# THE

# SENATE DEBATES

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

## SENATE

*Wednesday, March 23, 1994*

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, March 23, 1994 at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator M. deL. JORDAN, (President)
Senator J. J. PAYNE (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS, G.C.M. (Minister of the Environment, Housing and Lands) (Leader of the Senate)
Senator A. MORRISON
Senator Mrs. V. C. FRASER, B.S.S., J.P., M.C.F.A.
Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS
Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE (Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs) (Deputy Leader of the Senate)
Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE
Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES
Senator Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH
Senator Dr. E. A. SIMMONS
Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, G.C.M.
Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT, S.C.M.
Senator C. O. WILLIAMS
Senator W. LeR. INNISS
Senator the Venerable Archdeacon 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 Rev. Errington Massiah.*

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following communication from the Ombudsman for Barbados which reads as follows:

"Your Honour,

Special Report of the Ombudsman Act, Section 13(7) Cap. 8A.

Following investigations into a complaint from an Education Officer I have prepared this special report under the provisions of section 13(7) of the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8A.

I have the honour to submit the said report to you and respectfully request that you cause it to be laid before the Senate."

I now therefore lay this special report of the Ombudsman in accordance with section 13(7) of the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8A.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the Estimates for 1994-95 and the Schedule of Personal Emoluments.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) to enable this Honourable Senate to deal with certain matters on the Order Paper, namely certain

Bills which will require a first reading and which we want to deal with during the period of this session.

*The question was put and agreed to.*

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, my attention has been drawn to the fact that it is necessary for me to lay the Barbados Port Authority (Tariff Book of Dues and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Bills be read a first time.

A Bill to grant an additional sum of $85 221 from the Consolidated Fund to appropriate that sum for the service of Barbados for the year ending March 31, 1994.

Secondly, a Bill to amend the Marriage Act, Cap. 218A.

Thirdly, a Bill to grant the sum of $621 195 836 out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending March 31, 1995.

Fourthly, a Bill to amend the Local Loans Act, Cap. 98.

Fifthly, a Bill to amend the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A.

I beg to move that these 5 bills be read a first time.

*The question was put and agreed to.*

## PUBLIC BUSINESS ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LOWLANDS, ST. LUCY

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the policy of Government over the years has been to rationalise and amalgamate primary schools in this Island and during consideration of the third educational and training project loan it was decided that the St. Clement Primary School in the parish of St. Lucy should be consolidated and that a site at Lowlands in that parish should be acquired for the purpose of providing the school facilities and also providing the playing field for the community.

This Resolution before us seeks to acquire those lands. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

*The question was put and agreed to.*

10.25 a.m.

## ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT COVERLEY, CHRIST CHURCH, FOR COMMERCIAL CATERING PURPOSES AND ANCILLARY RESIDENTIAL USE

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the lands at Coverley Plantation were acquired during the construction phase of the Adams end of the ABC Highway a few years ago. At a meeting in August, 1989, Cabinet agreed that a portion of Coverley Plantation which was remaining comprising 12 137.9 square metres of land together with the plantation house and other structures thereon should be leased to Mrs. Ramsey under the following terms and conditions:-

- The lease to be for a period of 15 years with an option to renew it, subject, of course, to the approval of Parliament;
- the lessee to be responsible for payments in respect of utilities, taxes, all repairs, both maintenance and structural nature to the Ministry's satisfaction;
- that the annual rental for the first five years will be $600 per annum subject to review at 5-yearly intervals;
- the purposes for which the premises would be used would be for commercial catering purposes and ancillary residential use.

Between 1989 and the present time, the proposed lessee has been occupying the premises and has used a right of way of some 339.3 square metres of land along with an area of 11 448.7 square metres. That is the land that the building is on and its curtilage and roadway of 689.2 square metres. Whereas it is not intended that the right of way should be included in the lease, the rest of the property is included in the lease.

This Resolution seeks parliamentary approval for granting that leasehold interest in the property to Mrs. Eudine Ramsey.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I will be very brief but I thought it necessary to comment on this particular Resolution which I am supporting. I believe that many Senators might not be familiar with

the physical condition of this particular property which this Resolution speaks to, the condition which it was in the 1980s. I live in that area and I know of the place.

I rise to draw to the attention of this House the sad state of management of public property. This was a building which was a derelict building inhabited by vagrants and covered with bush. I did not believe that a building existed there. I was invited to see it when it was in this derelict state. I say these things to draw to the attention of this Honourable Chamber what I refer to, for want of a better term, the deplorable state of the management of public property. I submit, Mr. President, that if in the public sector the capability to manage these properties does not exist, I think with the utmost speed Government should try to get a fair price for these properties and get them out of their hands.

This particular property, Mr. President, which this Resolution speaks to, a remarkable job has been done on it. It has been transformed in the space of about four or five years from a real derelict place which I do not think any person in his right mind would wish to inhabit to one where I think it is the pride of the people who have worked on it over the last four or five years.

I support this Resolution, Mr. President, and again I will urge the Government to put its house in order with respect to management of public property. Too much of the taxpayers' money is spent on acquisition of public property. The tragedy of it is that sometimes 2 and 3 years after a new facility has been erected in the public sector, it is in a very deplorable and run-down state.

I would invite Honourable Senators to go into the Treasury Building and visit the office of the Supervisor of Insurance. That is not an old facility. I went there last year and I was ashamed to see the condition of that office and there are people who are properly paid in the public sector to look after these things. There are property managers in the public sector.

I am saying, Mr. President, if these people cannot do the work, give it to other people who can do the work. I believe at this juncture in Barbados the evidence is abundantly clear that the people who are called upon to discharge this responsibility are not discharging it properly. I think in the short and medium-term the Government will be well-advised to give these property management services out to private enterprise. Put them out to tender. That is what we have done with the Sir Frank Walcott Building.

I can assure you, Mr. President, that any time the people who have the tender to provide the services which we are paying for fail to discharge their duties, we will invoke the clause to sever linkages with them. I believe the taxpayers and the country would be better served if the Government would seriously consider giving to the private sector the challenge to manage its property.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

## ORDER NO. 3 – BILL TO GRANT AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF $815 221 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO APPROPRIATE THAT SUM FOR THE SERVICE OF BARBADOS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1994

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, this Bill and the Object and Reasons thereto could better have been described as a reallocation of funds because, as I have said throughout – and this is the fourth supplementary provision coming before us – with respect to the other three which preceded it, that these funds are not additional funds to what has been estimated and budgeted at the beginning of the financial year but rather will accrue from savings in other areas in the Estimates.

The funds will be appropriated to the Governor-General and the Prime Minister's Offices in order to refurbish them for the upcoming Conference, in the areas of the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Transportation for the upkeep of property and this is consistent with what Senator Alleyne was talking about.

I would also like to draw to the attention of this Honourable Chamber, Mr. President, that the note to Head 19, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Programme 11 – Lending, Subprogramme 01 – Loans and Advances, Object No. 828, Loans to Agencies, this Explanatory Note is being amended to add Loans to the Barbados Development Bank.

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

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

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, this has been certified as a Money Bill.

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

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

10.35 a.m.

## MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1994

*Order No. 4 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Marriage Act, Cap. 218A.*

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Bill relates specifically to the removal of a 3-day residential qualification before persons may apply for a Marriage Licence, as well as the removal of a 3-day waiting period between the date of the application and the date of the marriage. So that instead of waiting 6 days, they can now have a quickie.

Under the provisions of the Marriage Act, Cap. 218A persons intending to marry can be issued with a licence only if they have resided in Barbados for a period of at least 3 days immediately preceding the application and the marriage cannot, except the Minister in his absolute discretion otherwise authorizes, be solemnized under the authority of a licence earlier than the third day after the date of issue of that licence.

The intentions of Part IV of the Marriage Act are to provide third parties with an opportunity to object to the issue of a Marriage Licence or a Magistrate's Certificate in circumstances where there exists a valid impediment to the proposed marriage. The application of the 3-day requirement, it is understood, does not assist in this regard. The waiting date between the date of application and the date of marriage is routinely waived once the parties apply for such waiver.

The upshot therefore is that the proposed legislation is unlikely to have any effect whatsoever adversely and will, in fact, facilitate these marriages.

Apparently the Ministry of Tourism indicated its support for this as well as the Hotel Association because visitors to the island are not hindered in any way in using Barbados as a honeymoon destination.

The Amendments are to Section 20 of the Act, Cap. 218A. Amendment to Section 23, a deletion of Section 21 and the insertion of a new Section 24 in substitution for the existing section of the Act.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is... Senator Springer.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, just a few comments on these Amendments. While I would not wish to be in the business of encouraging shotgun weddings, it seems to me that there is unintentional discrimination against the churches here. The Amendments are making it easier for marriages to be contracted by a magistrate but the provision is not extended to the churches in the same circumstances.

It seems to me, although I personally dislike and discourage short periods of preparation for marriage, that there are people who come from overseas who would still like to have a church wedding or a marriage by an officer of a religious denomination rather than one at the hand of a magistrate. In making it easier for them, that is, the magistrate, the revisions are sending mostly everybody who wants a quick marriage to the magistrate.

I think that we need a few other provisions in this Act to accommodate religious weddings. For example, I think that the certificate offered, and which is provided for here, by the magistrate immediately after the marriage ought to have that provision extended to a clergyman who is providing a marriage for these visitors or even for local people.

The practice at the moment is that a marriage officer is required to have a Register of his own and he is answerable to the Registrar as to the correct use of this Register. In bringing about this arrangement in the Act of 1971 I think, the Act was elevating the clergymen of whatever denomination over and above – you might almost say – his church in that he was not answerable to the head of his church where his Marriage Register was concerned but only to the Registrar.

It seems strange that having made that important step forward of treating the church officer as almost equal to the legal marriage officer, the magistrate, that he is then robbed of the opportunity to write a valid certificate for the marriage that he had performed. I think that that is unfortunate. Because a number of people who seek to get or to use Marriage Certificates provided by the clergyman immediately after or, as in accordance with the Act, after registration a month later, find that the certificate given is not accepted by legal authorities as being valid. The persons have got then to seek the Registrar's office to get what is regarded now as a proper Certificate. If people have to travel immediately after their marriage this is a problem.

What I am saying is that there is need for a provision to update the Act and to provide for Ministers of Religion to write valid certificates. I would also want to make the plea for them to be allowed to write these valid certificates, and in fact to be required to do so, immediately after the marriage.

There are a number of happenings that make it necessary to take some precaution where certificates are concerned. One of them is the increase of vandalism around churches nowadays where Registers and other documents disappear. There should be a requirement that the clergyman, when once his certificate is regarded as valid, should write a certificate immediately after

which would provide some way of tracing the information if there should be vandalism. We know what has happened in the case of fires in some of our churches.

Then there is the problem of the marriage officer travelling before he had registered the marriage. He then becomes the only person with the information until the marriage is registered and this could delay the business of people who are newly married.

We need appropriate Amendments to ensure that the religious marriage officer is not a second-class officer but equal to any other. We need Amendments to make the business easier all around for those who are getting married.

Thank you, Sir.
10.45 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I have taken note of the concerns expressed and it may be that we should do something about the Marriage Notice Book as distinct from what is entered in the book of the Registrar of the Supreme Court. I will certainly, arising out of the comments made, which will be printed in Hansard, follow up the matter to see in what ways further appropriate amendments may be done. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

*Clause 1 was called and passed.*

*Clauses 2 to 5 were called and passed.*

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

*On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Marriage (Amendment) Act, 1994.*

ORDER NO. 5 – THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1994.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Before Senator Clarke introduces this, I shall ask that you call the Heads as you refer to them. It makes it easier for us to follow.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, in rising to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, I shall attempt to review the fiscal performance of the economy for the year 1993/94 by taking a look at the performance of current revenue, current expenditure, capital expenditure, debt service and the fiscal balance.

Out of the performance of fiscal policy I shall then attempt to look at the performance of the private sector as reflected in those companies trading on the Securities Exchange of Barbados. Then I shall move to give projections for the year 1994/95 with their underlying assumptions. I shall also consider the capital projects and time permitting, Mr. President, I shall touch upon certain Heads for which I am holding briefs. I shall identify them as you have asked when I come to that point.

Mr. President, the Appropriation Bill 1994, seeks to provide for the grant of a sum of money not exceeding in the aggregate $619 974 176 out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of Barbados for the year ending March 31, 1995.

As we review the fiscal performance for the year which will end on March 31, 1994 you will find that fiscal policy was conducted in an environment somewhat dictated by the requirement of a fiscal deficit of less than 1% of nominal gross domestic product at factor cost.

In terms of the deficit there are two ways of looking at the deficit. One way is the International Monetary Fund's approach which excludes amortisation and the commercial enterprises of Government – such as the Post office. This is dealt with on a net basis. These are excluded in arriving at the IMF deficit, compared with the Accountant General's deficit which takes into account amortisation and the positions of the commercial enterprises.

The treatment of the deficit: On one side you have the IMF which tends to understate the deficit and on the other hand the Accountant General's method which tends to overstate it. The treatment of the deficit like the treatment of inventory in a private company has economic implications and we have to be guided and guarded as we attempt to project what will happen to the economy based on the methodology used.

The IMF method presupposes that since developing countries are not capable of generating any savings at all within the economy and any loans they have to service will come from outside of the economy by excluding the amortisation of such loans from deficit it is implying that any servicing of the debt will not have any implications for the local economy, compared with the Accountant General's position which takes the full amount of the amortisation into the deficit.

If we follow that line of analysis then of course we would tend to overstate the expansionary effect of the deficit for the simple reason that part of those funds will have to be ... to the extent that the public debt has a local component and a foreign component the foreign component will not be available for expansionary effects within the local economy.

So in Barbados where we have a public debt it is distributed between the locals and foreigners we must look and see the percentages which are held and by whom and which will be serviced in any given year to judge the full effect of the expansionary nature of the servicing of that debt. That is important to us and I think that because the IMF gives a position or we have been accustomed to one position taken by the Accountant General that we should not just look at the deficit and decide just on the surface that it is good or bad in or of itself but further analysis is necessary.
10.55 a.m.

With that caveat in place, the original fiscal programme for 1993/94 when presented on the Accountant General's basis for determining the deficit indicated that a total revenue of one billion and sixty million dollars and a Current Expenditure inclusive of amortisation of one billion one hundred and forty-one point four million dollars and Capital Expenditure of $138.7 million would have produced a deficit of $220.1 million. When this is converted on the IMF basis, we find that the deficit now falls to $26.4 million or 0.9 per cent of a nominal gross domestic product and the total gross domestic product is projected at $2,782.2 million. The initial estimation in 1993/94 was predicated upon a 2 per cent real growth in gross domestic product and 2.4 per cent annual rate of inflation and 28.6 per cent growth in retained earnings. This is based upon the Estimates of last year.

During the course of the year 1993/94, a mid-year fiscal correction became necessary and, as a result, these variables were revised downwards. Thus, with the revision a 2.7 per cent rate of inflation was projected and 20.7 per cent growth rate in retained earnings. Projected total revenue was also revised downwards to $997.1 million and Current Expenditure inclusive of amortisation was $953.7 million and Capital Expenditure was also reduced downwards to $108.9 million producing an overall deficit of $65.5 million, that is the Accountant General's deficit. The IMF's deficit was projected at $14.1 million, giving a nominal GDP deficit of 0.5 per cent.

As I said earlier, the implications following the IMF methodology would indicate that there was a relatively small deficit of $14.1 million which means that fiscal policy because of the small deficit would have been less expansionary and less stimulating to the economy than if we had had a much larger deficit using the deficit as projected by the Accountant General. I posited early in the presentation that because of the nature of the public debt and the nature of servicing that public debt with part of it being held between locals and foreign, that the deficit in real terms and its impact on the local economy will fall somewhere between those two extremes.

A closer examination of these variables will show that Current Revenue for 1993/94, this is the year that we are in now, was increased or provisioned by $9.1 million or an increase of 0.9 per cent to reach in absolute figures the sum of $1,013.6 million. In projections less than 1 per cent would indicate little or no change. The reason for this virtual static performance in terms of Current Revenue could be explained by the following. Although there was strong growth in taxes on incomes and profits and also taxes on goods and services, these growth rates in the two areas were virtually offset by a strong combined decline in special receipts, that is the levies and non-tax revenue and property taxes.

The estimated strong growth of personal income taxes is not based on any increase in rates of the tax structure but rather in the widening of the tax base. That is people who were entitled to pay taxes and who in the past either avoided the net or refused to pay their taxes have now been brought into the tax net. In addition, the levies are expected to decline by 40.6 per cent or $34.8 million reflecting the partial reduction of the health service and transport levies at January 1, 1993 and the full elimination of the health, transportation and employment levies which took effect at January 1, 1994.

The expected good performance of taxes on goods and services will show an increase of 10 per cent and will arise mainly from the increase in the consumption taxes.
11.05 a.m.

This increase in consumption taxes reflects the implementation in April 1993 of the first part of the two-stage reform of the indirect tax system whereby consumption tax rates were increased to compensate for the potential revenue loss resulting from the implementation of the Common External Tariff. You will hear more of the implementation of the second stage as discussions take place around the value added tax.

During the year too there was a fall in non-tax revenue by 22%, or by $16.2 million, and this was due mainly to the fact that the profits of the Central Bank of Barbados fell from the level of $30 million in 1992-93 to around $15 million in the current financial year, 1993-94.

With respect to the other main categories of tax revenue, it is expected that taxes on corporations will grow by 9.2% or $8.2 million to $97.1 million; import duties

are expected to increase by 2.9% or $2.9 million to $77 million, while stamp duties are expected to fall. There is expected to be a reduction in stamp duties of 1.9%, or $1.9 million, to a total of $81 million. Land taxes receipts are expected to decline from 1992-93 levels to about $2.8 million. Even with the reduction in some areas of the tax rates, because of greater efficiency in the overall management and collection of debts, revenues have been increasing. The fall in stamp duties from the previous year resulted in part from the smaller receipts in imports and the Common External Tariff being imposed at that time.

On the question of Current Expenditure in 1993-94 – I am still reviewing the fiscal implications for 1993-94 – and this is important, Mr. President, because it has implications for what has happened in the private sector because of Government's fiscal policy, so I am setting the stage to show in no uncertain terms what the end result in the private sector turned out to was a direct result of Government's policy. Under Current Expenditure, the key feature of the 1993-94 expenditure was the restoration of the 8.0% in the public sector emoluments. As a result of this one action it is expected to raise wages and salaries by $31.8 million from the 1992-93 levels, or by about 8.6%. This means that the total expenditure on the wages bill for 1993-94 is expected to rise to $401.1 million.

National Insurance contributions are expected to remain unchanged, at about $27 million. One would have expected this to increase, given the restoration of the 8% in personal emoluments, but this did not occur, and will not occur, because of the elimination of the levies which I alluded to before. In order to compensate for the increase in the wages bill, expenditure on goods and services is expected to fall by $57.6 million to $101.5 million. This is consistent with what has been said in this Chamber, Mr. President, as we introduced those supplementary provisions, where we clearly indicated that we were not talking about increasing Government's expenditure but rather reallocating resources between various Ministries and within Ministries between various lines.

Current transfers are expected to record a $44.0 million or 19.0% increase over 1992-93. This increase is explained in the main by the anticipated clearance of $29.3 million of arrears of contributions owed to the University of the West Indies. It also reflects $9.5 million in Central Government coverage of the operating deficit of the sugar sector during the year.

Turning now to Capital Expenditure, this category in addition to net lending is now expected by 31st March, 1994 to fall by $19 million, or by 15.8% below the 1992-93 level. The largest category of expenditure reduction is expected to be Capital transfers from $34.9 million in 1992-93 to $22 million in 1993-94. This is a reflection of the significant declines in transfers to the Barbados National Bank and the Barbados Development Bank. It is also expected that Capital Formation will remain virtually unchanged, at about $62.3 million, in both 1993-94 and the preceding year 1992-93.

On the question of debt financing, the 1993-94 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure had calculated Government's borrowing requirements for the fiscal year at $220.2 million, of which foreign financing was $174.1 million, including up to $58.7 million in commercial borrowing. Those were the anticipations. However, some $46.1 million were to be secured from domestic sources. In addition, it has been anticipated that $40 million would be obtained from divestments.
11.15 a.m.

Mr. President, that captures in a nutshell the fiscal programme and actual performance for the current financial year. As a result of Government's policy and its honouring of its commitments in terms of the restoration of the 8%, we would expect that with the restoration of the 8% that disposable income will increase and an increase in disposable income will be reflected in greater purchasing of goods and services from companies in the Bridgetown area.

Mr. President, there are some of us who are not prepared to get our hands dirty to go and do our research. I do mine, Mr. Barker.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: But the information is available from the Securities Exchange of Barbados. Public documents, I might add.

I would like to start with Brydens. Just by "B". Nothing to do with Senator Bellamy. Only the second letter in the alphabet. What I am asking this Honourable Chamber to bear in mind as I present these figures is that these are being presented at a time when Government has been castigated for stifling business when we have been hearing more and more about the lack of political democracy in this country and nothing about economic democracy. Shares are still held in these companies by few people and yet we hear about the request for greater consultation between the private sector and Government yet Government as far as I know is not asked to name anybody to the Boards of directors of any of these public companies which is consistent with the spirit of reciprocity and mutuality which we have been hoping for.

I shall proceed to set out what actually transpired in the year before us. In 1992, A. S. Brydens had sales of $86 620 000. In 1993 they had sales of $89 106 000. But this is good management in part and the benevolence of a good government – we have to take both together by

creating the business environment. The profit before taxes in 1992 was $5 319 000. In 1993, it was $5 585 000 or 5% increase in profit. I believe the rate of inflation was less than 3% in the year. So in real terms there has been a marked improvement for the company.

Mr. President, that is not all. The good thing about it is that retained earnings for 1992 was $2 213 000 and in 1993 it increased to $2 486 000 or an increase of 12.3%. The retained earnings figure is after all dividends have been paid to the respective shareholders.

Banks Breweries in 1992 had sales of $41 893 000. In 1993 it had sales of $48 226 000 or an increase of 15.1%. Profit before taxes was $4 011 000 in 1992 but in 1993 profit before taxes was $7 363 000 or an increase of 83.6%. The retained earnings for this company in 1992 stood at $1 693 000 but increased to $3 113 000 for an increase of 83.9% in retained earnings.

BET and BARTEL are two special cases this year. I will also read these because it is incumbent upon me having done the work to give you the full picture. What I am asking you to bear in mind, fellow Senators, is that for BARTEL in 1993 was in the throes of a rate hearing. For those of us who have been exposed to elementary accounting in high school we have learnt there are many ways to treat depreciation, deferred income, and it is against this background that I shall proceed to read to you the happenings at BET.

At Barbados External Telecommunications in 1992 sales were $168 295 000, in 1993 $150 286 000 or a decline in sales of 10.7%. Profit before taxes fell from $22 435 000 in 1992 to $15 276 000 in 1993 for a 31.9% decline and retained earnings fell from $4 928 000 in 1992 to $2 726 000 in 1993 or a 44.7% decline.

I don't have any figures this year for Barbados Light and Power but I do have for Barbados Shipping and Trading and sales in 1992 were $391 989 000. In 1993 these sales had increased to $407 746 000 for a 4% increase. I hope one of the other Members as they listen to this will try to tell us what these figures mean for those who have had some experience in accounting because we have a 4% increase in sales but profit before taxes for B. S. & T. in 1992 was $8 017 000 but in 1993 they had increased to $12 894 000 or 60.8% increase. That is, the profits increased at a faster rate than the increase in sales. I am asking other people who are listening to these figures as they are being presented and who have a little more time to deal with them, to address these figures because they have implications for us. The retained earnings for B. S. & T. went from a negative $2 855 000 in 1992 to a positive $3 449 000 in 1993.

11.25 a.m.

BARTEL, and I lumped Bartel and BET with the comments when I started earlier, had sales of $104 111 000 in 1992. This fell or declined to $103 839 000 in 1993 or a decline of 0.3%. Profits before tax fell from $10 471 000 in 1972 to $9 435 000 for a decline of 9.9%. I was at pains to point out that this decline in profits can be explained by the accounting gymnastics and the way one treats deferred taxes and the method employed for depreciation. It need not have anything to do with the actual cash flow.

BICO had sales of $10 109 000 in 1992 which increased to $11 746 000 in 1993 for 16.2% increase. Profit before taxes went from a negative $24 000 to a positive $1 118 000. Retained earnings went from a negative $143 000 to $388 000.

Cave Shepherd, and this is an interesting one – I am sure that Senator Alleyne is listening at this point – went from $65 780 000 in 1992 to $53 399 000 in 1993 for a decline of 18.7%. However, profit before taxes went from $1 906 000 to $3 020 000 for 58.4% increase in profits. Retained earnings increased from $745 000 to $1 470 000 or 97.3% increase.

For those of us who shop in Bridgetown, not like some of my friends on the other side who have an opportunity to shop elsewhere but I have to make my way into Bridgetown, we would have noticed that in the stores, Cave Shepherd in particular, that there are now concessions being granted in the store whereby you become a concessionaire. You pay X amount for rental and some percentage of the part of your sales so that the risk for the company is reduced. While the sales figure is being reduced the profit figure, on the other hand, could be increased. Is that right? I do not want to make the wrong analysis. This is a foreign language to me, the numbers, at least.

On the question of Courts, they had gross sales of $26 279 000 in 1992 and in 1993 sales increased to $32 537 000 for an increase in sales of 23.8%. Profit before taxes on the other hand fell from $2 963 000 to $2 866 000 for a decline of 3.3%. I have been informed that this decline in profits arose out of the treatment of the way sales were being taken into income whether you treat them as sales at the point at which the contract was signed or you view it as unearned income until the full amount has been paid up which will have implications for the balance sheet. Retained earnings fell from $1 128 000 in 1992 to $901 000 in 1993 for a decline of 20.1%.

Goddard Enterprises rose from $296 324 000 in sales in 1992 to $297 058 000 in 1993 for a 0.3% increase. Profit before taxes increased from $11 809 000 in 1992 to $15 258 000 in 1993, an increase of 29.2%. Retained earnings increased from $3 201 000 in 1992 to $5 077 000 in 1993 or an increase of 58.6% in retained earnings.

West India Rum Refinery had sales of $10 244 000 in 1992 increasing to $11 562 000 in 1993, an increase of 12.9%. However, profit before taxes fell from $1 210 000 in 1992 to $504 000 in 1993 or a decline of 58.3%. I understand that the problem here was the inability of this company to procure molasses on the local market and in an effort to hold on tc the markets which it had worked so hard to develop, especially in Europe, it was forced to buy molasses from overseas. The additional cost reduced the profit margin in that year. It was forced to buy molasses outside. The additional cost reduced the profit margin in this year. The retained earnings as a consequence fell from $630 000 in 1992 to $218 000 or a decline of 65.3% in retained earnings. However, and I shall not bore you beyond this – I see some of us are getting ready to go to sleep – the West India Biscuit Company increased from $14 120 000 in 1992 to $15 037 000 in 1993 a 6.5% increase. Profit before taxes increased from $697 000 to $1 051 000 between 1992 and 1993 giving us a 50.8% increase. Retained earnings increased from $198 000 in 1992 to $503 000 for an increase of 154.6%.
11.35 a.m.

Fellow Senators based on the performance of these representative companies as traded on the Stock Exchange I believe we can conclude that the policies pursued by this Government during the Financial Year, 1993-94 have been, at least, kind to these companies in spite of the protestation which has been made about the policies of this Government. The figures are there for all who are prepared to find them and who are able to read them.

My concern as I address this Chamber on this matter is that – and I will call all – as we seek political democracy in this country that we should also be no less aware and be very much as cognizant of the fact of the need for economic democracy in this country. It is a mockery to talk about having in this country a securities exchange when if tomorrow you have succeeded in saving $100 and you wanted to invest, to own a share, it would be extremely difficult to go on the Stock Exchange and hope to buy shares. They are listed...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: On a point of order, Mr. President. I refute that statement entirely, Sir. There are 29 000 on the market for one of the largest companies in Barbados today and can be purchased by anybody.

What we need is an education through the primary and secondary system to teach people how to invest money not blame business people for the lack of investment. There are millions of shares out there for sale.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, I am making the presentation. I do not understand how I can be interrupted when I am making the presentation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You may, on a point of order. Proceed.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: I repeat, Mr. President, that if we in this country are to achieve economic democracy then of course shares must not only be listed but they must be available when you go into the market to purchase them. This is the point I am making. I defy anybody in this Chamber or elsewhere to attempt to contradict this.

Mr. President, I shall now proceed to look at the projections for the year 1994-95. The fiscal programme for the year 1994-95 is dictated by a target fiscal deficit of no more than 1.3% of nominal GDP or $37.4 million calculated on the IMF methodology. However, given the Accountant General basis, based on a total revenue of $1 022.2 billion and current expenditure which will, of course, include amortization of $1 099.5 billion and capital expenditure and lending of $170.9 million you will have a deficit of $248.1 million. That is the Accountant General's provision.

