic Report. I think it is the second last line. The figure should read "37.9%" instead of "55.9%".

Mr. President, I beg to move 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. President, this Bill has been certified as a money Bill. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be read a third time forthwith.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, I move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Appropriation Act, 1993.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE L. V. H. LEWIS:
Mr. President, we have completed the business of these past two days. I wish, on the adjournment, to alert Members of the Senate that there is a likelihood that we may wish to meet again on Wednesday, 31st March, but I am not going to adjourn until the 31st. Instead I wish to move that this Senate be now adjourned *sine die*.

I am reminded, I often forget to do that. We would wish to place on record our appreciation of the service of

the staff of Parliament. These two days have been as long as the ones last week and the week before, but certainly they are out of the ordinary and we know that it is trying. It is trying for us who are sitting, far less for the persons who have to be writing and moving around and doing other things on the premises. From 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. is a long time. I think the clock is striking.

With those words of appreciation to the staff, I move that the Senate be adjourned.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly. 7.00 p.m.

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT 1180

Message from Her Excellency the Governor-General informing the Senate that she would be unable to perform the functions of Governor-General during the period March 9 to 14, 1993.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS 1180

1. Report on the General Election, 1991.
2. The Economic Report 1992.
3. 1992 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Barbados.
4. The Land Valuation (Fresh Valuations) Order, 1993.
5. Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Police for the years 1990 and 1991.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS 1181

Suspension of Standing Orders 45(2) for the remainder of the Sitting.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS 1181

The Appropriation Bill, 1993 was read a first time.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – APPROPRIATION

BILL, 1993 1181

Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. Clarke, 1181;
Senator T. E. Barker, 1194.

SUSPENSION 1198

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1198.

RESUMPTION 1198

ORDER NO. 1 (resumed)

Senator T. E. Barker, 1198; Senator Mrs. A. Straughn, 1209; Senator A. J. N. Phillips, 1212; Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. Springer, 1218; Senator T. C. Beckles, 1222; Senator J. G. Bellamy, 1229; Senator Mrs. M. Walcott, 1234.

SUSPENSION 1236

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1236.

RESUMPTION – Tuesday, March 23, 1993 1236

ORDER NO. 1 (resumed)

Senator J. A. F. Cole, 1236; Senator Mrs. V. C. Fraser, 1239; Senator W. LeR. Inniss, 1246; Senator Miss Y. V. Walkes, 1253.

SUSPENSION 1259

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1259.

RESUMPTION 1259

ELUCIDATION 1259

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1259; Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. Clarke, 1259;

Correction of figures in the memorandum of the Estimates which he had quoted in his speech of the day before.

ORDER NO. 1 (resumed)

Senator Mrs. Barker-Welch, 1259; Senator Miss M. A. Mottley, 1264; Senator A. Morrison, 1271; Senator J. J. Payne, 1278; Senator Dr. F. W. Alleyne, 1280.

ADJOURNMENT 1290

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1290.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ALLEYNE, Senator Dr. F. W.

BARKER, Senator T. E.

BARKER-WELCH, Senator Mrs. M.

BECKLES, Senator T. C.

BELLAMY, Senator J. G.

CLARKE, Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D.

COLE, Senator J. A. F.

FRASER, Senator Mrs. V. C.

INNIS, Senator W. LeR.

LEWIS, Senator the Hon. L. V. H.

MORRISON, Senator A.

MOTTLEY, Senator Miss M. A.

PAYNE, Senator J. J.

PHILLIPS, Senator A. J. N.

SPRINGER, Senator the Rev. Canon J. L.

STRAUGHN, Senator Mrs. A.

WALCOTT, Senator Mrs. M.

WALKES, Senator Miss Y. V.