On the IMF basis the deficit reduces to $40.4 million or 1.4% of nominal GDP and this will give us $2 921.3 billion. There are certain basic assumptions which have been made if we are to achieve the Gross Domestic Product of $2 921.3 billion. The assumptions underlying these figures are as follows:

Revenue

In order to realize the revenue figures it is predicated that Gross Domestic Product will grow by about 2% to 3% in the year 1994-95. It is projected that the rate of inflation will continue to remain low and will not exceed 2.3%.

Retained imports will grow by 28.6%.

Those are the major assumptions for revenue. In terms of expenditure the assumptions are $3 million will be provided to fund wage increments of public sector employees from October 1, 1994 to the end of the Financial Year. A caution to public workers that increments will not be automatic but will be linked to evidence of productivity. Recognizing that tourism has been targeted as the engine of growth for the economy, there will be an allocation of $29.3 million to the Barbados Tourism Authority. The University of the West Indies received a current transfer of $26.6 million.
11.45 a.m.

BAMC will be providing a transfer of $8 million to finance its operating deficit in respect of the sugar agriculture activity. The National Housing Authority which is expected to become self-sufficient by divesting itself of houses, that is, encouraging people to purchase their own houses and using the proceeds to build more houses, by asking them to sell land that they are now holding and renting so people have a stake in homes that they own and go out and develop other spots and provide sites and services rather than relying on the public treasury to provide this money. And BAMC will be providing $11 million for capital spending for the purchase of equipment for the factory and field operations of the sugar industry.

The Barbados Development Bank is now being restructured. We can expect to hear much because we have the Chairman of the Bank in here. We do hope there will be a General Manager in place early in the new financial year. But in the meantime the sum of $6.9 million will be provided to finance the redemption of National Development Bonds which will mature in September of 1994.

For these Estimates so far, foreign project financing to the tune of $73.8 million has been identified. The sum of $40 million is expected to be disbursed under the Inter-American Development Bank investment sector loan.

It is also expected, in order to finance capital projects that divestment of Heywoods Hotel, the Barbados National Oil Company and the National Petroleum Corporation, the divestment of these is expected to yield about $40 million which will go towards capital provision. There is something I want to make clear about this at this point in time. What we are trying to do here when we talk about divestment, we are not selling the family silver in order to go out and consume. We are not spending it on recurrent expenditure but rather what we are trying to do is to reinvest and put it again in another type of long-term asset.

The funds procured from divestment will go into capital works projects, not short term projects, not consumption projects. It will not go to goods and services. The proceeds will not go for wages and salaries. I want this to be quite clear. We are substituting one asset for another and Government is prepared to stand ready as investor of last resort where the private sector and others will not come into the breach and invest in areas where it is important for the further growth and development of this country. Additional investment is needed. Government through the divestment programme will be using those funds obtained from divestment for further capital development of this country.

A lot of nonsense has been said in various places about divestment and selling of family jewels. No nonsense is ever said in here, Mr. President. I want to be clear where the proceeds will go, the substitution of one type of investment for another type of investment.

Just for the record, some of the capital projects, and these have been delineated and outlined in the other place but for those of us who do not follow the debates there the major capital projects which should be undertaken during the year consist of the following: There will be a tax administration expenditure management programme which will cost $8.8 million and in that tax administration programme I expect part of it will cover the Value Added Tax regime as we look at it.

The sugar sector rehabilitation will get $11 million. Primary Education will get $3 million. The Barbados Community College Hospitality Studies will get $6.3 million. And we must view this expenditure in this particular area as part of the overall development of the infrastructure for tourism in Barbados. As we provide better employees for that sector we are hoping that we will get better service and better productivity from the area.

The South Coast Sewerage Project which is scheduled to come on stream during the year, we are providing $17.8 million. There will be a study for the West Coast Project of $2.3 million. Solid Waste Study of $1.1 million. Any society that fails to look after its old people and children cannot be considered a civilized society and to this end, not only are we looking after the primary school children, but the geriatric hospital would be upgraded and to this end we are contributing $4.7 million.

Coastal conservation: We should recognise that Barbados is hosting the Conference on Sustainable Development, we are providing for the sum of $4.7 million. Industrial estates will command $4.2 million. Technical Vocational Education and Training will get $2.6 million. Highway 2A will get $6.5 million. Secondary road rehabilitation will get $11.2 million. Bridgetown Road Safety $1 million. National Transport Plan $1 million. A welcome relief for those of us who are suffering – and I live in St. Joseph – for water. Water Resources Study $1.2 million. We must know what the problem is before we can attempt to solve it. There are too many of us who attempt to solve problems without knowing what the problem is. Some of us are masters at and of everything.

Sir Garfield Sports Complex has been allocated $1.3 million and the Tourism Development Study the sum of $1.2 million. Sherbourne Centre gets $5.5 million. This is part of the cost incurred for Barbados to host and sponsor the conference. The Airport Expansion Study will cost $0.9 million while Airport Improvement will get $2.8 million and the Bridgetown Port Expansion Study $0.7 million.

Mr. President, I have outlined what happened in 1992-93. I have attempted to show what benefits have accrued to the business sector in 1993 as a result of these generous policies and since our Estimates are in the same vein we can hope and be confident in our projection, Mr. President, that they will continue to enjoy good business weather. These revenues and expenditures by source are not designed for their own sake but rather to achieve broad goals within the economy. Out of this, I have already pointed out that we hope that gross domestic product will grow between 2 per cent to 3 per cent in the year 1994/95. If there is growth in the economy, then of course we can expect all sectors to benefit from it.
11.55 a.m.

In addition, Mr. President, following the efforts being made to restructure and re-engineer the economy and businesses, export competitiveness is expected to accrue as a direct result of the increased productivity of labour and capital. We hope, Mr. President, since we only control one end of it and we divested in those to reinvest in other areas, that there will be greater democratization of the economy. It is my fervent wish that the private sector will follow the lead of Government in this area.

Mr. President, given the low level of the deficit, given the estimated low rate of inflation and the increasing level of exports, then we expect the level of employment to increase because of the restructuring of the economy and the re-training which is taking place even today. We are hoping that by the end of the 31st...

*Aside.*

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Sorry, Mr. President. It is to be hoped that employment will increase to over 100,000 people by the end of March. I have stayed away from stating what will happen to unemployment because as we restructure the economy new jobs will occur, new ways of doing some old things will become necessary and, as a result, new jobs will be created. We as a Government are doing all in our power to provide the re-training necessary for those people who might initially be retrenched to be able to benefit from training to provide them for the new jobs which not only exist today but will be coming on stream as we get on the information highway.

I have outlined 1993/94. The private sector's projections for 1994/95 and also our goals and what we hope to achieve through these measures during the year 1994/95. What I would like to do now is to take a look at some of the other Ministries that will be discussed by other Members, but there are a few I want to touch upon. I want to start at Head 20 – Ministry of Economic Affairs. In the financial year 1993/94, Economic Affairs was combined as we all know with the Ministry of Finance. This year 1994/95 it stands alone and has been provided with the sum of $7 747 198 of which the sum of $3 580 545 total recurring and the balance of $3 466 653 is provided for capital and lending. Under this Ministry, there are two statutory corporations – the National Productivity Board and the Barbados Development Board. The re-organisation of the Ministry of Economic Affairs was undertaken to achieve the following objectives:

1. The provision of expert policy and technical advice to the Minister of Economic Affairs and the Cabinet on all matters pertaining to economic and social policy including monetary policy, economic planning and debt management.

2. The detailed preparation and careful monitoring of the implementation of national economic plans and advising on the priority and viability of public investment projects and proposals.

3. The efficient operation of certain centrally administered services.

4. The monitoring of sectoral and overall performance of the economy.

5. Promote and monitor all aspects of productivity growth.

6. Develop methodologies for measuring productivity in both the public and private sectors.

7. Assist in the provision of technical assistance in respect of the devising of productivity related payment schemes.

During the year 1992/93, the Ministry of Economic Affairs became a fully free-standing Ministry with the responsibility for the National Productivity Board which was established on August 31, 1993. The activities undertaken by the National Productivity Board since its inception include the recruitment of a consultant to commence work on the development of methodologies for measuring productivity in various industries of the private sector and in the public sector. It held a symposium in conjunction with the Barbados Employers Confederation on October 26, 1993 dealing with the impact of the prices and incomes policy on the overall economic climate of Barbados. It held a regional tripartite symposium on productivity in November and it has been holding ongoing discussions with Government and several funding agencies to unearth funds to finance and facilitate the timely execution of programmes of the National Productivity Board which include resources which have been

seeking funds from it but are not limited to the World Bank, the International Labour Organisation, and the British Development Division. They have also been holding discussions with the private sector organisations with respect to productivity sharing schemes. A National Tripartite Conference on Productivity was also held this year 1994 in the month of February.

The Barbados Development Bank continues to perform its role of providing medium and long-term loans to industry, tourism, fisheries, small businesses including small manufacturers. In its effort to rehabilitate ailing projects in its portfolio, it has been providing equity financing and technical assistance in addition to performing its traditional role of supplying loans to its clients. The highlights of the Bank's performance over the 25 years of its existence are as follows:

1. It approved about $300 million of loans for approximately $250 million.

2. It has disbursed over 3000 loans for a total of approximately $200 million.

3. It has created direct employment through project loans in excess of 6,400 jobs. No attempt has been made to estimate the indirect jobs which have been created.

The cumulative financing of the Bank to the end of March 1993 would generally have been met from the following sources:

1. National Development Bonds – approximately $64 million.

2. External funding agencies provided $71 million.

3. Paid up capital by share holders, Government and the Central Bank and short-term borrowing from public and private institutions.

I am happy to report that in spite of the changing fortunes of the Bank to date it has been able to meet and service all of its debt obligations. As I said earlier, the Bank is currently being restructured and we hope to have a new manager in place early next year.
12.05 p.m.

The restructuring of the Barbados Development Bank is critical if the problems facing the Bank, such as the quality of its portfolio, the cost of servicing its current level of debt, the erosion of its equity base through cumulative losses and the high level of its administrative expenses, all of these cry out for the need for restructuring and also new direction and leadership within that institution. Earlier in the supplementary provision a note was amended to include the Barbados Development Bank so that the Central Government could make funds available to that Bank.

The current position of the Bank at the end of December 1993 is as follows: On the assets side the loan portfolio was $88 million, representing just over 900 loan accounts. The portfolio is generally unhealthy with only about 50% performing, the equity as I said earlier is non-existent since it has been eroded by cumulative losses. There is a relatively high indebtedness, having regard to its earning assets and to its present debt liability of $86 million, made up as follows....

*Aside.*

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: All banks, for some of the Senators who do not know, are dealers in debt and their deposits are also debts of the bank. These are just a little longer term. National Development Bonds of $44 million, from external funding agencies there is $21 million and short-term borrowings, including Central Bank accommodation, $10 million from the Central Bank for a total of $21 million short-term.

These two agencies which are now within the ambit of the Ministry of Economic Affairs have critical roles to play in the overall development of this country. If we are to improve the export of our goods and services, then we must increase our productivity. There are at least two ways of increasing productivity. Labour must become more productive, but in order for labour to become more productive it is also necessary that management provides labour with the state of the art technology and institute enlightened systems and management techniques to ensure that the two of these things coming together in the national interest can enhance and increase our overall export competitiveness. Just as one hand cannot clap, neither can labour alone do it, neither can management alone do it, but in the national interest if we understand that we must work together as a team to do this, then of course it is possible.

As far as the Barbados Development Bank is concerned, I would hope that it sees itself for what it is, a developmental institution, which is expected at the end of the day to pay its own way in spite of the developmental nature of the institution; that it must find new ways to finance businesses. It is not sufficient to rely on the traditional ways of financing and that while it has taken the medium and long-term positions in providing loans, positions which the commercial banks have not taken, it needs to find new debt instruments. Here I am thinking in terms of a new company being formed. Although we might give it a life of about eight years to make the repayment of a loan, we know that for any new business within the first three or four years of operation profitability is very unlikely. We would hope that in arranging the repayment schedule for loans – I am not saying that we should

make gifts – the repayment schedule should be tied more closely to the earnings of the company and if at all possible we should build in, towards the end of the life of the loan, balloon payments, which serve notice that should there be unforeseen circumstances we are prepared to review the operations of that institution with a view to refinancing, if needs be, if the track record has been satisfactory over time.

What happens now, because we have no crystal ball, a company runs into problems in four or five years but it is saddled with a fixed obligation with an eye to cash flow projections which the bank expects for its pay out. There is a problem that develops, which cannot be foreseen today, and immediately the company goes into default *vis-a-vis* the bank. It becomes a bad loan and this is reflected in the portfolio of the bank. If the bank in its mix of lending instruments could devise an instrument which will give the company a little leeway for those unforeseen circumstances which may occur and stand ready, even at the beginning of the loan, to consider refinancing through balloon payments at the end of the loan, I believe that we can rescue quite a few of these companies. What happens today is not that a lot of the businesses want to be dishonest, but rather they then try to find another source of financing rather than talk to the bank in order to get the bank off their backs and then find themselves trying to service two loans at the same time and then dig themselves deeper and deeper into the financial mire. So I would hope that with the restructuring of the BDB there will be a little more creativity in terms of the method of financial local companies.

I would like also to state here that the BDB has set itself certain targets for 1994-95. There is a local firm currently looking at the operations of the Bank to determine how it should be restructured. In addition, work will begin on the Bank's new headquarters at Marshall Hall, which is a historic site. As you know, Mr. President, Marshall Hall is located at the corner of Hincks and Cowell Streets. The building was acquired by the Bank in 1980. It was constructed in 1861 by the then Superintendent of Public Works, one Mr. Thomas Marshall. A little history for those of us who are interested, Senator Barker...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

12.15 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Marshall Hall was the pride of Bridgetown in the 1860s – somewhat before our time, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: The hall proper which occupied the second floor became established as the island's leading venue for balls, concerts and social events of all kinds. These included the annual industrial and agricultural exhibition. In the course of his visit to Barbados in 1891, Prince Alfred was entertained at Marshall Hall at a ball given in his honour by Bridgetown merchants; and 5 years later, seating arrangements for 200 were laid on for a banquet in honour of the visiting Canadian Commissioners.

Marshall Hall is now an important part of our national heritage and the bank intends to restore the building and return it to its pristine glory. This will be achieved by maintaining the outer wall and the facade of the building. Since the existing walls are unsuitable for use as load-bearing elements, a new steel frame structure will be constructed within the existing walls and the new floor and roof will be supported on isolated spread footing.

When completed, the building will consist of two floors each providing approximately 13 500 square feet of office space. The Bank intends to locate its offices on the upper floor and to make the ground floor available as rental space. It is envisaged that the tenants will be involved in activities compatible with those of the Bank. The project is estimated to cost in the region of $5 million and funding has already been arranged for this purpose. Pre-qualification notice for building contractors has already been advertised in the local press and the closing date for submission of applications was February 25, 1994. To date, 15 applications have been received and are being assessed.

Tender invitations are to be issued in April next month and construction is expected to start in July 1994 and last for 18 months approximately.The restored Marshall Hall will serve to further enhance the area and will be in keeping with other developments planned for that location and its environment.

I would like now to touch briefly on Head 43, Ministry of Tourism and International Transport. During the financial year 1993-94 the Ministry of Tourism and Sports was provided with the sum of $38 029 924 under Part I, recurrent expenditure. This financial year 1994-95, the Ministry has been redesignated as the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport and the sum of $45 143 196 has been allocated under Part I. This year total provision recurrent and capital spending and lending will equal $50 746 287.

The general thrust of the marketing programme in 1993 – this is just by way of review – was to stem the decline being recorded from some important tourist markets such as the U.S.A. and the Caribbean while stimulating further growth in areas which were performing satisfactorily such as the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada. Some significant gains were recorded in markets such as the U.S.A. During the latter half of 1992 we

were able to maintain growth in the United Kingdom and some points in Europe.

The 1993 programme therefore sought to build on these successes and to address some of the longer term issues. Barbados has lost market-share to a combination of newer and emerging Caribbean destinations. It was lacking visibility in the marketplace and has suffered reduced accessibility from its major markets in North America. The Island was seen as high priced and not offering adequate value for money. It was seen as a destination with an aging plant and an inability to offer the kinds of product, that is, the all-inclusive hotels which had captured the attention of both consumers and distributors.

The 1993 marketing programme of the Tourism Authority therefore sought to deal with the issues of visibility in the marketplace, accessibility from growth market and competitiveness by giving value for money. During the calendar year 1993 there was a 2.3% increase in tourist arrivals or 395 997 compared with 385 472 in 1992. Cruise ship arrivals grew by 7.2% or reached a level of 428 611 cruise passengers compared with 399 702 for the preceding year. The combined total of visitors was 824 590 and this represents an increase of 5% over the total combined visitors in 1992 of 785 174.

Now to look at the performance of the air transport sector. There were 70 commercial airlines which operated in Barbados in 1993 as compared with 70 in the previous year. Of these, 12 were scheduled carriers equal to the same number that we had in 1992 with Nature Island Express of Dominica ceasing operations and Suriname Airways commencing scheduled operations into Barbados for the first time. Ten airlines commenced passenger charter operations into Barbados for the first time. Most of them operated over an extended period and amongst these were Royal Airlines out of Toronto, Canada, which will be operating an all-year service. Those operating out of the United Kingdom and Ireland for the first time were Air Tours International, Leisure Airways and Air Flot Moscow Airways, the latter out of Shannon, Ireland.

Leisure Air operated out of the U.S.A. and several charter services series were commenced out of South America by LAPA, Staff Lineas Aereas Pluna from Buenos Aires, Argentina and Air Vias from Sao Paulo Brazil. Cubana Airlines also operated from Havana and Sao Paulo, during August to December 1993
12.25 p.m.

There was also the introduction of charters from the German cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Munich and Cologne by Caribbean Airways. The services previously operated by Caribbean Airways out of Milan Italy, with aircraft leased from Lauder Air continued to be operated by Lauder Air with effect from July 1993.

Also during 1993 Vensecar International, a Venezuelan Company commenced non-scheduled cargo and express mail services from Venezuela on behalf of E.H.L. Worldwide Express. Both aircraft movements and passengers using the airport showed an increase over 1992. Aircraft movements increased by 7.2% while passenger traffic increased by 5.5%. Freight handled at the airport also recorded an increase of 6.64% reaching a level of 786 196 kilos.

The tourism policy for 1994/95 – this Government recognises the need to provide a clear vision of the direction in which the tourism industry is to be developed and to identify the policies, strategies and development focus necessary to reposition Barbados for leadership in Caribbean and world tourism. This means that Barbados will not try to compete with other destinations purely on the basis of low prices, but will compete on the basis of quality and value for money. In other words, Barbados must strive to improve continuously the quality of services delivered to visitors at all levels by simplifying and facilitating visitor arrivals, accommodating airport transfers, undertaking and carrying out grading and registering of the hotel accommodation and improving service to give value for money while seeking to enhance the quality of the natural man-made and social environment.

This Government is totally committed to improving the quality of the product and services offered in the tourism industry throughout the country and to expand the tourism industry in a manner that is consistent with ensuring the quality and sustainability of the natural, social and man-built environment of Barbados. Specifically, Government is committed to the development of those services and product lines that are consistent with the image of Barbados as a quality destination.

This Government recognises that it cannot achieve these goals alone. The role of the private sector and the other social partners is necessary if we are to implement these strategies and enhance the linkages between tourism and other sectors of the economy.

The Barbados Tourism Authority is therefore targeting an overall increase in visitor arrivals in the area of 5% to 7% for the year. This will be based on sustaining increased traffic being generated from the United Kingdom and Europe although it is not envisaged that the level of increases of the last several months can be sustained throughout the year.

The programme for North America which saw the turn around in the Fall of 1992, will be reinstituted. The Authority will allocate increased resources to the

United Kingdom, especially the European market, in recognition of the significant contribution these markets are currently making and the longer term potential.

The Authority will focus on refining its marketing programme by more fully utilising research and information technology to target its marketing and to deliver the marketing programme by use of direct marketing, improved product formulation, packaging and the better use of retailers to convert enquiries into actual bookings.

Finally, Mr. President, this Government will embark on an aggressive programme to induce visitors to our shores, to increase their per capita expenditure by at least 10% and to ensure a more equitable distribution of earnings from the tourism industry.

Mr. President, this Government remains convinced that the engine of sustainable growth for this country rests on services and in the services area tourism is expected to lead the way. Efforts are being made in other areas, especially in the Financial Services through offshore banks, captive insurance companies and also foreign and sales corporations in addition to information technology to assist. At the present time, tourism will have to carry the ball for the country. This Government is committed to putting those resources necessary behind development of the industry to ensure that this country remains a model for all small developing countries.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, we were treated to a rather lengthy discourse by the Honourable Senator and we are very thankful for his insights. We always appreciate his efforts to educate us. Probably he is in the wrong profession, Sir, but he omitted several very important factors which I would like to highlight, that is, the philosophy surrounding the Estimates and the economic environment in which these Estimates are cast because they are very important if we are to get a fuller understanding and appreciation of Government's intentions in the next fiscal year and, indeed, in the medium-term.

Sir, it was only about two or three weeks ago that the Government has given to this Honourable Chamber a Development Plan which is supposed to take us to the year 2000, so we must look at the Estimates, not in isolation, but rather in conjunction with what is proposed in the Government's Development Plan as well as what is currently happening in the economic environment.

Sir, I want to talk a little bit about the economic environment in which the Estimates are to be assessed. For the past three years we have been in the firm grips of an IMF Programme. When the Programme was first introduced to this Honourable Chamber, and indeed to the Other Place, we were told that it was to be a short and sharp programme, that within 18 months stabilisation would have come to an end and we would have been on the next phase, that is of structural transformation. We were promised that within a year or so the economy would have been back on the growth path. That is what we were told.

Sir, if you read the Letter of Intent, you would see that it was projecting that by now we would be in the midst of an almost unprecedented growth path but sad to say, the environment has not improved over the last three years. Rather, it has deteriorated in spite of the fact that the Government, through its mouthpiece the Central Bank, wants to convince us that the economy is back on a growth path because if you can remember, Sir, the Central Bank said that the economy last year grew at a rate of 1%.
12.35 p.m.

Sir, I want to cast your minds back to last year this same time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I do not want to interfere with the Honourable Senator's response. But certainly I think he should not refer to the independent agency, the Central Bank of Barbados as the mouthpiece of the Government. It is not.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I just stated my opinion. In my opinion the Central Bank is operating as the mouthpiece of the Government. I wanted to get back to where I was before I was interrupted. The Central has said that the economy grew by 1% last year. But for the first 3 quarters of the year, according to the same bank, the economy had not grown at all. In fact, Sir, it said that in the 3rd quarter it grew by 0.1%. That is what they said. They are so fantastically accurate at measuring that they could measure up to one tenth of a point. I would let that pass.

But the point remains, given that a lot of economics takes place in the 4th quarter, tourism is starting to pick up in the first quarter, manufacturing is going to pick up a little in the 4th quarter in anticipation of the Christmas spending, distributibn the wholesale and retail sector would increase a little bit in the 4th quarter. The fourth quarter is a period of economic activity and it is estimated that more than one quarter of GDP is within the fourth quarter of any given year.

Therefore, Sir, by my analysis the economy in the fourth quarter last year would have had to have grown around 4% in order to bring about a 1% increase in

GDP for the whole year given that for the first 9 months there was little or no growth. I see no signs of that sort of growth taking place in the economy. A 4% growth will not take place without my feeling it. You only have to look around to see the effect of such a large growth. I do not totally buy this 1% growth rate for last year, noting, Sir, that last year this same time I had to quarrel about the same Central Bank in spite of a 6% reduction in nominal was creating only a 3.5% fall in real income. I was castigated. But what happened? The same Central Bank in its publication told us that the decline last year was of the order of 5.3%. As I said I was castigated. But history has proven me right. When the final figures are given I will not be surprised if last year we saw a decline in economic activity also. But I will move on.

The point I want to make is that we are in a phase of economic decline. I wish to say that the economic decline which we are experiencing now is a direct result of the IMF imposed measures of the past 3 years. Because, Sir, history will show that wherever the IMF goes that they leave a trail of economic destruction. We must not believe that we are so different, that the IMF is going to come into Barbados and leave us better off than they found us. We would be colossal idiots to believe that that is going to happen. History will show that everywhere the IMF went they have left economic woes. Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana, most of Africa. Wherever they go they leave ruin and degradation. We are seeing the effects of this ruin.

The fact that unemployment is now the highest that it ever was in our history is testimony to the IMF and their shortsighted policies for countries such as ours. I want to contend that the IMF does not understand our economy. They do not understand the parameters. They do not understand the limitations. The order under which we operate. When they bring their right wing philosophies straight from the Chicago school they are totally inappropriate for economies such as ours. I was making this point for the longest time. I do not claim to be the originator of such thoughts but scholars all over have highlighted the stupidity of IMF economic logic. The results are left through the length and breadth of this country. The water woes that we presently face are a result of the IMF policies. I will talk about that a little bit later. The transport woes that we are facing today is the direct result of ill-conceived and stupid IMF policies.

The tragedy is that in spite of people in Barbados warning Government not to go down a particular line, they in their wisdom – they know it all, everybody else are fools – continue in a programme which cannot and will not benefit the people of Barbados in the long run. I was most amazed when at the conclusion of the 18 months the Prime Minister was pleased to announce that in spite of the fact that the IMF did not lend us all of the money that they were supposed to, in spite of all that he tried to enhance an element of surveillance with the same IMF. I was amazed because I thought that at least the 18 months would have gone and we would have now started to go back to where we were before, that is, developing our country by dint of hard work, by going into the capital markets and getting loans.

But no! The Government in their shortsightedness sought to carry us back into economic slavery by entering into this new programme with the IMF. If the old programme did not benefit you, do you expect that the new programme is going to benefit you? I think it is economic madness and it does nothing for the national psyche.

People like Dr. Alleyne and myself spend all of our time trying to educate some of the economists and they are very talented economists at Cave Hill. But we do not want to listen to them. We prefer a consultant because everything in Barbados now is a consultant. We have a consultant for tax reform, a consultant for everything. We bring in consultants – from wherever they are – who do not understand the peculiarities of the Barbados economy and their word is gospel. The well-trained, well-educated local economists are given a back seat when it comes to economic philosophy and future plans for our economy. That is a result of the shortsightedness of this present Administration.

I want to list some of the foolishness that has happened. I use the word foolishness with all of its ramifications because it is foolishness that has happened in the past 3 years. I want to go through them one by one. The Honourable Minister, in introducing the Estimates went through a list of companies Brydens, Banks, BET, BARTEL that have done well. He said that this is a direct result of the DLP's policy. I say, yes, it is a direct result of the DLP's policies because under the IMF the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. It happened in Jamaica. In spite of all the difficulties that Jamaica has gone through the rich in Jamaica are living better than they were before the IMF programme. It is no wonder, Sir, that in Barbados the big companies are doing well. It is no wonder they are doing well because we just gave away Heywoods to the BS&T for $35 million. I make no apologies for saying it, especially when we now have to look for money to pay Wyndham for breaking the contract.

Look at the Port, look at the duty free activities in the Port. The small black man – of which I am proud to be a member is not benefiting from any expansion in tourism. The cruise ship activity that has been generated by taxes from all of us in the society improving the Port and the facilities there, our labour has developed the Port and its facilities. But what is going to happen, a few big companies in Barbados are dominating the duty free sector and the Government sits back and does nothing and then the Honourable Minister is talking about

economic democracy as though what is good for Brydens is good for Barbados necessarily or BS&T or Goddards or Banks. So that this one result of the IMF policy, that big business is doing good, small businesses are going out of business. And all around Barbados a litany of woes, when it comes to small business activity. They are crowded out, they are squeezed out but big business as the Honourable Minister said, they are blooming. So the rich is going to get richer and the poor get poorer. A standard IMF conclusion. Every country that they go to, that is going to happen and I thought that we were rid of this IMF a year or so ago.
12.45 p.m.

Not only that, Sir, the privatisation programme which is an imposition of the IMF that we must sell everything we own.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, on a point of order, the Privatisation Programme is a programme which this Government has decided and adopted. This is no imposition of any external agency. This is a sovereign Government and I thought in my presentation I was at pains to point out that the divestment programme was one designed to ensure that the proceeds be used for further investment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point I am making is that the IMF made sure that Barbados embarked on a privatisation programme. The Minister can talk from now until tomorrow, I am convinced in my own mind and the people of Barbados are convinced that the IMF is making Barbados sell all of its assets. The Minister can protest as loudly as he wants to, methinks he protests too much.

Sir, the point is this. The privatisation programme is against the national interests. It is totally against Barbados' interest because, Sir, look, we had oil in Barbados for the last hundreds of years and up until the early 1980s the company had all of the rights and so on but they refused to embark on a proper drilling programme and it is only, Sir, when we, the Government of Barbados, led by the Barbados Labour Party came into office, we took over the company and formed the Barbados National Oil Company and as a result of that farsighted policy local crude production in a couple years time almost doubled.

Sir, the benefit was that at a time when the price of oil was very high, at a time when we were spending millions of dollars on oil importation, we were able in a short time to slash the energy import bill to provide good paying jobs for people in the Oil industry and to improve the natural gas network in the island.

We started the programme where we borrowed money from the Canadians to build a gas plant. This was all because the decision was taken in the early 1980s to take over the oil company and to develop it for the benefit of Barbados and Barbadians.

Eleven years down the line, after all the benefits that have accrued to Barbados we are now told that we must sell the company or else the IMF will not give us a passing grade and it would affect our ability to get loans in the international markets.

Sir, we see the effects of the privatisation policy on the transport system. We see the effects of this policy manifested in the fact that we have sold the cement plant for only a fraction of what it is worth and the Trinidadians are laughing at us. We spent $200 million to put that plant down in St. Lucy and we have given it away. I do not know what the final figure is but we were told it was sold and the people of Barbados have lost as a result of that. That, Sir, is what the IMF Privatisation Programme has done to Barbados.

Sir, all of the investments we had in BARTEL, in BET, in the Flour Mill, we have gotten rid of. Cable and Wireless I am told came out very good on the deal because they got the shares at less than what was the true value. That is what I am told. The result is, Sir, that we are not in any position to meaningfully change any direction when it comes to telecommunications policy because previously, Sir, we had people on the Boards of both BET and BARTEL so we were able to affect changes in policy and so on to the benefit of Barbadians, but when we gave away those shares we also gave away our right to have a meaningful say in telecommunications policy in the island.

The Flour Mill is another example. We should be using our influence in the Flour Mill to cause a reduction in the price of animal feeds because my view is that the Flour Mills are making too much profit and the result is that the farmers in Barbados have to pay too high a cost for their feeds and anybody who is in agriculture knows that two-thirds of the cost of producing a chicken is feed. So if you can affect a reduction in feeds well then obviously the consumer as well as Barbadians in general would benefit from such a reduction but by selling our shares we have given away our rights to make these changes in policy.

So the privatisation programme that we were forced to embark upon are ruinous to Barbados.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we are now pass the time when we should break for lunch. I would like to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

*The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the sitting accordingly.*
1.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, when we broke for lunch, I was going through a list of things which have happened over the past three years which in my view were direct impositions by the International Monetary Fund and which were not in the interest of the country. I mentioned the fact that big businesses have done extremely well at the expense of small businesses. I mentioned that the privatization programme was not to the benefit of Barbados. I want to touch on some other areas. One is the direct tax reform system.

Sir, in 1992 this Honourable Chamber passed the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill which destroyed a system that we had built up over the years and which in my view worked to the benefit of the people of Barbados. In the Amendment that we passed, Sir, things like mortgage interest deductions were done away with, insurance deductions, and home repairs among other things. Sir, a year and a half after the event it would do us good to look at the direct tax system with a view to correcting certain anomalies that came about as a result of the tax amendments that we passed in this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, the result of these tax reforms is that income has been redistributed from the poor to the rich because the dropping of the maximum tax rate from 45 to 40 per cent and the removal of a lot of the concessions work against the lower paid worker especially since the deductions were decreased from $15 000 to $13 000. So it is no coincidence that within that period we see a great decline in consumption activity and we also saw a decline in real disposable income. Sir, the time has come where we have to look again at our direct tax system. It is not equitable. It is not fair for a person whose taxable income was $39 000 to be paying the same incremental rate as another individual whose taxable income is $100 000. But that is what the amendments did. We have to correct that because, in terms of economic activity, more economic activity is generated by the spending of the lower paid than if the same amount of money was given to the higher income. We know that the lower income people have a higher margin propensity to consume out of income and the economy of Barbados is basically a consumer driven economy. So that if you reduce consumer spending the result would be a decline in economic activity as we have witnessed for the past three or four years. The corollary is also true that, unless we find a way of increasing disposable income especially to the lower income group, we will never get out of the cycle of low and negative growth rates.

Sir, we have to go back to the direct tax system and use that in an imaginative and creative way to effect increases in disposable income for the lower income people. It is an imperative. I know that there are implications for the foreign reserves because whenever you spend there is a consequential decline in the foreign reserves, since most of the things we spend money on have to be imported. But there is an area of activity that we channel our resources in and that is the area of housing. As we look around the country in spite of the many Heights and Terraces that we have, a high proportion of our people still live in what I consider to be substandard housing. Here is an area where creative and imaginative policies can be brought in which would find a way of allowing the poorer section of our community to upgrade their housing stock. Now the effect on the balance of payments is not going to be severe because it is estimated that a house that costs $100 000 the amount of foreign exchange spent is about $10 000. In spite of the protestation, Sir, I will try to educate Honourable Members because almost half of the cost of building a house is labour and about another 10 per cent or so are things that are produced locally such as cement, cement blocks, marl and so on. When one spends $40 000 in imported material, it does not necessarily mean that you spend $40 000 in foreign exchange because when you buy an item costing $1.00 half or more is taxes. A lot of it is marked up. The amount of money that leaves Barbados could very well be $10 000 or $15 000 depending on the tax rate.

I am saying, Sir, a house which costs $100 000 that the foreign exchange outflow is not extraordinarily significant. That is an area of construction that we need to get into in a big way, because there is a social need and it may be a good way of getting economic activity going again. I believe that using the direct tax system again and allowing mortgage interest and house repairs to be deductible items is in my view a step in the right direction. Government has got to consider that. Forget the IMF. We have to do what is good and right for Barbados. I spoke against it in 1992 and I will continue to speak against it and, Sir, with God's help if I am in a position I will do something about it, because it was wrong then and it still is wrong now. We have to get the direct tax system just and equitable once again. It is a moral as well as an economic imperative.

Sir, another area of activity which the IMF is forcing on us and which is not to our advantage is the VAT system. Sir, I would like to go on record as saying that I do not like the VAT as proposed. I see nothing wrong with our present system of indirect taxation. All that has happened is that in the past 7 years, at least since 1987, every time the Minister of Finance wanted money he increased the consumption tax. When the Government changed in 1986, the base rate was 5 per cent. Now it

is 21 per cent or 22 per cent. That is the problem that the consumption taxes were used not in the way they were intended but as a vehicle for Government to rake in more and more money in order to satisfy their extraordinary demand for goods and services. They have corrupted the tax system and to impose a VAT, which everyone admits is a regressive tax, that will impact very severely on the poor and the deprived. That is what all economists are united on that the VAT is regressive and it has a severe impact on the poor section of the community. In spite of all what Government has done and now to impose that on the people of Barbados, it is wrong. I urge the Government to reconsider. It may be too late but at least I urge the Government to think about it.

I note, Sir, that the Minister of Finance is blaming the hotel sector for the delay in the implementation of the VAT system. I do not know, Sir, if these are the facts of the matter. But I believe that the Government knows that such attacks are going to be very unpopular. They know that because it has been tried in other places and the results are known to the Minister of Finance. He knows the imposition of the VAT.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister of Finance has made no statement in this Chamber and I do not think that the Honourable Member has any right to be uttering foolishness about the Minister of Finance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. You may proceed, Senator Barker.
2.10 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you. Sir, there is another reason, and this is an opinion, why the Minister of Finance and the Government may seek to delay the introduction of the tax, because they know it is going to be unpopular given the history of what happened in Trinidad and in other places. They would not want to go into an election with the people feeling the full effects of the VAT, so what they are going to do, Sir, – and again this is an opinion – is to find every excuse for delaying the implementation of the VAT and wait until elections are held and then....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, under what are you speaking? Elections?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am speaking on the VAT system and of what the IMF programme is doing for Barbados. May I continue, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Proceed, Senator Barker.

*Aside.*

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, it is being recorded.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, do not address asides. Do not be put off.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am not put off, Sir, with all due respect.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Will you please continue?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, my opinion is that the Government will wait until after elections and then impose, if they win, the VAT on the people of Barbados. I warn them that the people of Barbados are not going to be fooled by this sort of manoeuvring. If the VAT is so good, bring in the VAT.

Sir, I want to move on. The IMF in their programme for Barbados are systematically attacking the welfare state. I make no apology for having socialist leanings. It may be unfashionable in this day and age, but I make no apology whatsoever. I am a firm believer in the welfare state, because I have seen in Barbados the benefits which accrued to all and sundry, especially children of working people. I have seen the benefits which they have derived from the welfare state, because it made those, including myself, because I went to school in the era of free education, it made all of us, especially the children of working people, independent. It made them men and women. A lot of doctors, lawyers and professionals today would not have been there had it not been for the welfare system that was built up over the past 40 or 50 years. What we are doing now, Sir, is kicking away the very ladder on which we rose and it has to be morally wrong for any Government in Barbados to dismantle that which has meant so much for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of slaves in this society of ours. What we see happening, Sir, is that although free education is still nominally on the books, the amount of money parents have to spend on lots of things...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, it would be good if you speak on a Head. Do you remember before we started I asked that we do it this way? To a great extent the Minister has done it like that. You seem to be wandering around from anything to anything. I do not understand now where we have got about this matter of free education. You seem to be wandering all over. If you are going to speak on Education and you would call Education and let us look and see what it is costing or something, and so structure it that we can follow it. I would appreciate that. That is all I ask.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with all due respect, the Honourable Chamber may have missed the trend of my thoughts, and I apologise.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hope you have not missed it yourself.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, sarcasm is not....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Be careful.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The point I want to make, Sir, is that the Estimates reflect a reduction in welfare spending. That is a fact. I am saying that this is a result of the IMF policies that we are slavishly pursuing. I made the point that in Education the parents are now called upon to pay a lot of fees. Whereas in 1961 at Combermere School you paid $9.00 a term, now you are paying something like $15 a term for free education. We see it in Education; we see it in Health where user fees have gone up a lot in the past few years we see it in Housing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was just looking up Education when you said that, but now you are going on to Housing and so on.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with all due respect, I am giving the economic environment in which the Estimates are prepared. I have not got into specifics yet, I am still overviewing the Estimates. It does not make sense picking out item by item unless you know the philosophy which informs the Estimates, so I am still into the philosophy part. I ask you to bear with me. I will get into the Heads a bit later on.

Another area where the welfare state is under attack is in Housing, and I call upon the Minister of Housing to state his policy with regard to the increase in NHC rents. The Minister was clear to say that the position will be reviewed in 1995, and again I am waiting to find out if the Government is going to wait until after elections to impose an increase in NHC rents on the people of Barbados. They know that any increase in rent at this time will be politically unpopular, but no, they are deliberately saying we will review it at the end of next year and when next year comes and elections are not called, they will find some other excuse, with the result that they cannot afford to go into elections after having increased NHC rents. But the people of Barbados are not fools, they understand. Maybe I am, Sir, but I can still see things.

Sir, we are always glad when the Chamber is lightened up. Perhaps when we come to the philosophy of the Estimates and show the effects of the IMF programme, none is more destructive to my psyche as a proud Barbadian as the fact that under the IMF and other international agencies and what they think or want for Barbados, we are to be relegated to a service economy. I read a document from one of the international agencies where they are saying, among other things, that we should stop any support for the productive sectors because, as they put it, support and concessions to agriculture or manufacturing are going to operate against the service sector, especially tourism. That is the philosophy that is guiding Government's economic policy and it is reflected in the Estimates.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. Through you, Sir, I am inviting the Senator to help me to understand what he means by a service sector not being a productive sector.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Maybe he understands. Please go ahead.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The point is that as a proud Barbadian I believe that we can make things, and it is important to our psyche that we make things. We are not to be relegated to a nation of bell hops and waiters. We have to be proud entrepreneurs. I am saying that the manufacturing sector in this country has to grow. We have to give them the necessary environment and the concessions to allow them to again be at the forefront of economic activity. I mentioned it on the last occasion we were here, where this Development Plan – and I quoted chapter and verse – said that in the next few years non-sugar agriculture and manufacturing will have declining output. So, true to form, the IMF inspired policy is spelling doom and destruction to the manufacturing and agricultural sectors and it is increasing our dependence on the tourism sector and the offshore sector. I feel it is damaging to the psyche. All we are good for is for a company to come in here and set up an office? We are not progressive enough to be able to compete in the world in the same way that the Asians are doing. Our Government should be encouraging us to be using the skills at our disposal, our education and our technology in order to compete in the world.
2.20 p.m.

That is not their plan for Barbados and I am afraid that I do not share their vision of Barbados. I want to see in Barbados when the tourists come here and they buy a mug it is not marked made in Taiwan but made in Barbados. That, Sir, is my dream and ambition. We have excellent craftsmen in pottery and other fields and all they need is the money and the technical know-how in order for them to expand and to produce goods and services.

We put emphasis on the duty free sector and the duty free sector in my mind typifies what is wrong with Barbados. You go to New York or wherever and buy a watch, go to France and buy perfume. There is nothing creative about it – you bring it in and sell it to tourists. That is our creativity. The focus has to be wrong. We have boys and girls with ability. We have to be finding ways and Government has to be taking the lead for them to use their education and the creativity for the national good.

Relegating us to a purely service economy is another example of Government doing disservice to the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the people of Barbados. That is something we have to address in the short run. We have to make sure that our manufacturing sector is given the tools the money and the environment in which it can grow.

Another aspect of the IMF policy is debt management and debt policy. Over the past few years because in the Letter of Intent specifically we were told that we could not borrow any money without IMF approval except it is money to service debt and the result of that is that in the past few years our external debt has declined by $150 million. Some people may argue that that is a good thing it may be so, but what is the cost? As I said I remember what happened to Ceausescu, the Romanian President, a few years ago, at the stroke of a pen reduced the foreign debt of Romania to nothing. He repaid all the foreign debt and he ran the country to the ground and the result was that he lost his head.

There is no great merit in a country like Barbados implementing that sort of debt policy because the cost is that there will be a tremendous increase in unemployment. In order to implement that policy we had to reduce consumption activity in the Island and over the past 2 years between 1990 and 1992 consumption activity declined by almost 25% in Barbados. When that happens, Barbados becomes a ghost town as it has become because people are not spending and as I said before unless people spend our economy will grind to a halt.

A more imaginative debt policy where we are not spending all of our reserves in repaying debt but rather have a debt policy which allows us to roll over so that the total indebtedness will not necessarily increase that sort of policy would have freed up a lot of our foreign reserves for consumption and investment purposes. Not only has the consumption declined but investment activity, gross capital formation in the Barbados economy declined from $648 million in 1990 to $268 million in 1992, that is investment activity. I am saying that that is a result of Government's foreign exchange and debt management and policies. There is no investment taking place which will further depress growth and further retard any growth in the economy.

So those are a lot of reasons why I think that that IMF policy is wrong for Barbados. The question that we need to ask ourselves is there any alternative. The answer is yes. There is an alternative. Sir, I will refer you to a study which was made a little while ago, where it is said that Barbados has the highest credit worthiness in the whole of Latin America. We are among the nations of Latin America with the highest credit rating. The question we have to ask is if that is so how is it that we find it so difficult to raise loans in the international market? If the credit worthiness is so high and this is something that we have to be proud of, why is it that we cannot access the foreign market for loans? Why do we have to go cap in hand to the IMF to be treated like little boys to be told what to do? I believe that we probably have not investigated and fully explored the possibility of raising loans in the international markets. Maybe it is a lack of confidence in Barbados but the point is that our inability to raise loans has to be addressed. Is it because we were trying to raise loans and we did not get them or is it a deliberate policy not to access those markets but rather to put all of our eggs in the IMF basket? Whatever it is we have to stand on our own again to go on our own steam to the international markets and say that this is a country which has never in its history reneged on its debts obligations. We have always repaid our debts. We are a viable country and there is no reason why they should not be dealing with Barbados. History is with us on this. We are a nation that always fulfilled its international obligations.

2.30 p.m.

Another alternative, and this is something that must be exploited, is that we must use our natural resources. By natural resources I also mean climate and land. The difference between 1981 when we went on an IMF Programme and now is that in 1981 we recognised that difficulties were caused by declines in earnings in the foreign exchange sectors so a deliberate policy was to affect changes in these sectors so that in a few years' time our dependence and need for that sort of financing would be diminished.

Sir, for example, in 1980 we produced 136 000 tonnes of sugar. In 1981 we had a bad crop and it dropped to 97 000 tonnes. The following year it went down even a bit further to 85 000 tonnes. The point is that in the early 1980s we had declining sugar production. The result was that it caused us to have severe foreign exchange problems and we had to go to the IMF. But what did we do? We said this is a crop that we are good at, therefore, let us get the money in the short run and try to build back up our industry. We did that so that by 1986 we were producing 111 000 tonnes of sugar. We were almost back to what we were in 1980.

Since then every year we have had declines and it is no coincidence that the decline in sugar came at the same time as we were experiencing foreign exchange difficulties. Therefore, one then should argue that since we are in difficulties and since we know how to grow sugar, and since there is a market for sugar, in the medium-term, even if we admit that the long-term future of sugar is a bit dicey, in the short and medium-term let us maximise our earnings from this industry. Even if down the line you have to abandon it, in the meantime you would have been making alternative plans but in the short to medium-

term we had to get our sugar industry back. That is the difference between the DLP Government now and the BLP Government in the 1980s. One could run into trouble but we found a way of getting the economy out of trouble.

This Government every year knows that in the short run they cannot grow alternative crops just like that. These things take time to develop the expertise, markets, and so on. You have the market for sugar therefore we needed to have moved at a quicker rate to get our sugar industry back to producing 100 000 tonnes. The difference between 50 000 and 100 000 is approximately $50 million in foreign exchange because you get approximately $1 million for a tonne of sugar cane. What happened, Sir, they have aided in the destruction of the sugar industry...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams I take it that you rise on a point of order.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Yes, on a point of order, Sir. Did I hear right $1 million for a tonne of sugar cane?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, I am learning. Would you care to expand on that Senator Barker? You have some new knowledge.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I stand corrected. It is $1 000 for a tonne therefore for $1 000 it is $1 million. I meant $1 million for 1 000 tonnes.

It is over $1 million for 1 000 tonnes so the difference between 50 000 and 100 000 is $50 000. Hence then, Sir, if we had sugar production back to 100 000 we could have realised $50 million more in foreign exchange. Given that, it does not cost much foreign exchange to produce the sugar, about $40 million of this $50 million would have stayed within the local economy.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: On a point of order, Sir. Could I ask the question again. Sugar cane, as far as I know being a planter the highest we have ever had is $120 a tonne for sugar cane. Where is this $1 000 a tonne for sugar cane coming from, Sir? I hate to think what people reading Hansard would believe of this Honourable House.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh, maybe we are getting very prosperous. Tell us about it.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the export price of sugar in 1992 was $1 276 per tonne. I said sugar cane but I obviously meant sugar.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Of sugar. All right. Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: That is one way we could have got out of our problems by making sure that instead of building golf courses in the short to medium-term we use the land and climate that God gave us to the best possible use for the people of Barbados. In the short run there is no alternative. We can think of 2000 down the line but according to economists, as eminent as Lord Keynes was in the long run we are all dead but in the short run we would have reaped tremendous benefits to the country as a whole.

We need now, Sir, to get out of the IMF hands and depend upon ourselves some more. Nobody from New York or Germany is going to come down here and put in measures that are going to be beneficial to us. I have such a cynical view of things that they are going to come and impose measures that are beneficial to them. They want to ensure that we have to buy American goods. They do not want us to produce our goods. They want us to buy Japanese and German goods. The IMF and those international agencies operate to the benefit of the developed world and it is about time that we in here come to the realisation that we have no friends in these organisations. We have to depend on our own blood, sweat, toil and tears so this enhanced programme would be no better. The sooner we get out of it the better for us here in Barbados.

The evidence is there for all to see. Three years and we have had nothing but tears. The only persons who have benefited, as the Minister has said, have been big businesses. They are the beneficiaries because, according to the Minister, their profits are growing. They are living well-off the land but at the same time 25% of our Barbadian folk are, as the saying goes, sucking salt, and day after day having lots of headaches trying to get their children to school and feeding them.

Sir, I am told that the unemployment rate in Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana is higher than that. But the IMF has started with us at a later stage than they started with them so we will get there too. Do not let us fool ourselves. Until we get a Government that is prepared to trust its people, to depend on its people, to have faith in its people we will be forever in the clutches of these organisations. That, Sir, is the reality.

I want now, Sir, to move on to the Estimates in detail. After having spent a lot of time, necessary time I may add, dealing with the development and philosophy of these Estimates we now come to the Estimates proper. The first question I want to ask, if we are saying that the economy is in all of this growth pace, we said last year it grew by 1% and this year we are expected it to grow by 2% or 3% – that is what Government is saying, not me because I do not agree with that but that is what they are saying – how come it is not reflected in Government's revenues? That is the question we have to ask. How

come that Government revenues this year it is expected to raise $1 022 million and last year it raised 1 013 million. That is the question we have to ask because everybody knows that as the economy grows at the same level of taxation you get more revenue.
2.40 p.m.

In a growing economy you do not have to increase the tax rate to get more revenue. So much so, Sir, that in certain years we have found that we cut the tax rate. You cut the tax rate and you end up with getting more revenue because there is a link between growth in the economy and Government revenues. It is common sense.

Everything that we buy in Barbados has a component of Government revenue in it. Your water bill, your light bill, all of them have a component of revenue. As the economy expands revenue must expand. This is an incontrovertible economic fact. You are forecasting a 2% or 3% growth in the economy. You are saying that the revenue is only going to move from 1 013 to 1 022. Only $9 million increase in revenue. Either the Ministry of Finance is underestimating or in spite of the claims you are not expecting any growth. Either one of those two. But I see a difficulty to have a 2% or 3% growth and, at the same time, no movement in Government revenue. It does not happen that way.

The Honourable Minister when he addresses us can explain that to me. He likes to lecture. He can lecture me now as to how this anomaly can happen. I am very glad for his lectures and I am just waiting until he addresses us some time tomorrow.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We do not meet tomorrow.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am sorry. On Friday. Sir, that is one problem that I have with the Estimates. Either you are underestimating revenue or you are over-estimating growth. I think that when you look at the two, Government knows that the economy is not going to grow this year. Hence the Estimates is a true reflection.

Another thing that hit me is that capital spending is set to increase this year. In 1993-94 we spent just over $100 million on capital spending and this year we are going to spend $170 million. I know that some of us in the Honourable Chamber would be more than happy that Government is spending more on capital works. I am happy that Government is at last waking up to its responsibility and spending more money on capital projects. Because, Sir, as I mentioned before gross capital formation within the economy which is a measure of investment activity has had over the past 2, 3 years.... Government's capital works programme on capital spending is an important part of Gross capital formation within the economy.

Probably we could have argued that what happened over the past few years is that Government facing the difficulties of the situation instead of spending less on the current side spent less on the capital side which may have been a mistake. I am glad that they are increasing capital spending.

Being a bit cynical, I wonder how much of this is related to the fact that there could be an election during the next Financial Year. I know I should not be so cynical but I cannot help but notice these things.

Whatever it is, the 35 000 people unemployed are going to be glad that at least a little something is going to happen in terms of the west coast and the south coast sewerage schemes and one or two other schemes. I wish to commend Government on its capital spending. Although I note something that had me a little bit worried. This is in the Estimates page 8. In order to finance Government's capital works on page 8 of the Estimates Government is expecting to get $173 million – which is approximately the same – in foreign financing. The IADB is going to provide $73.8 million. The World Bank $13 million, the CDB $17 million and so on. The other is $61 million of which we are told we have $40 million from the London market.

The point is that Government is expecting $173 million in foreign financing. But it is a bit difficult to appreciate these things. I looked last year at the comparable page and I saw that in the last Financial Year that Government was expecting $59 million from the IADB. That was in last year's Estimates. They said they were to get $59 million from the IADB. On page 2 of the Estimates for the coming year they only got $9.2 million. In other words they were expecting $59 million in the last Estimates from the IADB but this year they told us that they only received $9 million, a big difference. You expect $59 million but you only get $9 million. On the World Bank they expected $26 million and they only got $6 million. From the CDB they expected $18 million and they only got $5 million. I have to give you the whole picture. From the European Investment Bank they expected $5.8 million and got $6.0 million. The point I want to make is that every year Government comes and puts in its Estimates figures which are totally unrealistic. Government knows that it is unlikely that they are going to get this $73.8 million from the IADB. They know that the IADB is not interested in lending Barbados any money.

Why is it that every year...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, the Government of Barbados has a very pleasant working relationship with the Inter-American Development Bank and I think it is most unbecoming of us to denigrate these institutions which we have to deal with over time.

It is erroneous for the Honourable Senator to state that the Inter-American Development Bank will not accommodate the request. As a matter of fact we in Barbados have been tardy in getting the south coast project off the ground when the Inter-American Development Bank have been pushing us to get it launched. It is erroneous to mislead this Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The fact is that last year this Government said that they were expecting $59 million in financing from the IADB. They got $9 million. The year in front the same thing happened. Something must be wrong with out relationship with the IADB that all we are getting is fair promises. That is the point I am making.

Is it that the IADB wants us to do things that we are not willing to do? I want an answer because every year they come and put items here Summary of Government's Operation and Financing and they tell us we are going to get $73.8 million from this place and so much from the other bank and so on. When it comes to the end of the year we are not getting the money. Something has to be wrong. The fact that we are expecting $73 million from the IADB means that we are going to spend in anticipation of getting this money. But when it does not turn up, for whatever reason, it means, Sir, that either the projects have to stop as we see happening in Barbados with a lot of unfinished projects all over the island St. Thomas School, the fishing place, the old Queen's College site.

*Aside.*

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: The old Queen's College site. That is unfinished too. The St. John Polyclinic is unfinished too. The fishing market is unfinished too.

Let us go on. The fact that you do not get this money means that the Government may have to turn to local sources of financing as they were doing all along at the cost of crowding out local businesses at that cost or we will have a lot of half-finished projects. We need a clear statement on this. We need a clear statement from Government as to whether or not they believe they can get this $73.8 million because last year and the year before the same thing happened. We cannot have Estimates prepared in the anticipation of getting money which we probably know from the very onset we are not likely to get because it is going to interfere with our planning down the line. It is not to IADB but as I mentioned, Sir, it is the World Bank, everybody promising us money and then when it comes to the end they are not delivering on their promises for whatever reason. That is something, Sir, that we have to watch, our whole relationship with the external agencies because we are hearing some horror stories but in the final analysis it is not DLP or BLP, it is Barbados and our reputation that we have to protect. That is the important thing in the long run. We have to be very careful that we are not dirtying up water for other people to bathe in.
2.50 p.m.

Sir, I now want to turn to some specific items of expenditure and firstly I will start on something which has the people of Barbados very annoyed, water. Sir, on page 163, Head 42, Government is undertaking a water resources study. Actually, Sir, this was on the books for a year or two and the subprogramme is to provide for consultancy services with regards to this water resources study. This money is for consultancy services. As I said before, we spend a lot of money on consultancy services.

Sir, in 1978 the year after I came back here from England I read a report which told us among other things that what is happening now was going to happen because the Report says that by the turn of the century Barbados will be experiencing water problems and they will have to dam areas of the Scotland District in order to provide water for our population. That was known, Sir, since the middle seventies.

I am not sure who gave the report but it was given and I saw an excerpt of it in the daily newspaper that we are going to have water problems in the foreseeable future. So what is happening now did not spring on us overnight. The inactivity of the Water Authority probably accelerated it but everybody knew that our water resources was finite and at some time we would have to consider stopping the run off to the sea especially in the Scotland Area and down the line we will have to consider desalination. That report was known for about 15 to 20 years at least. It is nothing new.

Sir, I wonder about this water resources study. Was it to tell us what we already knew? We do not need more consultancy. We need immediate action to solve an immediate problem.

Sir, it is different from the days when almost all of the villagers had to use a standpipe. In the fifties and the sixties there was expansion in the waterborne system and many homes in Barbados started, as we say, to put in water. We graduated over time from having a pipe in the yard to getting one in the house and then you got your indoor plumbing and so on.

In those days, about 1957 or so I had to bathe in a bathtub. I am saying it because it is no big thing. It was the reality of the day. I have no problems bathing in a bathtub. But what I am disturbed about is that I have to do it now.

After all the progress that we have gone through for the inactivity of the Government to put us back to that stage is nothing less than scandalous. Sir, it does not

have to be so. The crisis was forecast many, many years ago and true to form we did nothing and now every morning, people living on the West Coast and that area, at six o'clock the pipes go off. Sir, children have to be awakened before six o'clock to get a shower and so on and Government is making jokes about it, a very serious matter.

What are the causes? The pipes network is old. Those pipes only last for a finite number of years, therefore common sense would suggest that you make sure money is there so that over time you keep on replacing pipes after a certain number of years. You do not wait, Sir, until all the pipes go bad to replace all of them. You have to have a periodic system of maintenance and pipe replacement otherwise you will have a major crisis in the country, but that has not taken place.

Sir, it has not taken place because in 1986, when the Democratic Labour Party took over the reins of Government they found over $30 million that the Waterworks had and this Government in order to pay for the tax concessions which were draining the Treasury, went to all the Statutory Corporations and whatever money they had they put it into the Consolidated Fund so that the money which should be there to be used by the Water Works for the pipe replacement and maintenance programme was not there, hence the programme was not carried out and therefore today, Sir, Estimates are that over one-third of the amount of water that is pumped and distributed in Barbados is lost in the system due to leaks. That is the figure I am getting at, that one-third of the water that is pumped at enormous cost goes through the system in the form of leaks.

Sir, an engineer told me, we have hundreds of miles of network in Barbados but the network is made up of pipes that are twenty feet long so every joint in the pipe is a potential leak. Unless we constantly go about replacing and maintaining the system we are going to end up with the crises that we have now. It is a direct result of the Government taking away the Water Authority's money so that they do not have the money for a proper maintenance programme.

Sir, I have never yet heard in all my life of so many pipes breaking down at the same time. The Belle broke down today I am told. Every minute we are hearing Bomanstown broke down, Golden Ridge broke down, every where you turn the pumps are breaking down. I am saying, Sir, it is probably the result of lack of maintenance. Maintenance is the key. Over the years we never had these breakdowns but now, all of a sudden, every day now we seem to have another major break down because we have not been carrying out proper maintenance programmes. A pump is a machine and unless you maintain it, it is going to break down.

Sir, unless the Government does something about the Water Authority we will have more chaos and it could very well affect the health of this country. We have to be very careful because, Sir, when you have leaking pipes not only will water get out but sometimes organisms will get in. It is a very serious matter. We have got to maintain the integrity of our water system. I believe that we should be putting in the Estimates $5 million or $10 million or more and let the Water Authority immediately start working on the major problems that are occurring. The alternative I should say is ghastly to contemplate, especially next month when we are going to have 2,000 big shots here for the Conference.

3.00 p.m.

Sir, what is happening is that the Water Authority is threatening the life of a lot of people. I come from a rural district and almost every house in that district depends on vegetable farming to sustain them. Sir, without vegetable farming, I do not know how I would have survived at school. We always kept vegetables there and vegetables require water. It is not enough to say that one should only use water for domestic purposes. But for years people have survived and raised families out of vegetable farming. When they are denied the water given our climatic conditions and so on, you are telling that man or woman that it is a criminal activity to feed their child. That is what you are doing. By criminalizing the use of water in that way, you are telling them that it is a criminal activity for them to look after their children. That is a very serious matter.

I believe that the Water Authority has a right to provide water for the small farmer all over the island. This is a very serious responsibility because they are providing a service to the country and the Government has an obligation in my view to provide water. So it is not enough to tell people only to use water for domestic purposes, but you have to find water for them because their livelihood depends on it.

Sir, how do the people who live in St. James feel when morning comes they cannot find water to take a bath but they pass through Westmoreland and see a golf complex owned and operated by foreigners who will reap enormous profits from it and in their house they cannot find water to take a bath? We had better be careful that we do not get trouble in this country. I am not happy that every morning my children have to bathe in a bucket or whatever and just up the corner the rich boys have their playground.

We have to be very serious about what is happening in this country. It is wrong. I do not feel good about it. I am angry because I read a report a few months ago and I mentioned it in here where the Water Authority said that the company should take only a certain amount of water a day from the wells. According to the report, Cabinet

has decided that they are going to up the figure so that the company can take out more water than what the technical experts had recommended. That is wrong. The people of Barbados must come first and Cabinet does not have the expertise in my view to overturn its technical advice and allow that company to draw more water from the wells, not necessarily that the wells are owned by the people of Barbados because under the law of the land the water is not owned by anybody. The water is owned by the state. Whether the well is on your land, that is besides the point. The same Water Authority is stopping people from digging wells. They have said that you cannot open wells without their permission. But yet, Sir, another company is allowed to draw more water from the wells of Barbados than what the technical people feel that they should draw. Sir, we have to look again at this golf development.

Sir, we do not have the water resources for all of these golf courses that are proposed at Bushy Park, Kingsland and at Apes Hill. I am told that the owner of Apes Hill was seeking permission to open one there and we do not have the water resources. That has to be foolishness.

The emphasis is on sustainable development. Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Senate is in charge of a massive Conference On Sustainable Development. I wonder how the people will look at us when we talk about sustainable development and they see the plans for golf courses and we do not have the water. Sir, we are told that golf courses require a tremendous amount of water in order to keep the greens in a good condition. Not only that, it is going to destroy our water system too because a lot of chemicals and fertilizers have to be used which can easily interfere with our water supply. We have got to be very careful. We just cannot afford so many golf courses.

Sir, I am going to offer some solutions. It is all right to be critical, but I am going to offer now some solutions. The first solution is a short-term solution. There are a lot of private plumbers in Barbados who are not getting enough work. There are a lot of houses of poor people, especially those houses that are not metered, and the people cannot pay a plumber to come and fix the leak. So the water just leak off and goes into the dam. They cannot afford the plumbing service and there are a lot of people like that. They do not have to care because the water is not metered. So if the water is lost from a leaking pipe, they are still going to pay "X" amount per quarter or per month. Why not let the Water Authority have some of these plumbers at the cost of the taxpayers, and I have no problem with that at all, go and fix the leaks in these houses especially those who are poor and who are not able to afford the plumbing cost. I see nothing wrong with that. To have the water just waste, the country is better off paying the plumber however much he charges to fix that pipe than having the water waste. Because the cost of pumping water is very high given that the wells are deep and we have to use a lot of electricity which is pretty expensive. The Government has got to consider that as an alternative. Send the plumbers around in the villages and let them fix the people's pipes. However the money is recovered is not important in my view. The important thing is to stop the wastage of the water. In the same way you spend money on less important things, you can spend money on fixing the pipes. You worry about a $50 cost here or there and the country is running out of water. That does not make sense. Immediately, call in the plumbers and tell them that we have a massive programme and that they will be paid to go and fix the leaks especially at those homes which are not metered.

Sir, we have to do a massive programme of leak detection because very often the pipes are leaking and nobody knows because the water flows underground. As a result, that will destroy the road surface. A pipe may leak for months before it becomes visible, especially if it passes near a gully or something like that. So we have to intensify the system of leak detection. That is a short-term solution.

Now in the medium-term we have to find money to have a pipe replacement programme. Sir, I am told that within the last couple of years the Water Authority made a profit of about $3 million. The Government is going to have to provide more in pipe replacement. That is urgent. Then we are going to have to do what successive Governments failed to do. The Authority is going to have to install more meters in more houses. I was told that in the 1961 elections, when the late Sir Mencea Cox was the Minister of Transport and Works, one of the things the Opposition had against him was that he wanted to put meters at everyone's house. That was one of the weapons they used against him that he wanted to put a meter in the poor people's houses. Sir, thirty years have gone and successive Governments have not really implemented that system mainly for political reasons. In my view, Sir, there are not enough houses in Barbados which are metered. As a result, when there is a leak and you have a meter, you are going to rush and get it fixed. But if the system is not metered and there is a leak, you are not under any great obligation unless it is an inconvenience to you to rush and get it fixed. It may be 30 years late but we have to intensify the programme of metering the houses because it is necessary. In the medium-term, Sir, to pay for all of this, we have to recover the $21 million that consumers in Barbados owe to the Water Authority.

Sir, I wonder how much they owe to the Telephone Company. I wonder how much they owe to the Light and Power Company. The answer is very little, because if you do not pay you get cut off. It is as simple as that. We may say that they are privately owned. But how much do they owe to the National Petroleum Corporation?

Because National Petroleum Corporation is not like a welfare agency but it operates as a business. So that if you do not pay for the gas that you use, you will get it cut off. There is no reason why the Water Authority should not use the means at its disposal in order to recover the $21 million which will go a long way in paying for the pipe replacement programme. Sir, I believe that they should do that in a humane manner because the debt was not built up in a day. Some of this debt was built up over 2 or 3 years or more. So do not expect, Sir, that the debt which took 3 years to build up that one is going to pay it up in a day. We have to treat the cases with human consideration. Say look, you owe me $200. I do not want all today but every month you have to give me $10 or $20 depending upon their means and so on. You will recover the debt over a period of time but at the same time you try to minimize the inconvenience to the householder, especially noting that these are difficult economic times. We have to get tough because sometimes you have to be hard as the saying goes.

Sir, in the long-term and as I mentioned before, we have to start damming the gullies in the Scotland area. I have seen no money in the Estimates for that this year. I have not even seen money for consultancy services for that. But that is something we have to get cracking on in a very short time. The Scotland area has a lot of water being wasted. I remember some years ago I was driving around the East Coast Road after a heavy rainfall and the sea around the East Coast was muddy, which is indicative of the amount of water that flows from the hills into the sea. A tremendous amount of fresh water is lost to the sea and we have to stop that. We have to start planning for it in the very near future. Then we have to do something which I have recommended to this Honourable Chamber on many occasions. We cannot afford to waste the millions of gallons of water that is put out by the sewerage plant. We cannot afford to waste it. I am told that it is causing a bit of environmental problems in that being rich in nutrients it is causing the algae to grow and probably causing severe damage to the coral.
3.15 p.m.

We note that the South Coast Sewerage Project is about to start in this financial year and probably by next year the West Coast Sewerage Project will start. We will have three sewerage systems which will pump fresh water into the sea. Sir, the technology is there. Other countries do it. We have to take that water and if the golf people want water they can use that and if the farmers want irrigation water they can use that. It is the same water that goes down our cisterns every day and goes into the underground system.

We have to be imaginative and creative about our water problem. That is too good a source of water. We don't have to pay for the water. All you have to do is to pay to pump it inland but the water is free. Right now the water is just pumped into the sea and the crops around the island are starved for water. We have to use that water.

I am told that when the Bridgetown Sewerage Project was designed that that point came up but they said it was too expensive. Sir, sometimes I wonder about these things. It may not be expensive to host the Sherbourne Conference because we expect to get something out of it. We would get something out of the recycled water too.

We look at costs and we look at benefits. To every cost there is a benefit. We have to do what economists call cost benefit analysis and see if the benefits from that operation outweigh the costs. In any case, cost is relative. Given that, we have to desalinate in about 20-25 years. A lot of work has to be done if we are to solve our water problem in the short-term, medium-term and the long-term and my fear is that I see nothing in the Estimates which gives me any hope that the authorities are serious about this problem.

It is too urgent a problem and all I am getting from the authorities is that Barbados must conserve. Yes, we must conserve but I cannot conserve because I don't get any water to conserve. So don't tell me conserve when I cannot take a bath. What am I going to conserve? Conservation is only a small part of the problem but there are other dimensions to the problem and we have to put in place urgently solutions to these problems.

Sir, under Transport, Head 42, we notice on the same page that the Government is spending $200 000 for the completion of work at the Speightstown Bus Terminal. Page 163 under Explanatory Note Item 9 of Head 42.

Sir, Government is proud to go on record as saying that it has reduced the transport subsidy from $21 million to about $2 million last year. But what is the cost? Government looks on things in an accounting manner without looking at the overall picture. The cost of reduction of that subsidy is chaos on our roads, mayhem even. As I said already, and I will say again, we have to put in place a properly functioning transport board. Far from spending only $2 million we should be spending $20 million because the destruction that is caused by the absence of a Transport Board is too great. I use the word "destruction" advisedly. It is all because this Government has no transport policy.

Sir, transport, is in my view, a social good and it has to be treated in that way. You do not cost the Transport Board in terms of an economic costing but there are social dimensions to the transport system that we are not taking into account. That is why Government has embarked on a shortsighted policy of reducing the Transport Board to the stage where it only services the long-haul route and school children. The Transport Board will not survive on

just school children and the long-haul routes. Without the short-haul routes in St. Michael the Transport Board will never be efficient. It will never be viable without the routes in St. Michael.

We have abandoned the whole of St. Michael to the ZR vans and the minibuses in the belief that we can only operate the transport board in the rural areas. It cannot work so. Government should know from the start that that was wrong.

I see that we have in our midsts the former Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Transport. Probably he will have a lot to say about transport when his time comes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Did you say "Parliamentary Secretary"?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir, the former Parliamentary Secretary in that Ministry. Sir, he was promoted to work with the Prime Minister now. He got an elevation in his status.

Sir, the fact that Government is reducing a deficit I am not going to give any kudos for that. As I said before, and I will say again, we have fallen back on the promise to the old people in Barbados of free transport because it is no sense saying that you can travel free on the Transport Board bus unless you provide the bus they can travel free on. That is the problem. The whole of St. Michael. People living in Grazettes who have to go down to the Post Office to draw their pension cheques have to take two buses because the minibus from Grazettes only goes as far as Deacons Road corner so the poor 80-year old either has to walk from Deacons Road corner to the Post Office at Eagle Hall or get another bus. That is the madness that exists in our transport system.

The journey is only a mile or so but if they don't walk from Deacons Road Corner to Eagle Hall to pay $3 in bus fare to go and collect the cheque for $6 or so, $3 to go back up. That is the reality of the transport system in Barbados. The people who slave in years gone by to educate us in here when they come to the evening of their days we are treating them in this fashion. It has to be condemned in the strongest manner.
3.25 p.m.

I say, Sir, that we have to look to the Transport Board. If society wants a proper transport system let them know they have to pay for it. You cannot have it on the cheap. I have no problem in providing a subsidy for a properly running and efficient Transport Board. I have no problem whatsoever. I am clear on that.

Sir, the current talk in transport is for a stage fare system where the Transport Board now, seeing that they operate mainly in the long-haul areas are going to get an increase in bus fares under the system. The system is that the long-haul routes will have an increased fare. I have heard $2 and $2.50. I do not know what the exact figure is but the recommendation is that there will be an increase in fares on the long-haul routes which is another way of giving more money to the Transport Board.

But, Sir, all of us remember the dark days up until 1975 when the single stage was introduced where they had a multi-stage system and it penalised the people living in the rural areas. We have to be very careful with this. Historically, the people living in rural Barbados have always felt disadvantaged because it was always felt that they were not getting their share of Barbados in terms of services. The fellows living in the country could not go to the 8.30 p.m. theatre show because there were no buses after a certain hour so the people in the country felt deprived.

The thinking behind the single stage system was that the people living in the short-haul areas would help pay for, to some extent, the people living in the rural areas. To me it was a just and equitable system because we have to encourage our rural folk to remain in the rural parishes. We have seen the effect of too much migration from rural Barbados to urban Barbados because there is a lot of pressure now in urban Barbados where the lack of services and so on is becoming more and more evident. Also, Sir, the fact that there is a lot of migration from rural Barbados means that a lot of agriculture and other activity that used to go on in the rural areas no longer goes on because the people have left. Life in town has brighter lights.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I have a lot more to say. What is going to happen, Sir, is that we are going to put the hands of the clock back where now we are going to deprive the people in the rural areas for living in the rural areas. What will happen is if we are not careful, we will see more migration from the rural areas to the urban areas. If anything I think we should be trying to reverse the trend. That is my opinion that we should try and reverse the trend.

Sir, the introduction of the stage fares, in my view is inequitable and it does nothing to promote fairness in the society. Again, I must be a bit cynical because whenever a DLP politician does anything I have to look behind it. I told myself, the greatest strength of the ruling party is in St. Michael and they are proposing a reduction in bus fares for the St. Michael folk. That is where their votes are. I am cynical but I wonder if this is not an election ploy to reduce bus fares for the St. Michael people because

the strength of the ruling party is in St. Michael. But there again, I do not know. I impute no motives until motives are proven.

Sir, to sum it all up, we have to look again at the transport system and decide in our own minds that we must have a properly functioning transport system with buses on every route in Barbados. It is feasible and with good management, it can be economical. It can be viable but with goodwill, proper management and proper resources we can make the Transport Board viable and stop the mayhem on the roads in Barbados wherein we are complaining day in and day out about the ZR vans, the minibuses and so on and we are doing nothing. We come in here and pass laws. We have laws on the statute book but it seems that is where they are staying. A lot of time the police are frustrated. They stop the ZR vans or minibuses and a year passes before the case is heard, and a lot of them do not even pay the fines.

I want to end on this note that we need to have a properly functioning Transport Board system once again in Barbados. The Estimates have nothing to recommend. I wish I had more time. I feel it should be rejected as not compatible with the aspirations of our people. It has nothing for our people in there. It is full of more pain, more tears and more sorrow. It will do nothing to improve the plight of the working-class people.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. President, as I rise this evening to support the Estimates, I would first like to congratulate the Ministry of Economic Affairs for the production of this very concise, but nonetheless comprehensive 1993-2000 Development Plan and also too that it coincides with this 1994/95 Estimates debate which makes it relatively easier for Senators making their contribution to relate the Estimates to the proposals enveloped in the Development Plan.

First, Sir, I would like to address Head 23, Agriculture. I will not deal with agriculture in its fullest sense because there are so many crops that are grown in Barbados that the exercise would be one which would be too lengthy and so would not allow me enough time to speak on anything else.

Sir, if I look back at early 1992 when the Barbados National Bank, I believe it was in the month of January, met with those persons who ran the sugar industry at that time, that is, the Barbados Sugar Industry Ltd. and the owners of the plantations to discuss the problem relating to the large outstanding debt to the Barbados National Bank and how they intended to deal with this matter, indeed it appeared they did not have any resolution at all how the matter should be tackled. But little did I realise that there was an imminent reformation of the sugar industry. It was actually very near at hand because towards the end of 1992 a receiver was put in place for the sugar industry and thereafter the Government undertook to take over the debts of the sugar industry including the sugar factories in an amount in excess of $200 million. The Government also formed 2 companies called the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust and the Barbados Agricultural Marketing Corporation both of them designed to deal with the sugar debt and with the management of the industry. The BACT which is commonly called the ACT assumed the debt management and the AMC assumed the Management of the heavily indebted estates. In turn the AMC acquired the services of Booker Tate for the management of these plantations.

3.35 p.m.

Indeed it is heartening to say and to note that the present crop is about 6 weeks old and if one should live in the country where the activity is going on, you would not recognize that the crop is being reaped. So smooth is the activity. None of this old time problem of canes piled up all over the place, or trash littering all the streets and gutters and the whole lot of disarray that it used to be in the industry. Immediately you can see that there has been a high degree of professionalism brought to bear on this industry.

It must be recognized however that Booker Tate is an experienced company and having worked in the Caribbean environment before would have found little difficulty in putting their act together. This they have done with consummate ease and again as far as the cultivation for next year's crop is concerned, this is going on smoothly and in a very professional way and one can see that this company has a programme where in probably 4 years' time all possible lands that can be brought back into cultivation will be brought back into cultivation by Booker Tate. What this will mean is that our sugar production will move from what is a relatively low level of some 50 000 to 55 000 tonnes and in 4 to 5 years' time should achieve 100 000 tonnes again. That is commendable and I think that we would want to congratulate Booker Tate the English company for the professionalism that they have brought to the sugar industry in Barbados.

I would like, Sir, to make comments on a couple of other crops that we have tried our hands at, some of them quite unsuccessfully. But nonetheless there is still hope in some areas. I refer to cotton. Barbados made a very valiant effort some 3 years ago at the cotton industry. But then we had that fiasco with the company called CARSICOT and to a large extent that nearly terminated the cotton industry

in Barbados altogether. However the cotton industry although being a casualty of the CARSICOT fiasco continues to make some progress although on a reduced basis.

The real problem with the cotton industry was that an effort was made to grow large acreages concentrated in one area which made good husbandry extremely difficult. The effort, as it now continues, is that there are a number of small lots which makes it rather more manageable and of course it would be more efficient and more productive and of course, in the end, will turn out much better for the country.

I recognize the cotton industry was a casualty but with proper nursing this industry will serve this country again in the future and will generate substantial foreign exchange earnings for Barbados. I have, however, a regret and this one is not a casualty because when you thought it was a casualty you realized that it had been moved to the morgue because obviously it had died. I refer to Barbados Agro-Processing Limited, a company which I had a very particular interest in because indeed I feel that a project like this is tailor-made for Barbados and I regret very much that this project is still not with us.

There are a number of reasons which I could identify for the failure of this project. I make bold to say that:

1. The plant was lacking in focus without any well-thought out business plan.

2. Little or no dialogue between farmers and the plant.

3. Inadequate, poor or wrong equipment.

4. Personal interest seemed to be the motivating factor on the activities of that company.

5. Inadequate and indeed poor management.

6. And I would want to apologize to Senator Williams if he were in his place but I have to say this. There was a terrible failure of the directors to carry out their responsibilities in a businesslike manner in the interest of that company.

That company, in my view, would have held a good future in Barbados and, as a matter of fact, I had anticipated that as a result of the presence of that company that we would have seen more than one agro-processing plant in Barbados probably by now. But obviously the experience of that one was bad. Investors are going to be extremely careful before they would want to put money in a venture like this. It is my understanding that at some stage the credit unions were showing an interest but then their membership, as I understood it, gave cognizance to their directors warning them that the investment would have been a doubtful one and that they should steer clear of it. I do not blame them. However I still feel that if the correct focus is had and the correct management techniques are used and we are able to get suitable machinery in place that there will be need for a company like that in Barbados.

I would want to look at bananas. I have observed through the Halton experience and the experience at Newcastle, St. John that bananas and plantains could probably be a good export crop for Barbados. I think I am right in saying that we are now self-sufficient in bananas in the domestic market but the potential appears to be there whereby we could generate some export earnings from the presence of that crop.

Agriculture, as we all recognize, has its problems. We have the problem of praedial larceny. We have the problem of stray livestock and of course we have the pest problems and insect problems all related to agriculture. The Government is dealing with all these areas and hopefully there would be solutions found to deal with these matters on an ongoing basis in order that particularly our non-sugar crop can make a contribution towards the foreign exchange earnings of Barbados.

I should also like to draw to this Chamber's attention my observations on what is happening in the country relating to vegetable farming. I have observed that our small farmers seem to have abandoned the growing of sugar cane and are now concentrating their efforts in vegetable production. I think that they are doing so with more than ordinary success.

Where I live is a very dry area of Barbados and although that is the case I have observed some holdings not far from where I live where there are some very healthy vegetables in the growth. This is encouraging and obviously with times not being easy people besides wanting to grow vegetables for their own home consumption are growing them with the view of making some revenue from the sales of these vegetables in order to assist any shortfalls they may have on their incomes.

3.45 p.m.

Another interesting development that I have observed is the increase in livestock production. Wherever you go, particularly on lands that are not now under cultivation, you can see a large number of cows. Unfortunately a lot of them are not tied and wonder into the highways and into other people's premises ravishing other person's crops. I think the Government will have to continue to monitor this situation and to deal with these stray animals who are nothing other than a nuisance to other persons in the community.

Sir, I would now like to turn to Head 43 which is the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism has the responsibility of making sure that tourism continues to contribute to the Barbadian economy in a manner in which it has never done before. In other words I believe that the Barbados Government would expect to achieve substantial growth in the tourist industry during the coming year and the years ahead. This particular year that we are in should be a tremendous year and one would expect that the sort of increase we should see in a year like this should be somewhere in the vicinity of 25% to 30% in our long stay visitors. Particularly with the UN Conference, with the Congaline Carnival which is running concurrent to that conference, with the cricket test match being played in Barbados, and a whole number of sporting activities planned for the remainder of the year, this year should be a fantastic year for Barbados.

Barbadians, however, have got to understand and must recognise the importance of tourism as it relates to our country, not only in the earning of foreign exchange but in the provision of jobs and in the improvement of our services and the general assistance that tourism will bring to the economy of our country.

There are lots of areas that must be addressed if we must continue to make tourism a success. First let us look at our hotels. A number of our hotels are not in the best of condition and need some refurbishing. I believe too that we do need to look at, possibly one or two others of what are called Five Star Hotels, because of the need of this high level accommodation.

Going with all of this, Sir, are the services and the people involved in the industry. In tourism we have to bear in mind that there is fierce competition in the market place and the market place is not only the Caribbean but many other parts of the world where there is also the sun, the sea and proper hotels and all those amenities which people look for when they go on a holiday.
3.50 p.m.

I believe that one of the areas that for instance our unions should look at negotiating with the hoteliers is a mechanism which would promote a pattern of promotion within the organisation. I believe that this is terribly lacking in Barbados because invariably you find that the hotels have a tendency to go outside and look for people with experience rather than looking at promoting people from within. The ideal situation is that when a guy comes in as a bell-boy, besides getting increases in his income, he should be able to see that the possibility of promotion is available to him. He should see himself going up the ladder where he can become an assistant manager or manager of the organisation with training and providing that he adapts himself and catches the eyes of his management. This is very, very important because I think that it is fair to say that a human being with any ambition looks forward to promotion. I believe too that our hoteliers must bear this in mind because, in order to get substantial output from their workers, the workers need to be assured that there is a pattern of promotion within the organisation. That applies to our Barbados Tourism Authority and to any statutory corporation, or in any area of business one should look at promoting oneself and gaining a promotion within the organisation.

We have to make sure that if our tourism is to be a success that we are able to sort out any problems that we may have in our air transport arrangements. Every effort has to be made through our embassies and through the Barbados Tourism Authority to solicit the assistance of large airlines who may want to improve their business by flying into the Caribbean and particularly Barbados.

Now having agreed that we should have a large number of visitors in Barbados this year, it would mean that our tourist plant is not geared to take all those persons coming to these various events. It is thus necessary that private individuals would be approached for taking a few persons into their homes with some cost attached to it, of course, in order to make sure that persons attending the Global Conference and the Congaline Carnival have proper living facilities. As an extension to this particular event, arrangements could be made between the hotels and these individuals that in this time of need may be willing to offer their premises. So that should our tourist industry continue to grow or whenever there is a spill-over of persons that are booked for their hotels they may be able to call on private individuals to accommodate some persons whom they may have booked but on their arrival they have found that their units are filled.
3.55 p.m.

It is important that the hoteliers do not feel that anybody would want to create any unfair competition for them. So my suggestion is that the hoteliers themselves organise with private individuals in order that the understanding will be between a particular house owner and a particular hotel as opposed to the Tourism Authority making any such arrangements.

If we do get the number of persons we are expecting during the months of April, May and June, I am sure the hotels will not be able to accommodate, no matter how hard they try, all the persons visiting Barbados. So I am sure that the stand-by arrangements have already been put in place and the suggestion I am making could be useful if there is a continuation of substantially increased visitors to Barbados over the year.

I have observed that on this occasion there has been an increased tourism vote. It has been rather a substantial increase but then when I look at the targets they are

not indicative of the increase in expenses which are going to be spent on marketing. This is a reflection, and of course when we say targets obviously the whole thing is more or less a projection and is not anything set in granite. These suggestions may very well be wrong but as a businessman no one increases their expenses to the level at which these expenses have been increased. One would expect that the result would be rather improved on the number I see here as targeted.

Now, Barbados has to continue to create the sort of atmosphere to make people want to return to Barbados and in this area we need to pay continued attention to our places of interest. We need to develop new ones where possible. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Senator Williams on his outdoor riding and sporting facility which is established at Cane Field and this is the sort of outdoor activity I believe our senior visitors coming here are looking for.

All areas of our environment must be improved on. A number of our beaches are not kept in the manner they should be kept and this area has to be supported seriously by the Ministry of the Environment through the Ministry of Health and the Sanitation Services. The Scotland District is an area for which there is a substantial allocation. Indeed, I have not yet been able to recognise that the Scotland District Project is making the sort of progress I would have hoped for, but hopefully in another year or two one should see the type of activity going on in the Scotland District which will further encourage our visitors to want to visit that side of the Island.

Quite recently we saw in the newspaper that our Minister of the Environment visited the Scotland District and actually observed some sand being removed from areas where it should not be removed from because it would create a hazard for persons living within the immediate vicinity because high seas could encroach on the land and cause destruction to people's crops and properties. This kind of behavior is reprehensible and one would hope that the perpetrators of that particular evil have understood what they were doing, that it was not in the best interests of their country, and have ceased from mining sand in that prohibitive area.

Attention has to be paid to our services, that is, our services starting at the Airport with our Red Cap Service, then we have to make sure that our taximen do not lunge on people as though they are vultures but they must be able to address themselves in such a manner that people coming to the Island for the first time will feel absolutely happy and welcome at the Airport even before travelling on to their hotels.

Now the School of Hospitality Studies which is incorporated with the activities of the Barbados Community College must be pursued with all diligence because it is important that we do not flinch in our training of young persons for the hotel industry. Indeed, from primary school level talks on tourism should go on between teachers and pupils because our young children should understand that it is not a question of being subservient but it is a question of discipline and a question of addressing themselves properly to persons visiting our shores in their own efforts to make such persons want to return here for the good of themselves and their families.

Now, Sir, quite recently and in this Chamber today we heard comments on the sale of Heywoods Hotel that it was bought by the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company for a song or for a deal, whatever word was used. Let me say, Sir, I thought the sale of Heywoods would have given a wonderful opportunity to the credit union movement in Barbados to really get involved in big business. Instead of that, they were belly-aching with each other as to who should be president of this and who should be president of that and which particular grouping you should belong to and a whole lot of irrelevancies and things which were not in any way beneficial to the movement. At least they have let a wonderful opportunity pass them. An opportunity has been lost to persons in the credit unions to invest in Heywoods.

Of course, soon from now you will be expecting that they will be critical of the Government in other areas, critical of the privatisation plan without quite recognising that the privatisation plan could have been beneficial to a large number of black people in this country, provided there was a united effort in achieving that. That was not to be and now they have to wait for another opportunity.

I believe that we should continue to link our sporting activities to our tourism activities as we have done in the past. We should try to build further on that if possible. We now have the gymnasium fully operative. We have a number of tennis courts, swimming pools and a whole number of facilities located in that area of Barbados, east of BET. Cricket in the country continues to expand. There are several cricket fields in all parishes and we know that English school teams love to visit Barbados to participate in – although it is probably just only friendly cricket. Nonetheless, it is cricket and once they are in Barbados they figure that they are playing against the best when they come here. We will obviously have to continue to make that substantial effort in sport particularly when it comes to encouraging visiting teams to our shores.

A matter which we need to look at in relation to tourism again is that of Immigration. I believe to a large extent our Immigration personnel are extremely cautious. They have reason to be because we have had some unfortunate incidents of persons whom we thought were persons of character coming to our country and

behaving in a manner not consistent with what Barbadians would expect. Such persons we do not need. I do not blame Chico. I blame the persons who put on the show.

I am speaking in terms of would be investors, persons who would want to come to Barbados to invest in classy houses, who would want to employ five or six Barbadians as their house staff, persons who are not coming to Barbados to look for a job. We need to encourage such persons to our shores and to relax our immigration laws somewhat in order to be more accommodating. What you do find is that they may get leave to stay four weeks and then they return to Immigration but what they wanted in the beginning was six months but they know that if they said six months they would get a no-no on that so they settle for four weeks and before the four weeks is over they go back and ask for an extension. Actually they can afford to be here. They want to be here. Their parents or otherwise may have houses here already or they may have apartments or whatever so that they are not a cost on our country. I think that Government should have a little closer look at our Immigration rules as they pertain to our visitors who can afford to be here.

The tourism sector must, as I said earlier, be able to continue to determine areas of interest and I can think right away in terms of the Garrison being an area that should be more widely used as an area for tourists. There is a lot of historical interest in the Garrison and its environs. Indeed, I believe that the Garrison should be an area listed on our brochures as an area to be visited by people coming here. We could appoint a few tour guides who would be able to explain the history relating to the various buildings and the various caves and armouries which can be found in the Garrison compound.

It is interesting to note that the Art Collection Foundation has established a headquarters in the area of the Garrison. The Museum continues in its own effort to improve its own facilities however difficult. I believe the Barbados Museum needs some assistance from Government in expanding the activities of the museum and making our museum a more worthwhile place for our visitors and of course our locals to visit. Areas like this must not miss the attention of the Government and we must not consider it a small thing.

Actually, I am happy to say that when last I passed Sherbourne it seemed to be near completion. It is not now the whipping horse anymore. The whipping horse is now other buildings which are incomplete because Sherbourne is now old hat and is coming to an end. Everybody is happy.

I had the opportunity during the Estimates last week to hear a member of the Opposition saying that Sherbourne is looking very beautiful. Of course he had good wishes which as a responsible Barbadian he should. I am sure that our Senator who is sitting opposite here will in her speech want to say some word of congratulation to the Government for the way that Sherbourne has advanced during the last three or four years.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I would hope to have the opportunity to associate myself with many of the words of Senator Phillips and I would hope that his speech is of such vintage today that it might even be good to see him in a future Parliament, perhaps sitting in the Opposition benches.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Thank you for your sentiments.
4.10 p.m.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: One other area I would like to draw to the authorities concerned is the location of a lot of our regional and international headquarters, some of them being located in Puerto Rico and others in Miami. One wonders why some particular marketing effort could not be made, for instance, to encourage the Caribbean Tourism Association which is based in Puerto Rico, and Cable and Wireless also have their headquarters in Miami, why we could not be the headquarters for those international organisations who have regional offices in the Caribbean. I would like to think that every possible aspect of marketing our tourist industry must continue uninterrupted. We must not lack any zeal in putting our resources towards the development of this industry which will obviously be the salvation, if you might call it that, for the economy of our country as we go into the year 2000.

I would like Sir, to make a small intervention on Head 37, Housing, making particular reference to the unfinished project at Cane Garden in St. Michael which was a joint venture project between the country of Barbados and the country of Venezuela. That one seems to have run into problems. I would like to suggest that one way of solving that problem would be to either sell the units individually or sell the development as an unfinished development in the state it is now to probably the same credit unions. Here would be another opportunity for the credit unions to buy that unfinished development and complete those houses for their membership. That, I think, would be another good opportunity if the Government thought fit to dispose of the development in that manner which I have suggested.

With those few words, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Appropriation Bill, 1994. Thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, since it has been a long afternoon I would

like to move that this sitting be suspended for 30 minutes and that we resume at 4.50 p.m.

*The question that the sitting be suspended until 4.50 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.*
4.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed. Senator Bellamy.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Thank you, Mr. President. Rising to speak on the Estimates for 1994/95 the first thing I want to take note of is to note with interest that the revenue and expenditure are actually estimated at lower figures than were originally estimated in the Estimates for last year. However, the estimated excess of total expenditure over revenue is estimated at almost $28 million which is more than was originally estimated last year.

It is also interesting to note that the current expenditure is estimated at $1 099 million and the estimated revenue at $1 022 million leaving a current account deficit of some $77 million to which, when the capital expenditure of $171 million approximately is added, realises the estimated excess of $248 million.

In terms of the current estimated figures before us I find it unfortunate that the expenditure of almost $1 270 million is approaching 50% of the Gross Domestic Product of Barbados. This is unfortunate. I do not see that we have any way out of this situation at this point because it is a situation we have found ourselves in over a period of years. It is not possible, unfortunately, as some people would have you believe, to wave a magic wand and have these issues disappear.

In this regard, I am pleased, having reviewed the Estimates as they are prepared, to see that they have obviously been analysed in an extremely critical manner with a view to maintaining expenditure within reasonable levels and there are no proposals for any excessive increases. I sincerely hope that this trend is continued in the succeeding years to come because unless we do this we are likely to find ourselves back in the sort of problem we had before and we may have to seek redress to other international organisations to assist us out of these difficulties. As we have heard today, this situation is undesirable and creates a lot of unfortunate debate. However, we are in this position.

The expenditure of $1 099 million I note that the figure stated for Wages and Salaries is $369 million to which logically should be added the $26 million for salaries related costs totalling $422 million. The figure for Debt Servicing of $324 million and when those two figures are added together they comprise approximately 67% of the total current expenditure. This percentage is almost identical to the percentage that applied to the same figures last year.

In addition to the Wages and Salaries figure, as has been mentioned several times before in previous debates, there is a significant element of the figure listed under Current Transfers that also relates to salaries and wages of those employees in the statutory corporations etc. The end result of the analysis of the proposed Current Expenditure is that we have $110 million for the provision of Goods and Services. In respect of the type of services that the Barbados Government provides, there is obviously very little money left for any real developmental spending.

We have in Barbados extremely good services provided for the people of Barbados. We have heard mention of some of them today such as the social services. We have free education even up to the tertiary level. We have an extremely broad range health care system. One may even wonder if the United States might not want to take a lesson from what we do in Barbados since they are now debating their health care system so vehemently. These systems are extremely good for all the people of Barbados. In analysing the revenue we can possibly generate and the expenditure we have to allocate, sometimes one must begin to question whether we can reasonably afford to maintain all of the services we have been able to do in the past.

The result of the combination of these figures is that taxation in Barbados, whether direct or indirect, remains at an extremely high level. There is obviously a need for this tax level to fund the expenditure. However, I consider it unfortunate that our current revenue level has almost doubled over the last 10 years. It is even more of a concern if one considers that the current revenue and, in fact, all revenues, are derived in the main from taxation, and this has to be produced by the taxpayers of Barbados.
4.55 p.m.

In 1989 we recorded our highest level of visitors to Barbados and 1989 generally was considered and has been referred to in several fora as being a peak year for our economic performance. It is now a statistically recorded fact that our economy contracted in 1990, 1991 and 1992. It, in fact, contracted by approximately 4% in each of those years. However current expenditure did not show the same contraction. In 1989-90 current expenditure was $995 million. In 1990-91 it was $1 044 000 000. In 1991-92 it was $1 104 000 000. It did show a slight fall in 1992-93 to $1 086 000 000.

Capital expenditure during that time period also peaked in the 1990-91 year at $240 million. Therefore

as I see it, even when the economy had started to decline Government continued to maintain levels of expenditure that would have been more in keeping with an improving economy as opposed to a declining economy. The result did not produce any particular improvement. The revenue that was extracted during the same year periods that I am talking about shows that in 1989-90 $992 million was the level of current revenue for that year. It is interesting to note that in 1990-91, the following year current revenue fell to $952 million which actually is exactly 4% below the level that it was in 1989-90. One could almost say that that revenue was in keeping with the fall in economic performance of the economy which was 4%. However, whereas there was another fall of another 4% in 1990-91, the revenue that year was $989 million and in 1992-93 it was $1 004 000 000. If one had extrapolated and I do realize that this is rather idealistic and it is not necessarily correct. But if one had computed the revenue on the basis of a 4% decline each year, by 1992-93 our current revenue would have fallen to $877 million. Instead of that it was $1 billion and $4 million.

The revised estimate now for 1993-94 is $1 013 000 000. It is in this area of taxation that I want to dwell for a short while. I want to look particularly at the areas of taxes on income on profits and taxes on goods and services. When we examine the figures that are before us today we will see that the originally estimated total current revenue of $1 060 000 000 is now revised to $1 013 000 000 indicating a reduction of some $47 000 000.

Taxes on income on profits are down according to the revised Estimates from the original estimate of $328 million to $300 million, a decline of $28 million. Taxes on goods and services originally estimated to realize $393 million are now revised to realize $377 million which shows a reduction of $16 million. Those two added together total a reduction of $44 million and therefore comprise the most significant aspect of the shortfall in the revised estimated shortfall of $47 million. This reduction in the revised estimate is actually no surprise to me since I recall that during last year's debate on the Estimates that I questioned whether the statisticians that produce the Estimates had factored in all of the economic difficulties facing the country into the estimated revenue to be realized from these two areas in particular.

I believe that all of the well-known factors that are impacting on our economy such as unemployment, wage freeze, economic downturn and all of the other similar factors that impact on the ability of the economy to turn over necessarily must have dictated that our projected revenue would not have been realized to the extent that was projected, even though in both cases of the two tax areas that I am particularly looking at we have recorded increases over the actual 1992-93 level. But the point I am addressing is that the original estimate for 1993-94 is now revised downwards to the tune of some $44 million in these 2 areas.

It is in respect of these areas of taxation that I want to suggest a couple of areas for consideration. The first area I have actually referred to in this Honourable Chamber on a previous occasion but I take the liberty in this Estimates debate of raising it again, at your pleasure, Mr. President. This is the area of duties and taxes that are applied to the importation of alcoholic beverage from outside of the CARICOM region. I have done some analysis of this area and it is significant to me that the total amount of duties and taxes imposed, for example, on the importation of whisky into Barbados, total in excess of 340% of the original CIF cost of the product. As we all know the duty and consumption tax are expressed in specific ways but if it is converted to a percentage of the CIF price it exceeds 340%. The closest Island, and when I say closest I mean closest in terms of taxation – to that level in the English speaking Caribbean is Trinidad where their total tax level approximates to 222% and the least taxed island in the region is the island of Antigua where the total tax level approximates to 28%. All of the other islands in the English speaking Caribbean the taxes on imported alcoholic beverage range between 28% and 222%, but in Barbados, expressed as a percentage, our taxes on this type of import exceed 340%.
5.05 p.m.

The result of this level of tax I venture to suggest is that the consumption of this type of product has fallen significantly. Certainly fallen in respect of consumption by locals but I also suggest fallen in consumption by tourists and it is in respect of the cost impact on our tourist offering that I am making these statements.

All of the bars, restaurants and other such establishments in Barbados who supply alcoholic beverages to visitors to the Island, have to purchase the product that they then subsequently mark up and sell at our completely duty paid cost. Therefore it will factor in to the overall cost of a holiday in Barbados for any tourist and I again venture to suggest that the vast majority of tourists that come to Barbados are consumers of alcohol and it will factor into the price of their holiday here. This is what concerns me.

Government revenue will also have fallen significantly over the last 5 to 6 years as a result of the reduction in consumption of these products even though the tax level has been increased. Using Whisky as an example – and the figures I am going to quote I have extracted from the Government statistics – approximately seven years ago, between 1987-88 approximately 25 000 cases of whisky were imported into Barbados. It is estimated that the duty free sales, which obviously are sales not impacted on by the taxes I am referring to, but it is estimated that the

duty free sales of whisky at that time were about 8 000 cases. Today the total case quantity of whisky imported into Barbados and unfortunately the statistics are not available for 1993, but estimates place it some where between 10 000 to 11 000 cases in total imported into Barbados, a decline of some 14 000 cases. The duty free sales are estimated to be still in the region of 8 000 to 9 000.

I do not believe that the increased level of taxation that has been applied to this product over that time period has actually realised the increased level of revenue that was projected. I therefore venture to suggest that Government should take a serious look at this situation with a view to revising. The benefits that I believe would derive from this are that Government could derive greater revenue as a result of the increased consumption of the product even though the level of taxation was reduced.

Consumers and especially tourists; and I am stressing that I am looking at the tourist end of it, would have more affordable and attractive choice of beverage and all of this would put more money into circulation. Greater sales would generate more investment behind the brands by the manufacturers of those brands and this would provide more work and hopefully employment by local distribution companies, advertising and production agencies and such like.

At the same time that I am making this plea, just a few weeks ago I am sure all of us would have read of the unfortunate illegal activity that was detected in respect of the In-bound Duty Free Shop at the Airport. Again I venture to suggest that because of the extremely high level of taxation imposed on such products and particularly in the light of our economic situation, people of the mentality of those that were involved in that illegal activity are almost being encouraged as a result of the excessive taxation and the great divide between the cost price and selling price, to get involved in illegal activity, smuggling or whatever with a view to making a fast buck. I am concerned that we, if this situation is not addressed, will unfortunately encounter more and more such illegal activity which is not going to do us any good and it certainly is not going to be any good for the revenue to Government in respect of this product.

I therefore hope that the Government will give serious thought to remodelling the tax in respect of the comments that I have just made and I quite confidently believe that if this is done in a realistic manner it would more than likely result in improved revenue for Government from this source.

I should mention in the event that any one is wondering whether I am proposing this in respect of perhaps recommending that consumers change their consumption habits from drinking our locally produced spirit – Bajan rum – to whisky that I do not believe this is so because I have also looked at the consumption patterns of rum in Barbados over the same time period and have found that in reality these figures have not changed over the same 7-year period. The estimated sales of rum at this point in time is somewhere in the vicinity of 250 000 cases. So I do not believe that any change in respect of the taxation structure on imported liquor would have any deleterious effect on the consumption of our local rum and therefore I do not believe that it would have any real impact on our local industry. However, I do believe that it would serve to improve our tourism industry by offering a better product at a better price.

Carrying on in this vein there is another area of taxation that concerns me and again I want to stress that I am speaking in respect of our tourist industry. When Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. Clarke introduced the Estimates debate today he referred on more than one occasion to the fact that tourism has been identified as the engine of growth of the economy and it is in this regard that I am making these suggestions.

The next area of concern that I want to mention is in respect of the duty, taxes and in fact total revenue charge that the Government makes in respect of motorcars imported into Barbados especially in respect of those motorcars that are used by legitimate, and I stress legitimate, registered car rental operators who unfortunately at this point in time all have to be purchased at the full duty paid price of the car. Therefore we all know what the price of cars has become in Barbados in recent times and the car rental operators are facing tremendous capital outlay to upgrade their fleets with the result that fleets are aging and also, not only are the fleets aging but the resultant price that car rental operators have to charge the tourist for the rental of a car is considered to be very high. I have personally heard several tourists complain and ask why the car rental charge is so high in Barbados. Some years ago it was identified that our taxi fleet was in need of refurbishment and a concession was made by Government in respect of affording legitimate taxi operators some sort of tax concession in respect of replacing their units to upgrade and maintain a good quality taxi. I am saying that possibly in the region of 80 per cent or 90 per cent of the car rentals that take place in Barbados are to tourists and, if we value our tourism industry as highly as we say we do, we should offer the best possible product to tourists.
5.15 p.m.

Therefore, I am suggesting that some look be given at making some concession in this regard. I repeat, and I feel that it bears repeating, that I am talking about the operators of legitimate registered car rental operations. I think that if this was done that it could be done in one or two ways, either a concession in respect of the duty or,

in fact, raising the chargeable value that is presently charged in regards to the importation of cars. At present the chargeable value is the combination of the C.I.F. price plus the duty and the present chargeable value is Bds.$30,000 below which the resultant tax level compounds out to 172.3 per cent and above which it compounds out to 201.3 per cent. There may also be some consideration given in this regard to affording Barbadians the opportunity of some relief when purchasing cars and maybe not even considering it across the board, but certainly with a view to – 2 dictating future policy in respect of our energy consumption. We may also consider making some relief to the smaller more fuel efficient cars and a hike in the chargeable value alone would provide for smaller cars to come in at a slightly reduced price to locals.

The operators of car sales agencies in Barbados can attest to the fact and I have seen the figures published in the Press that the sales of units are somewhere in the region of a quarter of what they were four or five years ago. There has been significant unemployment generated from those firms as a result of the fall in their own performance. I believe that if some attention was paid to this, especially in respect of car rental operations, it would make a wider choice of car available to the tourists at a more affordable price. It would generate employment and it will also have the benefit of increasing revenue to Government because I believe the time changes of cars would be speeded up and possibly fleets might be expanded. Again, based on the simple multiplication of higher volume at lower duty would realize more revenue to Government as a result of greater volume.

Sir, before I leave that particular aspect and again talking from the point of view of tourism being identified as the engine of growth of the economy, it is of some concern that we maintain, for want of a better word, perhaps a backward policy in respect of franchise operations in Barbados. There are some international franchises that are here and the one that readily comes to mind is Kentucky Fried Chicken. There has been a lot of publicity attendant on these operations. But it is somewhat annoying to me personally to just fly one hundred miles west of Barbados and land for example in the island of St. Lucia and on exiting the Arrivals Hall you are greeted by a row of booths which attest to the fact that the internationally recognized car rental operators such as Hertz, Avis, Budget and all the others operate in that country. I feel that this is something that we need to address here as well if we are going to offer a top class product. There is no reason to believe that this will deprive any Barbadians of a livelihood because the fact that the international franchises are here would mean that Barbadians would get involved in the operations of these franchises. It would generate more employment in this industry in my opinion and it also would serve to put Barbados much more on the internationally recognized map throughout the world, since these large operators generate business for destinations where they operate in themselves. Again, many of our tourists who come to Barbados express surprise that they are unable to recognize the car rental operations that exist here. I believe that being on the map of these international operations would generate more business for Barbados.

The whole area of franchising is one that could be looked at in this regard. We are seeing some other franchises appearing. We hear a lot of talk at present about changing and restructuring our economy to be internationally competitive and not affording protection unnecessarily. If we are going to do this, then one has to ask the question as to why we do it in certain areas and not in all areas. However, while I realize that particular area may be somewhat more hazardous, I still would like to reiterate my original plea for consideration of some relief for the operators of car rental operations in Barbados in respect of tax charges on the vehicles they have to buy.

Now leaving that area and moving on to another area of tax which is a new area of tax. I mention this only because of the way in which it was actually introduced and this is the area of surcharge that was gazetted on January 6, 1994. The manner in which it was done resulted in the discovery that several products that were not intended to be caught in the net of the surcharge were actually caught in the net. I am extremely pleased that Government has moved swiftly to correct this problem. But in respect of the truly tripartite arrangement that we talk about so much, it is regrettable that we were not able to complete thorough investigations and discussions before the introduction of such a tax with a view to introducing the tax with no need to have a subsequent amendment to it. I would sincerely hope that in such areas in the future that wider discussions take place before the introduction to avoid us having to make a hasty effort to correct the anomalies that suddenly surface.

5.25 p.m.

Mr. President, those areas are the areas I chose to highlight in this debate and I hope that the projected revenue estimated from the tax base I have referred to will in fact be realised and we do not find at the end of this year that we have a short fall and either have to reallocate money from other areas or that we have to finance a greater deficit than the one projected.

I am unable to resume my seat this afternoon without making some comment in respect of some of the remarks that were made previously in the debate dealing first with one or two of the comments made by Senator Dr. Clarke during his introduction. I always listen very carefully to these things and I was pleased earlier on today before this debate began to hear Dr. Clarke explaining when we

were debating the earlier motion for $800 000 that that was a reallocation of funds and not an additional charge and it is pleasing to note that this is in fact what is being done. Otherwise one would begin to get concerned because over the last few weeks we have had motions totalling well over $5 million brought before this Honourable Chamber and it would be significant if they were not included in the figures we are looking at now. But due to the reallocation we don't have to worry about that because we have been assured otherwise.

I could not stand here and agree entirely with the statement made by Dr. Clarke in respect of the fact that the long list of companies he listed as being listed on the Stock Exchange of Barbados have generated improved performance either through sales or profit as a result of the policies of Government. I believe what is more correct is that most companies in Barbados that I am aware of decided to undergo structural adjustment themselves at the time the entire island of Barbados was undergoing structural adjustment.

I am not certain that the structural adjustment was something they would have wished to do but it was dictated by circumstance because, unlike Government, businesses do not have the privilege of simply increasing revenue to cover expenditure. Business houses or business places are accountable to their shareholders who expect some sort of profit to be generated and thereby derive a reasonable return on their investment.

During his opening address, Dr. Clarke drew reference to the big businesses in Barbados having very few shareholders. I do not have a list of the...

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order. I did not refer to big businesses. I addressed the companies listed on the Securities Exchange. "Big business" is not one of my terms.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Thanks for that correction. I apologise for the error but the companies listed by Dr. Clarke are such companies as Brydens, Banks, BET, BS&T, BARTEL, BICO, Courts and Goddards. In fact, the only companies which do not have a broad shareholder base out of that group are the companies of BET and BARTEL since the government was unfortunately forced to sell its shareholding in those companies to take care of debt. The major shareholder in both of those companies is not Barbadian. In the other companies listed there is an ever-broadening shareholder base.

In the case of one company with which I am particularly familiar the shareholders number almost 500. I am not sure of the other numbers and therefore I should not quote them but I suspect that in the case of BS&T the shareholders are about 2 000 or more.

I saw a comment I think attributed to a member in the Other Place during the Estimates debate when some criticism was made of the sale of Heywoods to BS&T and that individual, who is a prominent Member of the Opposition, made the point that BS&T is a company that has a broad shareholder base and therefore the sale to BS&T was a sale of a public asset to a wide cross section of the Barbadian public who participate in it through their shareholding in BS&T.

In respect of the sales and profit figures quoted, as I started to mention a short while ago, companies which took charges against their profits in 1991-92 in respect of restructuring would have depressed their resultant profits considerably as a result of the charges that were made for severance payment which unfortunately contributed to the unemployment levels in Barbados. These companies are public companies and their financial results are results of public record. I do not have the figures with me so I have to refer to my memory but I remember in respect of Goddard Enterprises, for example. I believe the charge they took for severance liability in 1991-92 was approaching $2 million. I believe it was in the region of $1.6 million or $1.7 million. Therefore when companies publish their results for the 1992-93 financial year and such charges have been taken in the previous financial year one would expect that the profit results would be greatly improved. That appears to be the case in almost all the companies that have been listed.

I do not wish to prolong the debate on the Estimates in this regard but simply to state that I believe that a detailed examination of the reasons why these changes in sales and profitability have taken place needs to be done before one makes a categorical statement that this is the result of enlightened Government policy. I think it probably goes considerably deeper than that. Enough said on that.

In respect of the unfortunate decline in profitability experienced by the W. I. Rum Refinery I am sure that I am joined by most Barbadians or all Barbadians who find it unfortunate that the W.I. Rum Refinery was forced to purchase molasses at such premium prices since molasses was not readily available from our local sources but we all know the reasons for that.

One other point that I would like to refer to is the fact that the companies referred to are listed on the Stock Exchange. The Stock Exchange is a method by which shares can trade and can be traded. While it may be true to say that there are limited shares being offered for sale on the Stock Exchange it does not preclude anyone from making an offer to purchase at a price that would persuade existing owners to sell. Therefore I do not think it would be entirely fair to say that shares are not available

because I am sure that the old adage that everything is for sale for the right price would apply.
5.35 p.m.

The $8.8 million that has been allocated for Tax Administration Review, during the introduction Senator Dr. Clarke referred to the fact that some of this money would probably be applied in respect of the introduction of VAT. I am sure the entire nation of Barbados is eagerly awaiting the Budget presentation next Monday to see if there is any indication in respect of when, how and where VAT will apply. Since this is talked about at such great length, I again want to appeal to the Government to clearly outline the proposal because the implementation or the revision of direct taxation was done and everybody knows and understands what that is.

I think I may have made a comment in a previous debate that until the complete indirect tax structure is fully known and appreciated, it is cause for concern in the operation of business in Barbados. The sooner we put this matter to bed and we all understand the tax system under which we are working, in my opinion, the sooner we will see improvements being made by way of investments and growth in the economy. I therefore appeal for some clarification in respect of the when, how and where of VAT.

In that regard, referring to the original paragraph in the Letter of Intent, I recall being mentioned that Government would be considering – of course that is the Letter of Intent that was written back in October, 1991 – the possible implementation of a general sales tax, possibly along the lines of a VAT to replace the present wide array of excise taxes that exist, consumption taxes, stamp duty, *et cetera.* I think there is need for complete clarification in this regard so that business people clearly understand the system of rules and regulations in respect to tax that we will have to abide by and can therefore plan better for the future. It is hoped, certainly by me, that when we come to debate this matter next year that we can find slightly more optimism in respect of the future and allocations that can reasonably be made. Perhaps our debt might have been reduced or something along those lines. Right now these Estimates depict, as I said at the beginning, a very analytical, and I am sure, very carefully thought-out projection of revenue and expenditure. Very little else could have been done under prevailing circumstances.

We have heard great dissertation by Senator Barker which I wish to support completely in respect of the water situation in Barbados. It is a matter of grave concern. It is of particular concern to me since we live in the world of international communication and when these things are published in our local Press they get transmitted all over the world. I would hate to think that our tourist industry may suffer because of an impression being conveyed that Barbados is not a desirable destination because we have a water problem. Equally so it is necessary to make sure that we maintain all of the existing water supply functions so that we do not continue to experience shortages and breakdowns.

Earlier today on a previous matter Senator Dr. Alleyne referred to his disgust at the lack of maintenance of Government property. I think this is a feeling that is shared by all. However, one has to appreciate the restraints of the fiscal policy and the availability of funds and make sure that funds are allocated for essential services. Certainly there is nothing more essential than water because we cannot live without it.

In that regard I also want to reiterate a plea I made a few weeks ago in here for consideration of equipment for the Police Force. Crime is a matter of grave concern. It impacts directly not only on our tourist industry but on the whole social fabric of Barbados. Our Police need to be properly equipped to deal with all eventualities.

We also need to address the matter of equipping our Courts in a more modern way. I have mentioned both of those matters on a previous occasion and will not waste the time of the Honourable Members in this Honourable Chamber by repeating those matters at this point in time.

With those remarks, Mr. President, I support the Estimates before us.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. President, my contribution to this debate is directed to certain parts under the Heads 34, 36, 37 and 42. Since this document, the Barbados Development Plan strongly supports and substantiates my contribution, I crave your indulgence to make more than just a passing reference to its contents. It has already been made a document of this Chamber so I know that reference to its contents will not be out of place.

Under Head 34, Education, I call to mind Senator Inniss' remark during the Estimates debate last year when he said that most Barbadians think that they are authorities on education. I do not consider myself an authority but I think I can make a reasonable contribution since all my working life has been spent in the field of education. Even although the Estimates comprise a document that comes on an annual basis and this Development Plan dates from 1993 to the year 2000, yet I must say that there are so inter-related and justifiably so, that using one to balance the other is extremely useful. My comments, therefore, will be more generalised than specific.

Mr. President, education has always had an extremely large slice of the financial pie and the reasons are obvious because, putting it alongside health, these two

areas contribute more than any other areas, in my opinion, to national development.

Looking at page 89 in the Estimates, Teacher Training, Erdiston College, the initial service of Erdiston College, as we all know, is for teacher training. During a debate on Education last year when I made my contribution, I did make a recommendation that Erdiston could become an Education resource centre. I note with pleasure that in evaluating what Erdiston could become, or what further uses could be put to Erdiston, it is proposed that it should become a resource centre. I think that the Ministry should be highly commended in this regard.
5.45 p.m.

Cap. 4 of this document, Barbados Development Plan spells out all the key sectors from early childhood education and including the entire range of the education system, albeit, Mr. President, it is difficult really to identify a real thrust for sustainable development in any particular area of the document. Early childhood education is labelled in this book and the label used in the Estimates is pre-primary education and it comes under subprogram 1 on page 90 in the Estimates. It takes high priority in the sectoral plan of 1993-2000 in those key sector areas.

It can be noted, Mr. President that improved facilities and trained personnel are contributing significantly to the steady expansion in this particular area. Personal contact with the Early Childhood Education Association has been, for me, a real experience. I should like, at this stage, to commend that association for the good work that they are doing. It is at this stage, Mr. President, that these young minds are being exposed to basic skills and the skills of interaction and socialization. They are also being introduced to the uses of the environment as a source of informal learning, but progressive learning.

There has been a plea on more than one occasion for the introduction in some cases, and in some cases the revitalizing of Education in Human Values within our schools. It is gratifying to note that the Ministry has given its full blessing to the formal inclusion of Education in Human Values in its schools' programme and that it has accepted the resource book recommended by the small Committee on the Education in Human Values of which I am a member. This resource book offers scope for flexibility. It has no particular bias and the findings of a survey – and this survey was in the form of a questionnaire – have revealed that the book has been accepted and is acceptable in the teaching community.

The 14 goals which the education system seeks to achieve are listed on page 70 of this book. Included among these goals are some with a strong similarity to the values in the material found in that same resource book; this shows that there is a strong kind of interplay and feeling among educators as to the moral needs of the society.

In the area of tertiary education, Mr. President, I should like to state that in spite of any deficiencies, the programmes of the institutions which cater to tertiary education continue to expand and to accommodate many of the educational needs of our society. The Associate Degree at the Barbados Community College embraces several disciplines; high among them are the programmes in health sciences, the courses offered provide opportunities in its adult education programme, opportunities afforded through its ever widening Continuing Education Department.

There is something that I should like to draw to the attention of this Chamber. It might appear to be small but it is an area of concern to me and I wonder about it; perhaps, I am displaying ignorance in asking that this be clarified but at the same time I still do not understand why in the Estimates the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is placed under Secondary Education and in this it is placed under tertiary. I have always considered it one of our tertiary institutions. I still wonder why it is placed in the Estimates as under Secondary and if a correction is to be made knowing the work that that particular institution does and the status it has in society, I think it should be given its rightful position.

I should like to compliment under this same Head the work of the Audio Visual Aids Department on its efficiency and its smooth running. I look forward to the time when this very essential unit will be provided with more spacious housing to accommodate its staff and its well-used facility.

In throwing compliments, Mr. President, I should like to include the activities of the disabled. Their art exhibitions are to be highly commended. Their dramatic performances are excellent, everything considered. Even their form of protest should be looked at. These activities certainly prove to us that "disabled" does not mean "unable". They deserve a lot of consideration, especially when we consider their efforts to be treated like normal people.

The Film Censorship Board comes under 2 areas. It comes under the area of education and it comes under Head 42. At this point I should like to say something on that score. When the Film Censorship Act was debated in this Chamber I spoke on it at some length. In my reference now to the Film Censorship Board in the present debate, I should like to state that the Regulations of the Act are to the best of my knowledge before the Chief Parliamentary Counsel for further amendments to accommodate the full force of the Act.

The outreach programme of the Board is aimed at sensitizing the public to the meaning and value of this piece of legislation. We should like, in our outreach programme to bestir the social consciousness of the public and to solicit its support in protecting and preserving and keeping in line certain standards and quality of standards and values. In other words we would solicit some public policing to make our jobs a little easier. Recent Cabinet changes however, Mr. President, have caused us to put our programmes on hold. As Chairman, I have been informed that the Board will now be under the Ministry of Education and Culture and this will be the second time around. We have gone almost full circle now through the Ministries. It is hoped, Mr. President, even with the pressing economic constraint, that the Board will soon be able to put into effect those measures of censorship with which the Act has empowered it.

5.55 p.m.

Mr. President, free secondary education was introduced in Barbados in 1962 and the records will show us that between then and now a lot of things have been done and a lot of money has been spent on education in all its facets, albeit there have been some unpleasant situations which have been highlighted from time to time.

A lot of debate, at all times, and especially at this time, is focussed on this aspect, the aspect of free education. Sometimes I myself wonder, can we afford it? For how long, and at what level can we afford it all?

I submit, Mr. President that a regular review and evaluation could be made, especially with regard to the wastage in this area. We could look at the causes, the effects and the results and the consequences of the wastage through delinquency, through recalcitrance, through management or mismanagement.

Mr. President, I think that we have enough human expertise and resource among our local educators and we could entrust such an exercise to them. I think we should try to address the problems and examine them carefully. Our education should be both utilitarian and humanistic catering to all the needs of total human development.

I think too, Mr. President, that in addressing the cost factor and looking at the evaluation of education, we could consider – if we cannot afford it or look to the time when we may not be able to afford it – very seriously at the revitalising of the system of scholarships if we find we can afford it. Or whether we should put a kind of ceiling on it at our tertiary level using the revolving loan scheme perhaps as a model so that who can afford will pay, if, and when the time comes.

But in looking at cost versus wastage and other differences I think we must give full consideration to the possibility of the shutting out of a certain socio-economic group; remembering of course, Mr. President, that our failure to lose some of our best human resource and our failure to challenge the physical and intellectual capabilities of the young in many areas of endeavour may be our most grievous mistake.

We should also bear in mind, Mr. President, that in the areas of education and health, two very important areas, we should be guided by the principle of first call for children and young people. The principle that the essential needs of our children and young people should be given priority in the allocation of resources in bad times as well as in good times. This principle demands that in the worst times the protection of our children should be the last element of social protection to be relinquished rather than the first to be sacrificed.

Again, Mr. President, I recommend that a periodic review would avoid lopsidedness in our tertiary education programme. That our tertiary education programme should be in the right proportions with an eye to the fact that all cannot always be absorbed in the employment market.

A word about zoning and a very short word. That it should be carefully and expertly thought out over time is a must. To use a parish as a zoning unit is a serious mistake. Successful zoning depends heavily on the working of all the systems including and especially the transport system. Some of our secondary schools are cited in very sparsely populated areas. The one that comes closest to mind is the Grantley Adams Memorial. Allocation to secondary schools must be thoroughly thought out. We have enough educators to think out this carefully so that our nation's children get the best and in the right proportions and as comfortably as possible.

Bussing children far from home excludes them almost completely from extra curricula activities which form a great part of the life line of any school. Then there is the time factor to be considered, getting from home to school and it is in those grey areas, getting from home to school and from school back to home, that social problems sometimes originate. Children are like missiles and those grey areas are the areas that we have to consider very, very seriously. If parental choice must be respected there will always be reaction in this area. Consideration must be given to the fact that we cannot change values overnight neither can human values be legislated.

Under Head 36 – Health – which is very closely related from the point of view of our children and young people to the area of education, I should like to say that good health care, like education, is one of the best investments – an investment in people's lives and in people's living.

6.05 p.m.

Our primary health care service, and it was stated in this Chamber here today, is maintained at a very high standard. My exposure to the work of the polyclinic through a study for the Population Council about 7 years ago was an experience and a revelation. Since that time, services have been expanded and facilities have been upgraded. A very pleasing aspect is that all of the facilities and services that are offered are heavily utilized. The new Black Rock Polyclinic which has a very large catchment area, Mr. President, is perhaps one of the largest catchment areas in the whole island among our polyclinics because of the easy accessibility. It is an enhancement to the health service.

Although the School Meals Programme comes under Education, Head 34, I like to attach it and think of it through Health. It is a good thing and every effort should be made to keep it so. I look forward, Mr. President, to the day when such a service will be extended to some, even if not all, of our secondary schools. It is a mistake to think that the need is greater in the primary schools for this kind of service than it is in the secondary schools. All of our secondary schools have only adolescent persons of that age where one of the developmental tasks is to come to grips with physical development and some of the children in our secondary schools are extremely needy. I know that because I have had personal experience with it. I am really looking forward to the day when this service can be extended to our secondary schools without any form of stigmatization. Through a very smooth service it can be operated. It is done in other countries. It does not mean that we can take other countries' ideas lock, stock and barrel and adopt them without first adapting them, because that is a mistake we seem to make. We try to adopt without adapting and that can be very serious especially if the cultures are different. But I should like consideration to be given to school lunches in secondary schools and I really do mean it.

Under Head 42, the question of "safety consciousness" is referred to in a statement on page 140 in this Development Plan. The point I should like to mention here might seem a minor point, Mr. President, but it could result if it is not attended to in a major accident. My area of concern is the President Kennedy Drive near the junction to the Princess Alice Highway obliquely opposite the Chefette Outlet and skirted by the Harbour Industrial site; this is the widest piece of road that I can see in this entire island and very often employees at the Harbour Industrial site have to do a skip-hop jump to get from one side of the road to another through a heavy flow of traffic. Mr. President, I should like to submit that something could be done to ensure their safety. If we cannot find the appropriate street light system, well then we could have some kind of safety zone where in crossing they will have a little "rest-pit" before they try to cross on the other side. "Respite" is the correct word, but I like "rest-pit". The traffic is very inconsiderate and, when I say traffic, I mean the people who operate the traffic. I fear for the safety of these workers. I repeat, Mr. President, that it is difficult and dangerous for these people passing at that stage.

Under this same Head, I look at the area on page 170 Women's Affairs and I will not be taking the wind out of the sails of Senator Barker-Welch whom I think will make a presentation on that score or even Senator Yvonne Walkes as Chairman of the National Advisory Council On Women. But being apart of this, I think that I should make a comment on the Women's Bureau. It is heartening, Mr. President, to note the encouraging efforts that have been made in this country to change attitudes and beliefs that have been discriminatory against women. It is heartening to note again that policy-makers are learning that a nation cannot afford not to recognize the better-half or even bigger section of their human resources by denying women opportunities and positions they have so rightly earned. Barbadian women are fortunate. There have been some forward-looking strategies to support our claims for recognition. But, Mr. President, there is still too great a degree of under-representation at the high areas of decision making. The understaffed Bureau of Women's Affairs is working hard and achieving qualitatively. We hope that its work will be recognized in the right places and that the services and contributions of women will continue to be an asset to the national development.

There is a general trend in the scheme of things, Mr. President, to be targeting projects to the year 2000 as if there is some magic key that opens up 2000 to all green pastures. While this connotes a certain degree of hope, to my mind it also suggests a kind of loop effect in getting from now to then. The year 2000 is less than 6 years away and there is a great deal to consider to keep this ship of state afloat until then, and beyond. We have to stop scapegoating and be honest with ourselves about our situation and what we have to do.

Again, Mr. President, Total Quality Management has become a very popular catch phrase – TQM. There are areas of national development in which progress and results are easily measurable. Sometimes they are measurable by the amount of profit that can be realized periodically, but we are bound to measure certain others by the degree and amount of productivity. Here I emphasize that we must improve our productivity especially the productivity that comes through our human resources or human efforts.
6.15 p.m.

Some of us have obtained university degrees in management. Some of us refresh ourselves and attend conferences on management skills, on organisational theory and behaviour and public administration. We attend courses, seminars and workshops and a lot of talk shops on management. Historically, Mr. President, Barbadians

are not always profoundly management conscious nor training conscious. Some management skills that have been tested and tried have been acquired through trial and error.

Exposure to the rest of the world has awakened us to the fact that we must be brought in line and we must bring ourselves in line. Industrial development, modernisation, technological advancement among other progressive elements have made it necessary for us to take a long, hard look at ourselves in the light of this very vital component of national growth and development.

But it goes deeper than that, Mr. President. It goes into self-management. Management of ourselves, management of our time, our attitudinal problems. I think that we should look seriously at management that accounts for and abhors wastage. It is time that we put management into operation. It is time that we stop scapegoating and, I emphasise, make the movement from promise to practice.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to ask the Honourable the Senate to agree that we defer further consideration of this item until when next we sit but that we proceed with another item of public business.

*The question was put and agreed to.*

## ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT ON BORROWING OF $900 000 BY CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION FROM THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, as we have heard, this Resolution seeks parliamentary approval for the Minister of Finance to give a guarantee for the payment of the principal and interest on the borrowing in the sum of $900 000 by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation from the Bank of Nova Scotia. These funds are required so that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation can finance certain bits of equipment and purchase vehicles to facilitate in the broadcasting for the United Nations Global Conference to be held in Barbados.

The terms of the conditions of the loan will be for 5 years. The Bank's base lending rate from time to time is currently at 9% plus 1% above that. That means that of today the effective rate will be 10%. The loan is to be fully drawn down by March 31, 1994 and no further advance is to be permitted after that date without the prior consent of the bank. The loan is non-revolving and the currency designation is in Barbados dollars.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

*The question was put and agreed to.*

## SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until Friday, March 25, 1994 at 10.00 a.m.

*The question was put and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the SENATE accordingly.*
6.25 p.m.

## RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This session of the Senate is now continued.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would crave the indulgence of Members of the Senate to deal with items 7 and 8 on the Order Paper before we resume the Estimates.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If there are no objections, we shall deal with items 7 and 8 on the Order Paper.

## ORDER NO. 7 – BILL TO AMEND THE LOCAL LOANS ACT, CAP. 98

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, this Bill before us is seeking to increase the limit of local loans so that more and more borrowing can take place on the local market. There has been a definite trend over time to reduce our reliance on foreign borrowing and rely more and more on our domestic savings to finance the capital projects of Government. This is most desirable from the point of view that when we come to service the loan there would be no outflow of resources from the country.

In addition, it also affords citizens, both corporate and national in Barbados, more opportunities for savings to be converted into investments and also to accommodate the National Insurance Board which is seeking to diversify its own portfolio to afford them an opportunity to be able to participate in Government's indebtedness.

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

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

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, it is my belief that this is a money Bill. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be read a third time.

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

ORDER NO. 8 – BILL TO AMEND THE EXEMPT INSURANCE ACT, CAP. 308A

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, this amendment is a relatively simple one in that it seeks to repeal section 35(b) of the Exempt Insurance Act. Section 35(b) of this Act provides for the establishment of the Exempt Insurance Advisory Committee. This committee functions to advise the Minister on matters relating to exempt insurance business.

There has been no committee since the last committee's term expired on June 15, 1990. Since all matters now pertaining to the offshore sector, including that of exempt insurance business, are being considered by the International Financial Services Advisory Committee, the reappointment of any Exempt Insurance Advisory Committee at this time would be superfluous. To avoid this overlapping of functions, the measure is before us for the repeal of section 35.

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

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

*On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR J. J. PAYNE in the Chair.*

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in committee.

*Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.*

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

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

ORDER NO. 5 (RESUMED)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mrs. Walcott.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. President, we are living in an age when scientists and technologists all over the world are very concerned about the fate of the human race, especially in our lifetime, and moreso in the lifetime of our youngsters who are at school. We are warned that unless we change our ways, we are heading for one kind of disaster or another. These foreboding thoughts have been coming our way for many years now and still there has been no positive turn around. Many of us still take the complacent line that the future will take care of itself. We continue to say to our youth "the future is yours" but this is not backed up by any concerted effort to ensure that what they – the youth – will inherit is worthwhile.

The strange thing about the whole situation is that many of the problems facing us, or likely to do so in the future, are due to spin-off effects of successes of members of the same human race, successes that are being achieved in one field or another and through them we are getting these spin-off effects that are deleterious to our environment.

At the same time, our populations have increased to such an extent that further problems are created and we are landed with overcrowding, pollution and garbage disposal problems. We are over-using our natural resources and, indeed, the very quality of life is being threatened.
10.25 a.m.

Mr. President, in a small country such as ours, some of the problems we encounter are imposed and not within our power to control. But I do feel that such a thing as proper management can play a great part in our scheme of things proper and effective management of our natural resources, proper management of our properties and, of course, proper management of our finances. Proper management, while not necessarily always being the answer to solving a problem, can go a long way to alleviating difficulties, saving embarrassing situations and, of course, sometimes unnecessary expenditure.

I have always considered Barbados' natural water resources were like a little miracle to such a small island stuck out in the ocean by itself as it is. For hundreds of years we have enjoyed and taken for granted the facility of a good supply of high quality water. And now in more recent times, over many years, each year in the dry season which happens to be at the same time when the population is greatly increased by thousands of visitors, we have been warned time and time again about the lowering of the water tables. Year after year we have been warned. But there have been no specific steps taken to meet the problem head on and many do not take the situation seriously. I guess things will get worse before they get better. But everyone should be very concerned and should know how he or she can help to lessen the problem as it concerns us all.

Mr. President, these remarks refer to Heads 42 and 37.

The Government has promoted and carried out housing programmes for a long time. I feel strongly that the plans for these houses should all include water storage tanks so that some rain water can be saved by each householder. If the plans do not allow for a tank for each unit then there should be one large tank for every 3 or 4 units. I think too that as many private homes and business places as possible in this country should have a system for collection and storage of rain water. Government should set the example by introducing this approach in its own buildings and in its housing schemes.

As far as the private homes and businesses are concerned I consider that expenditures in this direction, that is, the cost of installation of a water tank of a certain size should be treated as a deductible expense for income tax purposes. In this way, as it was in the case of the installations of solar systems, householders would be encouraged to install such tanks on their properties and they would be contributing to control and the wiser use of the water resources of this country.

In connection with water tanks on the whole, I should like to pay tribute to the St. James Parish Church. They have built and introduced a water tank. It holds three and a half thousand gallons which they use mainly for watering their garden. In addition they share the "know-how" with all interested persons who want to know how this works, what they can do and how much it would cost. They are performing a community service which might indeed be considered a national service.

In another area of water use, and I refer to the proposed sewerage project to be sited at Graeme Hall in Christ Church. This is Head 36. I understand that on the completion of the sewerage process from the effluent left, there will be a daily supply of millions of gallons of water which it is proposed would be pumped out to the sea. I also understand that it is possible to further treat and purify this supply of waste water to make it usable for purposes of irrigation of lands and for example any proposed golf courses that might be in that vicinity.

Mr. President daily we are being warned about the pressure on our water supply for the present as well as for the future. We heard in the debate yesterday and we hear from our friends and neighbours about the various difficulties they are experiencing. I understand that even while we met in here on Wednesday there was a cut of the water supply in Bridgetown. This situation is one that is constantly with us and I do not think we should ignore any possibility of conserving water or extending its proper use. Further thought should be given to the final disposal of the waste water at the Graeme Hall sewerage site when the time comes. I agree with all of the suggestions put forward by Senator Barker yesterday for improving the supply. However, my message here is that if water from sources other than our underground lakes is available, for example, rain water and the purified effluent, and this can be put into use, then there will be corresponding savings in the regular water consumption. Then, Mr. President, the question of the vigilant management this seems to extend to the care and maintenance of our Government properties, our school buildings and vehicles. It appears to the onlooker that the condition of these buildings and equipment, and roads too, is left to deteriorate for far too long and then restoration becomes a major problem and expense. In the meantime the image that is so presented by this lapse is not good. It is not good for Barbadian pride and it is not good for the tourist trade.

However, I realize looking through the Estimates that all the Heads, especially Head 42, do have some provision for maintenance of property. It is hoped that these funds will be used to make a difference in our environment and our community.

I should like, at this point, to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the fine conservation work that has been and is being carried out at Rockley Beach. The area looks good and the facilities are appreciated by all.

Another area I should also like to touch on, Mr. President, is the drug service, which is under Head 36. Here medicines are distributed mainly to senior citizens free of cost and this is very helpful. In some cases however only certain amounts are allowed to be dispensed at any one time. The amount so received does not necessarily last until the patient is entitled to return for another handout. As a result that patient, usually a senior citizen, either has to go without his or her medication for a period or purchase extra amounts on his own to fill in the gaps. This may not seem to be very unreasonable. But some persons should not go without medicines it being deleterious to their health to be without the prescribed medication for any length of time and sometimes they cannot really afford to purchase their own every month. There are also extra journeys involved and further waiting around. It would be helpful if certain cases were investigated so as to avoid such inconveniences.
10.35 a.m.

Mr. President, I would also like to look at the question of property insurance. Due to the high incidence of hurricanes in this Caribbean region and also to the occurrence of some international catastrophes, the local insurance companies are having difficulties with reinsurance. As a result, the premiums payable on insuring homes and other premises have greatly increased over the last year or so and this situation as I understand it

applies to the whole area of this Caribbean basin. Home owners have found that while there is a general increase in the premiums the segment relating to hurricane damage has more or less doubled.

In addition the excess or the amount one has to meet out of one's own pocket before being able to claim any insurance at all, this excess has been raised considerably so that any careful vigilant home owners, who rightly feel that they should have their properties covered by insurance in the event of any catastrophe such as a hurricane, now find that they are faced with a heavy annual outlay.

It does not matter that Barbados was not one of the countries that suffered from the last two major hurricanes in this region nor has it had a history of frequent hurricanes, though this is only by the Grace of God, but Barbados is a part of this region and is treated for insurance purposes the same as others. So these high premiums will prevail.

Further, added to the cost of higher insurance premiums is the fact that no longer are insurance premiums allowed as deductibles for income tax purposes. The point I wish to draw to the attention of this Honourable Chamber is that many home owners, not those who carry mortgages but others, are opting to forego the hurricane insurance segment. They insure against other hazards but leave out the costly one, that is, the cover against hurricanes etc.

I feel it is a matter for concern. There is no requirement to say what insurance coverage one's property should have but to find out one morning in an emergency that there are an unduly high number of homes in this country not covered by insurance would be a serious situation. I submit that this matter should be carefully monitored by the authorities concerned.

One final comment, Sir. Now that we are having a clean up campaign in preparation for the forthcoming Global Conference, it is good to see that in addition to the casual workers employed some prisoners are being used as well. This face lift is not going to last forever and I do feel that it would be worthwhile if the prisoners could be used more regularly in an ongoing programme to help to keep Barbados clean and tidy.

I would also like at this stage to take the opportunity to wish the Global Conference every success. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I wish first of all to speak on Head 12 – Parliament. Provision is made for the sum of $3 845 007 to be appropriated for the service of Parliament during the coming financial year. This amount is provided to the Management Commission of Parliament in the sum of $3 405 007 and a further $340 000 for the business of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, really for the business of the local Parliamentary Association.

Included in the amount as a grant to public institutions, a grant payable to the Management Commission of Parliament, is an amount of $300 000 for the purpose of structures of Parliament. I wish to say, Mr. President, that the Management Commission of Parliament is gravely concerned about the fact that for almost five years work has been continuing on the West Wing of Parliament. I think it is an outright disgrace that any public institution, especially in the heart of the city should be subjected to what is happening on the West Wing of Parliament and although I know there will be persons saying that I should not speak about it because I am speaking about public officers, I hasten to say, as a former public officer, I disassociate myself completely with the army of occupation and the activities which take place on the West Wing of Parliament.

I wish also to say that it is high time that the surroundings of Parliament be brought up to an acceptable standard if it means abandoning the work done by public officers and taking it to the private sector to have the work in the West Wing completed.

In addition the time is long past when the complementary work on the landscaping of the premises of Parliament inside the court yard should take place to complement the good work that is done outside in the Trafalgar Square area. There are those pundits who were critical of what was happening in the Trafalgar Square area, those doubting Thomases, their concerns have subsided but it is time that we move onward, complete the work inside the courtyard and move into the Palmetto Square area and have this part of the city completed before the other forces of Government move towards the rest of the city namely the area in the vicinity of St. Mary's Church. It is probably not known that the intention is for that bus stand to be vacated and the area revert to a park and for transportation to be relocated somewhere else in that end of Bridgetown.

We need to move towards these if only for the sake of enhancing our environment. I think I have said enough about Parliament.

I wish to speak and respond very briefly to some comments made already today, and comments which I overheard last night as well, in relation to the water system. I think that relates to Head 42 – Ministry of Labour,

Public Works, Community Development and Sports. The Barbados Water Authority is the statutory agency that has responsibility for the care and provision of potable water to the households in Barbados.
10.45 a.m.

I identify with those persons and I believe that they are making sense when they suggest that citizens of Barbados and institutions should utilize the opportunity of our scarce resources to reflect upon the usefulness of installing storage tanks to hold water and for using that rain water for purposes of irrigation. But I do not believe that there should be any provision for any facility for granting any tax credit for this because any tax credits granted will further undermine the utility of our revenue sources at a time when we have restricted, and wisely so, all of the deductions which can be made. We have altered the tax base in such a way that levies have been abandoned and we cannot go any further in that direction. I do not speak for the Minister of Finance but I speak as a Member of the Cabinet with the collective responsibility. I do not see myself in a position to identify with any rebate for the provision of something which I believe in the course of my consultations with the Chief Town Planner I will certainly try to persuade him that whatever new developments take place that this be one of the considerations that the persons and property developers be required to arrange for an appropriate catchment area for water as is done in Bermuda, Antigua and in other countries where there is a scarce supply of water. Water which comes from heaven is better used to irrigate our landscape.

In addition, I wish also to comment on the water which should be coming from off the South Coast Sewerage Project and at some subsequent time the West Coast Sewerage Project. I do not know what is contemplated with the water in the South Coast, but it would certainly make a great deal of sense if it is possible to recycle the water from the waste and to use it for irrigation purposes. I know as a fact that one of the golf course developers on the West Coast has indicated an intention to include the use of recycled water as a means of keeping the greens properly irrigated when the time comes for the West Coast Project to come on stream. So that the idea of recycling waste water is accepted in principle and I will certainly do everything that I can in terms of my responsibility for environment and lands to try to ensure that such uses can be made of recycled water.

If we move to the Ministry of Health, I wish to make one or two comments. They have to do with the role of the Environmental Unit in the Ministry of Health and the other health facilities of this country. Recently, the Sanitation Service Authority has been under siege. I will not speak to the management of that organisation. What I will speak to is the practice of householders in this country of taking every conceivable form of garbage and putting it at the side of the road hoping that the Sanitation Service Authority can cope with this splurge of garbage which we have been involved in over the past few years. There were times when we understood very clearly that certain types of garbage should be ploughed in the ground and used as compost, but nowadays every type of waste that we have we think that somebody is to dispose of it for us. When the Sanitation Service Authority is tardy, we not only point a finger at them but some citizens of this fair country of ours take it upon themselves to bag the garbage, drive with it from wherever they live, and when they come to a roundabout they pitch it through the window and litter the roundabouts in this country. Now it is true that in more recent months people are being sensitized because we have a Conference which will soon be upon us and there have been some habits which appear to be altering, but that cannot be the answer to our future in terms of waste disposal. We have to understand the need for educating the population of this country to be far more disciplined in their habits and to only put out as waste that which they cannot make use of.

In addition, the appropriate Ministries will have to examine the feasibility of adopting practices which are presently in existence in North America, whereby garbage of one type is put in one colour receptacle or bag and garbage of other types in different colours as a means of separating the waste that we are wanting to dispose of. This takes me to the other point that I need to make in relation to waste. Quite apart from the need for education and discipline in our handling of waste, it is going to be absolutely necessary that we look seriously at the alternatives in terms of handling our waste. Barbados is an island of 166 square miles and I do not know how many acres. What I do know is that, when we were seeking to develop a land-use policy in the Ministry of Agriculture two years ago, we realized that there was substantial pressure on the remaining agricultural lands in this country. The invasion was not only from those developers who want to do golf courses. It came also from the ones who want to develop housing and it came further from those who wanted to abandon their land for whatever reason. One thing that we cannot do is to dedicate large areas of land mass for landfills. So that we have to seek alternatives.

I believe, Mr. President, that in the same way the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been making use of incinerators and in the same way the Port Authority has installed an incinerator, which I am told is successfully operating to handle waste coming off ships at the Port, one of the answers, provided the cost can be appropriately negotiated is for us to look at the use of landfills along with incinerators. You cannot have incinerators alone. You also have to have the landfills. But I also want to signal something. The day is long past when any developing country should be willing to sit down and accept

*"Carte Blanche"* recommendations from consultants. We have to use our resources within our countries. We have enough intelligent people so that, if they can make a decision about handling waste that come into our country, we should be able to make our own decision about how we can handle the waste within our shores.

Further, Mr. President, regarding this area of waste pollution, the Government is proceeding with its handling of liquid waste through the implementation of a South Coast Sewerage Project. It is also contemplating a similar project for the West Coast. These projects are coming on stream because of the fact that we have allowed developments to take place without examining the environmental impact of some of these developments. So that those people who are concerned about land and are bleating about the need for an environmental impact assessment and beating their chests that they have been in the game for 30 years and they have been talking about these things need to understand that the Government is as concerned as they are over those 30 years and that the Government is in the process of implementing adequate structures at a national level and an administrative level to ensure that environmental impact assessment is a feature of our development for the future. So that by the year 2000 we should have a properly established Ministry of the Environment with arms. It was my hope, Mr. President, that this Honourable Chamber and the Other Place would have been able to discuss and debate before March 31, 1994 draft legislation which has been in the hands of the appropriate Government agency for more than two months relating to the coastal zone management of this country as well as legislation relating to marine pollution and control. The new Ministry of the Environment which came into effect in September 1993 officially has been able to advance these two pieces of legislation. They will seek to respond to the concerns which are evident now that the Coastal Conservation Unit has been able to do some important work at Accra Beach where there is now developing a fish underwater park.
10.55 a.m.

Quite apart from the work done to enhance the beach at Accra and the work on the Fish and Marine Park, we need to recognise that the development of the tourism sector along that South Coast has caused damage, through the pitching of effluent into the sea, to the coral reef on the South Coast. We need to turn back that activity and it is to that that the legislation relating to the coastal zone management will seek.

It will also seek to ensure that the development of Carlisle Bay which has ensured that there is a beach called the Bay Shore Beach is continued and that there will be a marine underwater park off the Esplanade in the area near the wreck. Legislation will also seek to strengthen the hands of the National Conservation Commission in terms of their management of the underwater park in Holetown, including the development of the marine museum which the NCC expects to open formally during the month of April of 1994. These are some of the measures, Mr. President, which have been put in train in response to the just concerns of the citizens of this country in relation to waste management and in relation to coastal conservation and similar matters.

Further, Mr. President, the Ministry of the Environment has in its hands a piece of draft legislation relating to comprehensive environmental conservation and management which I do not wish to speak about too much in detail, except to say that within the next six months it is certain to find its way before Parliament for its consideration.

Now these are concerns which have not been heightened because of any Global Conference taking place in Barbados. The Global Conference taking place in Barbados is a consequence of activities which happened at Rio, activities which had started before Rio through the development of the Alliance of Small Island States which group was able to get the larger nations to understand very clearly that Small Developing States were unique and that they were worthy of special consideration. Consequent upon that, the decision for the Conference was taken and Barbados offered. What we have is the phenomenon of a small island state for the first time in the history of the United Nations system hosting a Global Conference.

During the period of this Global Conference, the eyes of the world will be upon Barbados. You would have already recognised from the newspapers that many of the criticisms relating to Sherbourne are now turning the other way around. I will not comment on that. Barbados needs to be in a state of preparedness because Barbados will be showcased during that two week period. It is true that there is some sort of a clean up campaign going on. That is how it is described. I do not regard it as such. What I am advised is that the Ministry of Public Works had some money and they were able to rehire some of the people who had been laid off on an earlier occasion and that those persons are facilitating some of the work being done which is work that is necessary. As Senator Walcott said earlier, the use of prisoners needs to be continued. I don't see why people should be incarcerated and be treated as if they are at a hotel. I think that they should be put out to pasture and that they should be able to do something productive for the country.

My hope is that whatever is necessary the appropriate agencies will ensure that these activities in relation to the clean up of the countryside are a continuing activity

and also that there will be enforcement of the laws which are on the Statute Book relating to persons who put motor cars by the side of the road and car bodies in places where they should not be. We should never in the history of Barbados have to carry out an exercise of the magnitude of the one we are now undertaking in relation to the clean up campaign.

I wish to speak, Mr. President, for a few minutes on the matter of housing and lands. Government in 1992 adumbrated a land use policy. Much notice has not been taken of this land use policy but it relates to the use of the scarce lands in this country for golf courses. The Development Plan for the year 1993-2000 confirms the Government's intention that golf courses should be used as a medium for facilitating expansion of the tourism industry.

Government recognises that with its scarce resources golf facilities provide an opportunity not only for the earning of foreign exchange but for employment generation. That is the thesis and the basis on which there is some commitment to golf courses. However, given the need to ensure that certain of our lands remain in agriculture, it would be necessary for us to be very careful and to put a break upon the expansion and proliferation of golf courses in this country. Already there has been approval for three new courses and the expansion of a fourth course as well as the resuscitation of an earlier golf course. Those are the five golf courses as far as I am aware that it is intended to be permitted to continue activity at the present time.

Whatever happens, the Government has made a firm commitment towards the establishment of the Westmoreland Golf Course and as long as they can identify alternatives without disturbing the water resources table, as long as the water can be identified and found, I expect that that project will continue apace and that we will have the development completed.

In relation to the other golf courses, the Government has made firm approvals via its Town Planning agency. Contrary to the belief of some persons, the applications for those golf courses have been properly screened by non-governmental groups and the recommendations of those advisory committees or tribunals have been taken into consideration in any decision relating to golf courses.

If we move, Mr. President, to housing, the Government continues its commitment to provide some measure of low income housing for the people of this country. In the Estimates itself, there is provision for only $50 000 as a grant to the National Housing Corporation. That $50 000 cannot be intended to mean that that is the extent of Government's commitment or undertaking in relation to the housing sector. The Government has taken a policy position that it will encourage the appropriate agency, in this case the National Housing Corporation, to proceed with the sale and the disposal of housing units single units, as well as terrace units to enable it to earn the revenues which will facilitate its continuing operations.

This will allow the National Housing Corporation to have one source of funds for its programmes. It has also been agreed that the National Housing Corporation will dispose of lands to existing tenants and to use those funds in furtherance of its housing development programme. So that the NHC will continue to provide sites and services programmes for small income people and middle income persons. It will continue to construct terrace units in such a way that those terrace units can be sold. It will continue upgrading existing terrace units which cannot be sold because there is no division between units at the present time so that they can be sold at some later stage, and it will continue with its loan fund arrangements to assist low income earners in developing their housing stock. Funds have also been provided, Mr. President, via the Housing Credit fund to enable householders in Barbados to make loans for the improvement of their premises.

Mr. President, the Government of Barbados recognises that the agricultural sector - and I don't propose to say too much about the agricultural sector because I know that an Honourable Member has spoken about it and there are other Members who will speak to agriculture. I think I need to say that Government recognises the absolute necessity of restoring the production output in relation to sugar to former levels so that we will not only be able to meet our commitments in terms of quotas to the European market but also quotas elsewhere and that Barbadians hope that someday they will return to the stage where they will be able to use their sugar rather than to have to import sugar from external sources.

I believe that the capital works programme of Government for the coming year clearly indicates what is anticipated of the capacity of Government to continue to provide for developments in this country. I do not wish to go into that in a great deal of detail except to say that projects such as the South Coast Sewerage Project, the further development of Sherbourne... Incidentally, Mr. President, provision is made in the Estimates to continue work at Sherbourne. The facilities at Sherbourne will not only be used for conference but the central area of Sherbourne which is not being completed for the conference – there was never any intention to complete it – will be the auditorium which we hope will one day become the home of a national youth orchestra. It is a matter relating to the cultural development of this country and I believe that appropriate sources of finance will be found to enable Government to complete the project after we have completed the east and west wings and after they

have been put to use not only for the conference which is coming but also for other conferences which are already scheduled to take place later this year.

At the same time that these activities of the conference are taking place there are certain upgradings taking place in government agencies. These include certain upgradings to the Police Department. Quite often the comment is made that the police are not provided with equipment and that sort of thing. Let me say that as a consequence partly of hosting the conference, the police will be provided with an opportunity and they are being provided with equipment which they will use during the period of the conference and which they will have available to them subsequently.

In addition, work on the computerisation of the Police Department as well as computerisation of the Immigration Services Department will be continuing during this coming financial year as well as work on the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport. I believe, Mr. President, that all of these activities which are provided for within the limit of our resources which obviously have to be properly controlled represent evidence of an understanding government, a caring government and a government with vision.

I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, in rising to give my approval of the Estimates of 1994-95 I want to look at two Heads specifically and I will first look at Health under Head 36.

You will note that the allocation for health is over $129 million. I am saying that Government is on target in terms of the health of its people when we recognise that both in the Development Plan and in the 1990 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, we note that Government has a very clear policy and philosophy on health, and recognises that good health is an essential prerequisite for the enjoyment of almost every aspect of life and that the right to health care is a fundamental human right without which none of the other rights guaranteed under the Constitution of Barbados can be attained. Barbados is therefore well on target.

I don't think that we in this Honourable House have any doubt about that however since there is a lot of talk about the level of health care and the availability of facilities in Barbados at this time I would like to look at some of the areas.
11.15 a.m

Let me say that throughout the world considerable resources have been devoted to the maintenance and preservation of health. If we look at countries like Britain and some of the other European countries we would recognise that health care expenditure takes up about 6% of GNP. If we look at the United States of America we will see about 10% of GNP and Barbados we will note takes up about 4%. I think we should be proud of that when we recognise that Barbados, a small developing country in terms of its health, is seen as equal to the developed countries.

I want to spend a little time this morning, Mr. President, to look at the St. Joseph Hospital situation. We would note in the Estimates that at least $4.1 million is allocated for the 1994/95 estimate and last year it was about $3.5 million. That means it is a mere increase of about $614 000 if my maths is correct. Last year the Opposition had a big quarrel about whether the St. Joseph Hospital should have been bought, that it was a waste of Government's money and there was no need to have a hospital in the north. This year I notice the tune has changed and shifted to the scope of the Hospital, that it is no different from the previous St. Joseph Hospital, so that now the quarrel is no more about the relevance of the Hospital but the scope is in question. There is also a call by the Opposition to know what is happening there.

I think as a people, whether we are in the Government or Opposition, it is necessary to look at some of the objectives of the institutions when it was being set up to see what was said. If we just look for a moment at some of the main objectives mentioned for the St. Joseph Hospital we would note that they are to meet the secondary medical care of the people in the northern and western areas specifically, and broadly to take into consideration all areas of the country of Barbados, so as to reduce the waiting time for elective surgery in the country at large.

The objectives also considered the transportation problem for the northern parishes, the convenience of having a hospital there, they looked specifically at the difficulties encountered in the northern area in getting from one point to the other and also the problem of quick service, in relation to how it affects the employment of workers. We would note that the Hospital is also catering to convalescent treatment and rehabilitative care for patients recovering from surgical and medical procedure. Government has made provision at the Hospital for public patients as well as for private patients.

I think that when we look at the question of resource allocation as applied to health, questions are always raised in a number of areas: There is always the question of what proportion of a country's resources not Barbados alone, any country – should be devoted to the maintenance of a citizen's health: What is the best

method of achieving this given level of health care from limited resources in a country like Barbados? And should health care be privately or publicly provided? These are economic problems in the sense that it has to do with the area of resource allocation.

I am saying there is no doubt that the quarrel from the Opposition would be in the area of the scope of the facilities. Maybe they will claim that the money that is spent is wasted and that the Hospital should be paying for itself. But if we look at what is happening at the St. Joseph Hospital in relation to the patients that are taken there, we would recognise that ante-natal patients from the Maurice Byer Polyclinic, these are public patients I am talking about, are being sent on to the St. Joseph Hospital for care. That is very important for a working-class community. I think we have to understand that St. Peter, St. Lucy and the surrounding areas to a large extent have very large numbers of working-class persons. We have to note that they need public care. I do not think I have to make out a case for that because that is already noted and it is obvious. The care of public persons is important and there is justification for any amount of money that is spent in that regard for health care.

We also now have a joint replacement unit at St. Joseph Hospital I must say this is a sensitive area for me because I have known some people in the country who have been suffering for a long time to have joint replacement done and could not afford to have it done overseas and, therefore, have been suffering for a long time.

Only yesterday one of the persons that was suffering, a young lady, maybe 28 or 29 years old, who has been confined to a wheelchair for the last five years or so, she was once a vibrant worker and is a member of the Barbados Workers' Union, and I have been in touch with her throughout her illness. Yesterday, she called me to say that she had been asked to check-in that morning at the St. Joseph Hospital to have joint replacement surgery done. You could imagine how happy I was when I realised that she was finally going to realise her dream.

About two years ago, the Government through the Medical Health Scheme sent this young lady to Canada to have replacement surgery done, however this was very expensive. Of course, this was in the region of $60 000 to cover the expense of surgery, Hospital, airfare and any extra expenses in relation to travel the patient must pay it. The burden on a patient is great. Suppose a patient was going to Ottawa and overnighted in Toronto any expense would have to be undertaken by the patient. The pain and trauma of travelling, is great since the patient is often immobile. Furthermore patients have to wait very long to be selected for the surgery. Priority must be given to the extremely bad cases. Another problem with the overseas surgery is the inability of patients to remain overseas to have another replacement done if they need a number of replacements.

The young lady in question was lucky because a Canadian doctor offered to visit Barbados. The doctor offered because he was impressed by the way the Barbadians who had replacements done presented themselves in Canada, the doctor came to Barbados and performed further surgery for the young lady and a few others. I explained all this to impress upon you the importance of your own joint replacement unit. We have about 20 public patients – I am not talking about fee paying patients – waiting to have joint replacement surgery. You can imagine the joy, happiness and hope this facility will bring to the patients and their families.
11.25 a.m.

I am saying that if the quarrel is about scope, I do not know that you can look for more scope even if it were only that one area being done at St. Joseph's, I think it is justified. So I am saying that when you look at the $614 000 that is really sweet cakes. That is nothing really to start bothering about at all.

Also when we look at the future – I know, Mr. President, that the Development Plan was already presented to this Honourable Chamber, – of the St. Joseph Hospital, we will also note that the Government is interested in introducing health tourism in the St. Joseph Hospital. To my mind that is one of the main thrusts in which we will be involved in the future in this country. It is a very good step for rehabilitative therapy at that Hospital and this can assist in improving our tourist industry. The Caribbean is poised for that kind of treatment to persons because of our excellent sun, sea and environment.

If I might make a further point on health tourism – I do not think that in Barbados health tourism – we will get some time to expand on this later not necessarily today – can stop there. It is good that a recommendation has been made in the Development Plan to bring health tourism to the St. Joseph Hospital. However we need to look at the overall area of our health promotion and to try to get healthy lifestyles in Barbados and we need the facility to do this.

Therefore we can look to introducing spas, gyms with proper equipment, courts and saunas, nature walks, etc. We will not only look at the medical care of persons but we will also be able to promote physical performance while tourists are in the island. This area will have to be extended outside of the St. Joseph Hospital. Private sector areas in Barbados should look to this concept so as to assist in tourism in the country, by promoting optimal health care.

Mr. President, I will move on to Head 42. I have not really spoken to issues for women in great detail in this Honourable Chamber for a very long time and I think that today I would like to make a few comments on women's affairs. I was overseas at a Conference during the Estimates Debates downstairs, since my return I note that there has been a lot of talk on the area of women's affairs – the Women's Bureau *vis-a-vis* the scope of that Bureau and also the kind of work that is requested. I understand that in some quarters it was said that nothing is done in the area of women's affairs, and that the $500 000 from the IADB is only being requested because of the 4th Women's World Conference which will be held in Beijing in 1995. Those are the kinds of comments that are coming through.

We need to look back – whenever I have to query something I like to look back at the reasons why it was established, the background to the establishment, that body, that company before I start getting too worked up about it. I look to those things to see the basis on which the particular entity was established and formed and then try to make valuable comments.

The Opposition Party, the Barbados Labour Party is very unfair to make strong comments about the Bureau in terms of its scope because they were the first persons who gave it limited scope in the way it was in 1976. The Bureau was established to coincide with the UN Decade for Women. They did not do it because they loved women. The celebrations for the decade was on them and everybody wanted to show their country as being very progressive on women's matters. The Bureau of Women's Affairs was therefore established as a Secretariat for the National Commission of Women. It was not set up as a Bureau to look at what is happening to women in this country and to do any forward planning. I think we have to understand the basis for these things.

It was a Secretariat for the Commission, it had a Director, one Research Officer and a Stenographer. Later on it became the administrative unit responsible for the co-ordination and the administrative work that was coming out of the Commission. But when the Commission was finished, the Commission left about 212 recommendations and therefore it would seem as though they needed this same Secretariat to ensure that those things were monitored. The Commission looked at the broad areas like law, education, health, employment and family, and the Bureau was allowed to remain to assist. What has happened is that that bureau was set up in an *ad hoc* fashion. Nobody ever seemed to think it necessary to ensure that it had clearly defined objectives or to be reorganized, reconstructed and for 18 years it has had the same staff in operation.

What has happened is based on who is there and the other bodies that have been mandated to make suggestions and recommendations from time to time. The Bureau has had work added to it in relation to various concerns of women. It has expanded its scope to look at matters concerning women; to undertake conscious raising activities in the community about women, to identify projects and to promote research, look at problems and needs of women and also to disseminate the results.

The Bureau has also been maintaining linkages between Government, regional and international agencies about issues concerning women. But there has been a host of shortcomings in that set up. There is a need for clarity with all concerned about the functions and the role of the Bureau. I am saying that the Democratic Labour Party has the opportunity to set out a clear, conceptual administrative and functional framework for the Bureau. That opportunity must be grasped. The inadequate resources under which the Bureau has had to operate the inability to provide technical support to women's organizations across the country and the inability to develop or maintain monitoring mechanisms to forge appropriate linkages with the key sectors of the economy have been shortcomings for the Bureau. You are talking about a country that is moving. You are talking about the resurgence of a number of problems and therefore you still have a Bureau operating with limited resources in this vital area of women. There is a need for a new concept, a need for a new administration and also a functional framework.
11.35 a.m.

Mr. President, there is also the need at this time to rename the bureau and we can look at a name like the Bureau for Gender Development. This reform gives scope to exploring gender relations with the wider cross section of the society so that you are not only changing a name for changing a name sake but you are also looking at the scope. The emphasis will not be taken from women but it gives other groupings licence to be a part of the bureau.

It gives scope for dialogue on problem solving with men, youth, the elderly, the disadvantaged, the disabled – the vulnerable groups in the society who seem to be grappling with problems that they are unable to solve at the moment.

Furthermore, Mr. President, I am saying that the bureau should be operating as a statutory corporation and it should be operating under a Board or something to that effect.

Let me say a word here about the National Advisory Council on Women because I find that in the community people seem to have the wrong impression. The National Advisory Council on Women is not a Board. The Members of the National Advisory Council on Women are not

paid. It is a voluntary group that has been chosen from different organisations of Women in the community. There are 2 men on the Council. They are not given any kind of money or remuneration or anything like that.

People seem to think that this group of persons are paid and you would know from history that women have not evolved to the point that when there is a women's council or Board that the powers that be want to pay them anyhow. If it is a crowd of men, yes they will be paid and they will be given everything under the sun but women will not be paid so I do not know why people get the impression that the NACW is being paid.

Let me say further that the National Advisory Council on Women does not have a wide scope, its scope is very narrow. It is to monitor and review the progress of women in all spheres of economic and social activity and to recommend appropriate action to facilitate the full integration of women in the development process. That is the mandate of the Council.

What has happened is that persons who have been on the council who have the interest of this country at heart and women and other persons have reached out and have taken on themselves to do a number of things, maybe even outside of their mandate.

I heard at some point there was a quarrel on the Call-in Programme that the Council has no right under the Constitution. I do not know if the National Council for Education has a right, if the National Council for the year of the Family, has a right when it comes to the one that looks at Women's Affairs it seems not to have a right.

I am saying that we have to rename the National Advisory Council on Women also. If you want to, it can be called a National Advisory Council for Gender Development because we have to look for a new and different way of doing things. If we want to be proactive, if we want to take out a lot of the rigidities, and I am not speaking for women alone, I am talking for every Barbadian. I attended a Conference last week where we decided that the Caribbean is suffering with a number of its problems because we seem to stay within the boundaries that are set for us, and we seem afraid to venture outside those boundaries. A good exercise was given where you had 9 dots, you were asked to connect those 9 dots with only 4 lines, not moving your pen from the paper. This exercise posed difficulties for a number of us, because we were trying to stay within the boundaries of the dots. Because our minds have become so set we tend not to want to go outside the boundaries that are set for us. I am saying that in the area of women we have to go outside the boundaries and widen our scope.

Since we are looking at changes with the Women's Bureau we will have to look at the change of the name and the scope. We will have to look at reviewing the National Policy Statement on women and look at a national policy on gender development.

The area that is now being called the bureau can no longer service the people of Barbados. We have to look at a whole administrative reform. There is a need for a CEO. Whatever you want to call the CEO is another matter. There should be support staff – a deputy, there is a research officer, you should have a projects officer, a counsellor.

People go to the bureau expecting to be counselled and there is no one there to counsel them so the bureau staff has to take it on themselves to look at some of the problems and the system and then refer them to the appropriate bodies. That is a need for a counsellor because there are lots of problems. There would be need for an Administrative Officer, an Accountant, secretarial staff, an information officer, public relations officer and ancillary staff.

There are a number of things to be addressed, if we want to set up a proper division: before we can level the kind of accusations that is being levelled by the Opposition. I am not saying that one should not critically analyse something but I am saying that if we understand what we are dealing with and where it came from then we will understand the problems that exist and develop mechanisms to solve them.

There is a resurgence of a number of ills in the country in terms of teenage pregnancies or adolescent parents. People always say adolescent women should be looked at within the bureau when there are also adolescent boys who are also parents. They also need to be counselled and brought to understand that they are part of the problem.

In terms of crime the proportions have escalated. I am looking at things that the gender development centre or bureau will have to look at. Child abuse is another area that needs to be looked at. Domestic violence must be looked at and it has to be looked at with both gender involvement. I refer to gender again and I am not only talking about the biological aspect of gender, I am talking about the social organisation of the sexes. In feminist theory it is recognised that you cannot talk of women in isolation but that to discover women you have to discover men and *vice versa*. People tend to think that, when you talk about gender, you are talking about women alone. Women issues cannot be looked at in isolation if we are examining ourselves, we have to be looking at the relationships with men, children and all areas of the society. Therefore, there is the

need to bring everybody under scrutiny. There is also no need to feel that there is competition between men and women. We are complimentary to each other and I hope all of the Honourable Senators in here know this. We need to see gender dialogue as a very vital need of our existence because most of the time if our differences are not settled we canot progress.
11.45 a.m.

Sir, I am saying that we need to have gender sensitive programmes for young persons to try to create changing attitudes. We can look at pre-puberty programmes and conflict resolution strategies in families. This year we are celebrating International Year of The Family we therefore need to work together, rather than have separate activities. If we work under an umbrella organisation we may be able to achieve a number of our goals. We need to look at the family. We need to ask ourselves what changes we want in our family structures? Do we want our society to be less aggressive? We have to sit down and have dialogue about those things and we cannot have it with women alone. Whenever you establish an organisation and call it a women's auxiliary, women's bureau or a women's league, men tend to think that it excludes them. Therefore, I am saying that a gender development area would let it be recognized that there is licence for everyone to be included in this area.

Mr. President, I am also saying that if we want to have some reforms – the amount of money allocated in the Estimates really relates to an IADB Project, at least the queries came about because of this IADB funding, this funding should not be used as an excuse to forget the work that is needed for the Women's Bureau that I mentioned earlier. That funding should be additional to the general financing. Under the Head, staffing will be increased. That is still not enough for the kind of work needed in the Bureau. Because as far as I understand, the IADB project looks at the strengthening of the Bureau to a certain extent. It is to help supplement the efforts by the Government: to create opportunities for increased employment and income earning opportunities for women. They want to look at priority groups for instance women who were discharged from the Public Service during the structural adjustment reform; single homemakers, and women who are also seeking to enter the work force for the first time. They are looking to get those people involved in training and women who want to upgrade their skills and expand their employment opportunities. Sir, we need to get a vibrant Gender Department if we are going to get our society on track and if we are going to ensure that all areas of our society are involved.

With those few words, Mr. President, I would like to give my approval to the Estimates for 1994/95. Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cole.

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: Mr. President, in discussing certain Heads concerning matters to do with the Estimates 1994/95 and while the Head of Tourism is No. 43, I do not think that in 1994 tourism can be looked at as a head or an area. I see it in a holistic light when we are dealing with the development of Barbados. I see it as all encompassing and from time to time obviously I will have to touch on various Heads such as Head 36 and Head 37. But by and large, these Heads will relate to tourism. I do not think that it is necessary for us to go into the fact that tourism is seen in the short-term or medium-term as the vehicle to turn around Barbados. It may well be in the short, medium and long-term because we have to stop seeing tourism as just a sector. I see it as the linchpin around which the economy certainly for the foreseeable future will revolve.

When we say tourism, we are talking about total community development or involvement in an industry which we can sell overseas for foreign currency. We have heard that we have an overall 5 per cent increase in long stay and cruise ship arrivals. This is heartening, but we must continue to improve on present figures. Such a formula would be the surest and fastest way to increase our employment figures and encourage self-employment and to create wealth across a broad spectrum of our economy.

Sir, I think that we should talk for a moment about jobs versus work because somehow when Barbadians apply for a job they do not always see a job in terms of work. I seem to get the impression that our system has turned out thousands and thousands of young people who are looking for the safety net associated with jobs. For the time being, jobs will be in short supply but there will still be plenty of work. I think that we have to let our young people and people who are out of work know that the years when we could look around for a job or work which we liked are probably gone for the time being. We have to adapt ourselves to suit the work which is available, or become self-employed. I think we have to get a foot in the door, find something we can do and look at areas where we can perhaps offer other people employment.
11.55 a.m.

Just to go over some of the things we have taken for granted, some of which were mentioned this morning by Senator Walcott. The Honourable Leader of the Senate mentioned some, and Senator Walkes discussed the integration of women into all aspects of Barbadian life – to my mind an extremely important development because if it were not for them I don't think any of us would be here in the first place. I will just touch on some of these points again because I might be looking at them from a slightly different slant.

In the past, Barbados was known as a tourism destination. It was known for the depth of its product and its broad base and the uniqueness of it. Barbados was never cheap to visit. You either had to pay for a long boat fare years ago or you now have to pay for a long trip by air to get to Barbados. It was not a cheap destination from the United Kingdom like the South of France or any of those volume destinations in Europe or near to Europe.

For many years it has been recognised that there is nowhere quite like Barbados and this uniqueness came about through a number of largely physical attributes. One was our sparkling and pure and safe tap water. Another was our crystal clear sea water, our reliable sanitation service, our spotless white sandy beaches, our advanced health care service and facilities, our safe and reliable public transport, our relatively crime free environment, our excellent telephone service. We could go on and on.

Nowadays, I have learnt to take a complete bath in a PET bottle and a half of water. I have had to practise it. In the mornings, in my home, I have no water. My telephone has been out of order for 6 weeks. I don't want to be negative and I don't want to spread negative news, but what is happening is making it very difficult for our Tourism Authority and our other marketing people to sell Barbados.

Many of those pillars on which tourism in Barbados was built are either very shaky or do not now exist and it makes it very difficult to sell Barbados if you want to tell the truth. If you want to say that Barbados is better than it was before, it makes it difficult to sell that idea with a straight face. However, for all of that, Barbados still enjoys good publicity overseas. The pity is that much of it is paid for by taxpayers' money through the Tourism Authority. It would be nice if we did not have to pay so much for it, if it were there for all to see.

The fact is, Sir, that our image is tarnished. We are not what we used to be. We are a flawed product and we have to do something quickly so that not only visitors but Barbadians can once more enjoy life in our island home. I could say nation but at the end of the day we are an island and we are blessed with those attributes which only islands enjoy and I want to say "island" because when you talk in terms of tourism it has a totally different connotation from "country" or "nation".

Sir, maybe I can be a little more specific in certain areas. We talk about the extra inclusive package. The Tourism Authority put together one year and a half ago and it was big flop to my mind. I have been very close to it and some of it unfolded in front of me when I sat on the Board of the Tourism Authority.

Barbados is not the same as Jamaica. In Jamaica you are not encouraged to rent a moke and drive around Jamaica. There it is a thousand mile drive. In Barbados it is less than a 100 mile drive. So it is not the same. In Jamaica, Cancun and in the Dominican Republic it is often safer to remain in your hotel compound. In the Dominican Republic there was a time when you went to the beach with your own soldier with a machine gun. So Barbados is different. Visitors are encouraged to rent a car and drive around. I am saying that the extra inclusive product has to be very carefully engineered to suit the complete Barbadian tourism product.

Most of all, Sir, the price has to be right and when this extra inclusive exercise was launched not enough research was done to get the best prices of each of these extra inclusive inputs. Consequently, when I looked at what was offered I realised that a visitor could come to Barbados on an ordinary, not extra inclusive package and pick out his extras. When I added up the prices he was asked to pay in Barbados they were cheaper than what he was being asked to pay for in New York when he purchased his extra inclusive package.

We did not listen to the advice being given by the marketplace. We are not fully accustomed yet to this term "market driven". It rubs us the wrong way because there are some of us who like to tell the market what to do. Some of us understand that if you want to get on in business nowadays you have to listen to the market and I think more of us are realising this every day.

Sir, what I am saying is that I understand we are taking out this extra inclusive product. We are going to dust it off and we want to have it flying again. All I am saying is that before that is done let us make sure we listen carefully and we do those things that the people at the other end – the people who are actually going to sell it – ask us to do.

Cruise tourism. At first glance, it might appear not to be quite what we would want. If you look at it carefully cruise tourism has some aspects going for us that we would be very silly to ignore. It would be disastrous. In other words, Sir, it is like the martial arts. We would use their momentum to work against them and so help ourselves.

This magazine which I have in my hand is the mouthpiece of the FCCA which is the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association. These people seem to regulate to some extent the cruise industry out of Florida. They have recently done a study and they have come up with some interesting facts and this is one, Sir. Cruise lines spend more than US$200 million a year marketing Caribbean

vacations alone, bringing visitors to the Caribbean who would not have come otherwise. This is free advertising which is being given to us. So we must understand this and try to benefit from it.

Another thing here that their research has shown is that visitors, cruise people, find that this is a good way to try out a vacation area which they might want to return to. We have something going for us again. Wednesday morning, when I was in the courtyard here, two visitors were lost in the middle in Bridgetown in that they did not know where they were and I went up to them and said this is our Parliament. They were interested and I said, "You know, this is the third oldest Parliament..." The usual thing we say when we are talking about our Parliament and these people were quite fascinated by the buildings and by Trafalgar Square in Barbados as against London. They had never seen anything like it in the Caribbean and I think we should be going one step further to make Trafalgar Square the forecourt of the Public Buildings.

We don't seem to look at things of this nature as revenue earning but we have to think along these lines. I am not suggesting that we have people trundling through Parliament during meetings, but I am saying that there are many cruise visitors who are interested in this aspect of our history who will use this as a part of their package to come back to Barbados, a part of their inquisitiveness to visit Barbados because if we have one of these places of interest obviously we will have others.

The most important aspect of this cruise visitor sector is a statement here made by this study and I will read it for you.

> "Since 95-97% of all cruises are sold through travel agents cruise lines spend a considerable effort to market themselves in the travel agent community."

Sir, when a cruise comes here there are always a number of travel agents on it. They are friends of Barbados in Florida who can identify those travel agents and give us a list of them. We have to have a bus in the Bridgetown harbour to take those people off, give them absolute red carpet, show them the spots of interest so that we do not have to go to their countries to educate them about Barbados. We have them coming here free. We must use their momentum to our advantage.

Sir, I would like to think this is a constructive criticism and not nit picking. I would like to focus on the efforts of the Tourism Authority. We have a number of highly talented, highly skilled, hardworking people in our Tourism Authority and its various branches. The trouble is that we are into a change of gear and we have to be sure that the policies governing the Tourism Authority and how they do their work recognises this change of gear.

We are trying to intercept as it passes with our civil service based authority a quickly moving entrepreneurial private sector counterpart on the other side in the areas where we are trying to sell our island. Sometimes a window will open for a day or two. A tour company will want an answer the same afternoon by fax. If the fax goes into the Tourism Authority registry (which I used to call the "black hole" not as in Calcutta, but as in astro-physics,) it is not going to come out for a day or two and that window is going to close again.When I was there a ruling had to be made that a fax is not a letter but a telephone call and if you send telephone calls into the registry you can send faxes too but if you don't, send the faxes wherever the telephone calls go.

There are certain things which have to be looked at differently because if we are not as fast moving as the outside world we will never dove-tail and these windows will always be closed by the time we get our act together.

Another aspect is that the office of the CEO or whatever you like to call that office should not be looked at in terms of salaries and perks related to civil service positions. I think that is a job that should offer twice the remuneration that is being offered now. If it were advertised in that salary range you would get many more applications rather than from just within the system. A higher salary would in fact open it and we have to have the outside world looking to see if they can help us. It is a great way to use the brains of the outside world.

I can give an example of that, Sir. There was an opening about 6 months ago – I have no idea whether it is still there or not – for the Director North America, Barbados Tourism Authority. This person would help to plan and coordinate the efforts of the Tourism Authority in the North American market and would advise and do those things which a Director, coordinator or overseer would do. First the post was going to be advertised in the local newspapers, then it was advertised further afield. Among the people who answered the ad was a PR person from Ontario. That person's CV was so attractive that she was put on a short list and brought to Barbados to be interviewed.

Some very bright people, one in particular at the Tourism Authority, ran for the job as well, but at the end of the interviews, this person, the Canadian, quite outshone everybody who came up against her. The Establishment Committee decided that that person was the person for the job. But at that time, we had a new Minister coming in and it was thought that we had better not make it official until we notified the new Minister of our decision.

The recommendation was not accepted because it was thought at a very high level that this applicant not being a Barbadian, was not the best person to put in that job. The Board was looking for a person who could help create hundreds of jobs in Barbados and instead it seemed that that was not the first priority. You know, further to that, it seemed to me that we were dealing with a policy of all the king's men and plums for the boys.

Here it is, in this day and age, we are trying to draw the private sector into all aspects of our development and tourism is one in which I think it will make the greatest impact. Once people perceive that such a policy is an underlaying influence the private sector is not coming around. If we are going to use public funds to promote Barbados, to my mind, it would have to be based on a premise that we want to give the taxpayers of Barbados the best return on investment for their money and not give one or two people jobs to the detriment of the whole society. I don't want to say anything more on that, Sir.

Listening to some of the inputs on Wednesday, I am still getting the feeling that there is a deepseated resistance to tourism in Barbados. Tourism to my mind is all embracing. It takes in everything we are going to talk about here. We are talking about developing this sector in which there are jobs for architects and draftsmen, quantity surveyors, artisans and the wider world of culture and the arts, accountants, linguists (products of our advanced schooling) ice staff which are the bookkeepers, maintenance staff, chefs, cooks, bar staff, the people who make solar heaters, refrigeration experts and yes, bell hops and bar maids – we always have to have the troops. But we also have to have captains and lieutenants.

So, Sir, I will urge that we continue our efforts to sensitise Barbados that tourism is not looking to create more bell hops and bar people but the thrust is to develop the whole of our society on an extremely broad base.

The VAT, Sir. The one thing Barbados will not stand, never mind how we promote it, how we talk about it, how good our infrastructure is, is higher prices to visitors. We are looking at the VAT system of introducing a new form of taxation. We have to be very careful that in the end it does not mean that a visitor coming to Barbados will pay a heavier price than a visitor now pays. That will be counter-productive. It will put us into reverse gear and it will take a long time for us to come out again.
12.15 p.m.

I am asking that we do not rush into VAT. If the private sector seems to be dragging its feet in some areas, bear with them. Certainly, it is a very complicated matter. When we talk about the hotel industry we really mean the hospitality industry and the ancillary services which include the horses which travel on the beaches and many other similar situations, so we are talking about a very complicated product. It is going to take a little time for the full impact of this new system to be assessed and when imposed to be accurate, as we will have no trial run once it is in place. We cannot look at examples from Trinidad and Jamaica because their approach to the hospitality industry is different from ours and we are going to have different results from the experiences of Trinidad and Jamaica.

The next thing, Sir, is our form of hotel classification. We in Barbados are very unique, especially in a small island where we have Atlantic breezes blowing on one side of the island, a mix of the Atlantic breezes and the calmer leeward seas on our South Coast and we have the calm seas on the West Coast. This has led to different forms of structures, different plants in our gardens and different ways of approaching the hospitality industry and tourism in Barbados. To have a Five Star system as a rigid form of classification and to try to say that this system has to dovetail with the systems of the outside world is asking the impossible.

I had the privilege to be in a Five Star Hilton in Sao Paulo, all within the space of two or three weeks, to go to our Five Star Hilton here in Barbados and to be resident in a Five Star Hilton in Orlando. In fact, Sir, when you compared them, the one in Sao Paulo would have been three, the one in Barbados would have been four and the one in Orlando would have been five out of 5. So when we are told that we must have a classification based on international standards, the international standards seem to vary also.

I am saying that in our classification we have to look at various areas where market driven forces are coming into play. That is to say, if a place has, never mind what category it is, 90% year round occupancy, that has to be a Four Star to a Five Star property never mind if it has no WC facilities because it has been accepted and given great credit by the people who patronized it. To look at a plant and to look at its physical attributes and find that it has consistently low occupancy but is a Four Star place, that is a hard one for me to swallow. We are not listening to the marketplace.

Sir, there are many other areas on which we could talk. I would say that in promoting Barbados, we must get accustomed to the idea of earning money where this is possible. Very often you put on a promotion and there is a possibility for earning money. We are not tuned to tie into that and say, let us earn some money for this. We are usually looking for money to pay out. All of this will

come with the new way we are thinking and the new way the market is unfolding. Let us be aware of developments of this nature.

At the moment – I hate to say this – the image of the Tourism Authority is not very good in the marketplace. No sooner the people to whom we relate get accustomed to certain faces and certain people than faces are changed. I have had one of the firms whom we employ overseas ring me to say that he does not know how to go around his daily business and he ended up by ringing me to give him certain information which he should have sought from the BTA. Now that is not the name of the game. I was no longer on the Authority and I did not think that was the way I should be involved.

Sir, I have one more point I would like to make. Senator Walcott talked about saving water and what we should do, and all the rest of it but I would like to think that we have a resource here, a free one, the sunlight. I would like to think that desalination plants could be developed using sunlight. I am sure we have some of the knowledge in Barbados. I am thinking that we can use solar heat to warm our water. I understand the desalination process is an evaporation process. We can use our solar heat to bring our water up to 90 degrees or nearly to boiling point and then we use our natural gas, much of which we do not now use, to bring up the other 10 degrees. Now I know that would not mean that people who live in the middle of the island would enjoy that water because you would have to pump it up there but, certainly, along the coastal areas I think that could work. I think we should look at such a process.

Sir, $1.2 million in the Estimates here for a Water Resources Study does not grab me. I would like to think that we have on file millions of dollars worth of good advice on our water resources. I think we have to learn that just like driving a car, you do not wait until you hit the curb to pull off. Let us keep the car in the middle of the road and avoid the collision and we would not now be having to look for $1.2 million to do a Water Resources Study. Again, that money is to be used to discover where these broken pipes are and fix them. If that is so, I have no quarrel with it but I would like to think that we would use wherever possible people who can deliver cost effective services and if this cannot be found in some of the Government Departments go to the private sector and get the job done. Let us not have six men with picks working alternatively over a two hour period to dig a hole in the ground to find a pipe when we can get a backhoe or some similar machine for 15 minutes to do the job. Let us be cost effective. I know we have a lot of people out of work. I know all of that but I think we are facing a crisis now of great magnitude in our water system and we have to take the swiftest and most practical methods to put it right.

Sir, with that, I see nothing wrong with the Estimates.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. President, I can assure you that I will be quite short in my presentation in supporting these Estimates. Maybe I should start on the comment Senator Bellamy made that I think that the Estimates were well prepared by the economists and certainly, I do not belong to that category of people who can question the accuracy of the figures. However, I would like to make some general comments at first and then address a few brief comments on some specific Heads.

During the debate there was a lot of talk about the structural Adjustment Programme which we are going through and the problems that are being created for the society. One thing we have to understand is that the Western world in general is going through Structural Adjustment Programmes. The Structural Adjustment Programme that Barbados is undergoing is not peculiar to Barbados. It is a phenomenon of the Western world and it has even crept into places like Russia, *et cetera*, so it is a reality. As I have said in this Honourable Chamber before, I think Barbados is in a rather unique position in that when our Structural Adjustment Programme started, already the developed world was facing serious economic difficulties. 12.25 p.m.

Barbados, as a developing country, found itself in a situation where we had to implement structural adjustment programmes after other developing countries. One of the problems in the other developing countries was that when those countries like Guyana, Trinidad, countries in Africa, *et cetera* implemented structural adjustment programmes. There was a flight of brain power. People started to run from developing countries to developed countries. Therefore when structural Adjustment programmes were put in place, you do not only need money for the new restructured programme, you need intellectual brain power.

Barbados therefore finds itself in a very interested position where we have been able to keep our brain power. The question is, are we going to use this brain power in a new structural adjustment programme to the betterment of our country? Any system has only a limited amount of energy and you can either waste energy by using it in a bad way or using it constructively.

What we in Barbados need to do is to pool together our brain power and to see how best all of us in this community, private sector, public sector, can come

together on a constructive basis. This is the challenge that faces Barbados today. To say therefore that the structural adjustment programme is good or bad is totally irrelevant. It does not make any sense at this time. The challenge to us is how do we handle this situation?

I have heard some comments made by Opposition Senators about the IMF and the World Bank *et cetera*. We have to understand that the World Bank and the IMF are institutions that were set up by countries including Barbados for the benefit of Barbados and other countries. To deny the reality of the IMF, the actions of the IMF will get us nowhere.

What we have to do is to sit down and try to work with these institutions to see how best we can promote Barbados. If you look at the world in general the IMF is not only in Barbados, the IMF is in Russia which, up to a few years ago, was one of the world's leading countries and had one of the major philosophies of the world. The IMF is there now going to their rescue. If you look throughout Latin America, the IMF is there.

The IMF has had to intervene in our mother country England to save the economy of England some years ago. The question therefore is, with our brain power – and I have always maintained in this Honourable Chamber that if you take 166 square miles any place on the planet earth – I guarantee that Barbados can match the brain power of any place of 166 square miles, any place in the world. Therefore if we have got that brain power how therefore do we sit down with people like the IMF, the World Bank and have a reasonable programme for the forward momentum of this country? I have said before that we have been very, very lucky in that when we face our structural adjustment programmes the developed world were already facing theirs as well. Therefore we have had the benefit of the fact that the brain power has stayed mainly within our country and the challenge to us is, how do we use that brain power?

There are a lot of problems with the level of unemployment. Unemployment in any society is not a good feature. But we have to accept that in the present economic philosophy of the world today the adjustments that are taking place, not only in Barbados. The rise in unemployment is not a phenomenon that is peculiar to Barbados.

If you look at Japan, a country that almost never had unemployment, if you look at Europe there is what you call jobless growth. Private sector companies are growing but the employment rate is diminishing. This is a phenomenon of what is happening in the world today. If you look at the Scandinavian countries Norway, Sweden, Denmark, countries that traditionally have almost a zero unemployment, you find that in the world today in Norway and Denmark their unemployment figures are creeping up to 8%, 9% and 10%.

We have to understand that the world is a dynamic place. The economies of the world are dynamic. Then we as a very, very small part of that great engine that is going on. We also have to face the hardships that are taking place. We have to be realistic. For someone to say they like the welfare state and they believe that the welfare state should be the only kind of state, there is nothing constant but change itself. There was a time, when we had in order to make sure that there was upward mobility and at a time when there was money around to make sure that the people at the bottom had a lot of support from the state itself.

We have to admit that the world of today is one in which the state is weaker than it used to be before, whether you look at the communist system or you look at the capitalist system. The central state today is much weaker. You can do a couple things. You can get an army and kill all the private sector people if you want to establish the paramountcy of the state or you can accept that the state is not as powerful as it used to be and work within the confines of what you have. I think this is the challenge that faces us today.

How do we, in the present day world, with the economies that are changing readjust ourselves in a small environment to make sure that we work to the benefit of the people of the country with these changing situations? With that as a background I would like to look at a few of the Heads.

I will move first to Head 42 which I think is Ministry of the Public Works. There is a lot that has been said about water and water usage. Let me start by saying that one of the things that interest me a bit about water and water usage in Barbados is that it seems to me that the fact that there is a water shortage at this time of the year comes as a surprise to many people. But if you look at what has been happening to Barbados as far as I can remember as a little boy there has always been a dry season around this time of the year. What is frightening is that with all the talk that is going on about water now, three months from now when the rain starts to fall... If you talk to Barbadians and you tell them about a drought they look as if they do not know what they are talking about. People forget very, very quickly that a few months ago we were experiencing drought. I say this because I am not sure that the day the rain starts to fall we will not forget all of these glorious plans that we were talking about on conserving water *et cetera*.

I think it is important that some organization within Government and mainly between Government and the private sector be set up, on an ongoing education

programme using our local television station primarily to educate people. I do not think there can be any substitute whatsoever for education. I think there must be an ongoing programme during the dry season, during the rainy season because, unless this happens, we are not going to solve the problem. Traditionally as soon as the rain starts to fall everybody forgets the dry season that was last week.

What I am saying now, if you read my debates in the other place some 5 years ago, you will find that I said exactly the same thing. I am only repeating now what I said 6 to 7 years ago. There are certain fundamental things that have to be done in Barbados.

There is no reason why, when we have heavy rainfall the rains that fall in St. Andrew and St. Thomas should flood Holetown. We know that at one time we had to have an emergency programme because of the flooding in St. Peter. With a simple series of dams – dams are only walls that you build, you may put in the dam openings that would relieve the pressure – you can dam the water going from St. Thomas, St. Andrew down into St. Peter and going the other way down into St. Andrew. That is very interesting. If you look at Barbados 20, 30 years ago and you look at the Scotland District you will see that the older people used to dig out areas where there was water collection which is part of the conservation of the water flowing down to the east. That is what our great grandfathers did.
12.35 p.m.

That is what our great grandfathers did as part of the protection of the soil. Now we do not do it anymore and all of the soil is being washed down. A very interesting point is that we criticised them but they had more basic intelligence than we have today because we are now fortified with all the technological knowledge.

If you look at wind energy, I find it fascinating that we have to spend money to do a wind energy study. When I was a boy all of the sugar factories were fuelled by wind energy. Everyone had a windmill and now all of a sudden we are not sure whether enough wind is circulating around Barbados to produce energy.

I will say this, Mr. President, I happen to be a co-manager of a small construction company and we built a house in Clermont with a water tank that collects rain water and that water tank holds 23 000 gallons of water. It has been built over 8 years ago.

I can say that because I have been a frequent visitor like Senator Williams to the Grenadines where the people there use rain water. The only water that you have to use is the water that is collected from the rain and it is used 24 hours a day, 12 months a year, whether there is drought or rain.

In places like Bequia and Mustique there is no other water to use so that is ample proof that here in the Caribbean there is enough rainfall that you can collect the rain water and use it on a 12-month basis. You do not need an expert to come in and tell you that. It is going on every day in the Grenadines. Those people have no other means of getting their water. One of the things we must do therefore is to look at damming of our water. We must look at water tanks.

Incidentally when you dam water and do not want to drink it, you should use it for the irrigation of crops and that can be done by using alternate sources of energy and putting up a simple windmill and pumping the water to the farmers around. You can charge them a small fee if you want, but certainly the wind energy would be free once you put up the windmill.

These are simple things but as I said before one of the most important things that must be done is education. These things will not drop down from the heavens. You have got to have a commitment to them. You have got to believe in them and you have got to educate the public that this is what must be done.

One of the things that happened with fuel energy was that once we taught people that all you had to do was to go and turn on a switch and the house would light up, people of all generations believed that you do not create energy to get it, that it comes through the flick of a switch. They do not understand that somebody else somewhere is digging their oil and selling it to us and we are making them rich by buying their oil when God gave us wind energy and solar energy.

One of the ways in which we, as a country, can become competitive is if we decrease the cost of energy by using the God given sources of energy, that is solar energy and wind energy. I maintain that those of us in this part of the world where sun shines all year round, we will not become competitive until we use what God gives us.

If you believe in the Bible, of course it is there in the history of the talents, God gave everybody a talent. Of course those who did not use the talent He took it away from them and gave to somebody else. Maybe we are coming to that point where He will have to take away our talent from us and give it to somebody else.

I get back to that point because I am convinced that here in Barbados we have the intelligencia that can sit down and make it work but if we are divided it will not work. We have got to bring together all of the people, including some of our elderly citizens who have got a lot more knowledge because they have been practical people.

They have not read the books but they can tell us how to apply some of these things.

Again I must go back to the point, we cannot take it for granted. We must have structured educational programmes to educate people, to bring people's level of awareness up. You will see in a household people go and turn on a tap, washing a dish and somebody calls them and they will leave the tap running full blast and go and talk to somebody for 10 minutes before they come back. That is a clear indication that we cannot appreciate the value of water and it is not going to fall down from heaven. We have to teach people like we teach children, the value of water, that it is not limitless and therefore my plea is whatever you write in these Estimates, if these Estimates are not accompanied by a sensible educational programme, the money will go to waste.

I want next to just say a few words on one of the ticklish issues of disposal of waste and I think the Leader of the Senate mentioned that we must look at alternative sources and so forth. I recognise that it is very irritable when you have your waste piling up but I must agree with the people from the National Trust who said that. One of the problems is that we have become a disposable society. We do not repair anything any longer. We are so developed now, we just throw away. If you use things once and throw them away your garbage is going to pile up. We do not use things sensibly. Therefore here again a proper educational programme is very important. I think we have to look at the use again of more paper bags and getting rid of some of the plastic because we know that the plastics are not biodegradable and therefore we have again to educate people because people do not understand the importance of this.

In a country that is 166 square miles it is very difficult to identify any one spot to dispose of garbage that it will not be a nuisance to somebody. If you move it from St. Thomas and put it in St. Philip it is going to irritate the people of St. Philip. If you move it to St. Andrew it is going to irritate the people of St. Andrew therefore we have to look at alternative sources, maybe the combination of the landfill, as the Leader of the Senate said, with alternative sources.

Let us be realistic. In this country we are still very fortunate. If you look at the developed countries, they do not only have a problem of wastage disposal, they have a complicated problem of toxic waste to the point where there are ships sailing the ocean full of toxic waste.

In some cases the developing countries are paid to take toxic waste and by toxic waste I am talking about sometimes very potent radioactive material. We have instances we know of by reading that in some of the developed countries themselves, people have been living on toxic areas and it is only discovered when they recognise that in a particular area the incidence of cancer, primarily cancer of the blood, starts to increase at such an alarming rate that one then has to start to do back studies to find out why is it the children in this area are all of a sudden having such a high incidence of leukemia. Then when you check you realise that either toxic waste is buried underground, has been brought down river by the river being contaminated or that near to the area there is some plant that was considered to be safe but there is a high level of radioactivity coming from the plant.

I am saying all of this because I think we have to understand that when we live in an industrialised world, if we are talking about development, development brings with it certain hazards. You cannot become developed unless you expose yourself and your country to certain problems.
12.45 p.m.

If anybody can tell me of any country in the world that has become developed without the exposure to certain serious toxic problems, I will be glad to find out where that country is and this is the reality of the situation. That takes me to another point. I know that a few weeks ago there was a fire in Christ Church where a plant producing some materials burnt. When everybody said they do not want it next to them, my reaction was this. Well, if you want jobs, you have to decide which category you are going to be in. If you want to create jobs, the creation of jobs have risks attached to them. If you decide that there are certain areas you do not want to get involved in that will create jobs, then you have to accept that you are not going to create jobs. I do not want to make it sound so simplistic. It is a very fundamental decision that we have to make in this country. If we are going to create employment for our people, then we have to accept that with the creation of employment there are certain risks that we have to take. You cannot say that you do not want industry and at the same time say that you want employment. As far as I am concerned, I may be wrong but I will allow the economists and others who are more qualified than I am to correct me on this issue. My simple analysis of the situation tells me that you cannot have both at the same time. You cannot have no risks and create jobs at the same time.

Therefore, we have to make a fundamental decision. If we are a developing country, are we going to become a truly developed country? If we are going to become a truly developed country, what risks are we prepared to take as a country that will create jobs for our people? As far as I am concerned, there can be no half way measure.

Mr. President, my simple contribution to this debate is this. Barbados finds itself in a very interesting position where we have our resources of brain-power at a very critical time when the economies of the developing and

developed worlds are in transition. We stand at the crossroads where we as a people can put our heads together and move forward. We can use our energies negatively and fight against each other and see this country disintegrate. As far as I am concerned, the Estimates are only a guide. The Estimates are only figures, but figures can only do as well as people make them do. I am convinced that in this country of 166 square miles we have the brain-power. The question is: Do we really have the vision and the necessary will power to make sure that we are successful?

With that, Sir, I support the Estimates. I thank you very much.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, it now being the hour of 1.00 p.m., I would like to move the suspension of the sitting until 2.00 p.m.

*The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.*
12.50 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, just a few comments on three Heads of the Estimates. The first one is under Head 13 – Prime Minister's Office and page 6, Sub-programme 03 – Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Two days ago, Sir, we passed a Resolution giving permission for the Corporation to undertake the borrowing of an amount of $900 000 which is related to the preparation for the Global Conference. It was interesting that this went through without debate. In fact, I think more than that without objection. It was refreshing for me that that happened since I am one of those persons with the headache of trying to make the Corporation work from time to time and being so often abused in nice language. It was good to be present when there was the passing of such a Resolution without any rancor or any objection.

Sir, I looked into this particular Head and realized that the annual subvention that normally would go to CBC has now been completely withdrawn and this is a way of saying, and I would particularly like to draw the attention of the Senate and others to this point, that the Corporation must now look after itself. It seems to me strange that in this particular year when there is the need to borrow $900 000 that this happens to be the year in which the subvention has been discontinued for CBC. I wondered why there was not anything done to budget for this Global Conference, which the $900 000 is for, so that the Corporation would receive at least this year the usual help and then be required as from 1995 to look after itself. It means that in the very year when CBC is expected to become self-supporting and self-sufficient that it is being asked to take on the repayment of a bank loan over a number of years. I thought that I would draw attention to this.

Now I know that there are many benefits to be derived from the Global Conference being held here in Barbados. I believe that more of the benefits will accrue to the country as a whole rather than to the Corporation, although there are some benefits for the Corporation.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. I think that I am duty bound to let the Honourable Senator know that CBC indicated that it required this equipment not for the Global Conference alone, but it was equipment that would be needed anyhow and that this was an opportuned time for it to obtain the equipment. CBC realized that since it had indicated to a large extent to Government that it was now mature enough to look after its own affairs, this was the only way that it could get the funding not for the Global Conference alone but to buy the equipment which will be owned by CBC in order to supplement. This equipment CBC should normally have bought but were unable to buy in the past but now the loan facilitates it.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Thank you very much. I appreciate that explanation. But what in fact I have been indicating is that it would have been a gesture of goodwill if the Corporation which has so many difficulties anyway had been given some help in the overall planning for the Global Conference. I am pretty sure that the kind of equipment that is required for this Conference that CBC normally would not be able to afford or be required to have because this Conference is of such importance that only the state of the art kind of equipment will be necessary and sensible under the circumstances.
2.05 p.m.

However, I know that there are benefits that CBC will derive in that the equipment will stay on for some time to come.

That was my first comment. The second has to do with Head 28 under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the section Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, and the subsection Industrial Schools on page 78 of the Estimates.

The Industrial Schools, Summervale and Dodds, have had an interesting history and they have had the misfortune perhaps of being moved from one Ministry to the other from time to time. In these Estimates provisions are made under Ministry of Justice and Public Safety. There was a time not very long ago when Industrial Schools were under Education. I am not sure what is the rationale behind this movement one way or the other, but I would think it would be better if the Industrial Schools could come to rest finally under the Ministry of Education, because it seems to me that there is a case to be made out for these institutions being more related to the school system and what is happening in the schools today than to punitive institutions such as the Prisons. I hope that eventually this will be taken into consideration. The schools are experiencing, almost without exception, an upsurge of violence and deviant behaviour among young people and we have no institutions when once children have been suspended or expelled, as is happening more frequently nowadays, to take care of them and to bring them back on the straight and narrow path.

The Industrial Schools were intended originally to be that type of institution and I would like to see them performing this role again. I am sure we have not the funds to come up with a brand new kind of institution that would deal with this new problem coming out of the schools, but while we have these two schools with us, Summervale and Dodds, I think we should make adequate provision to see that they cater to the growing deviance among young people. Therefore, I see a need for expansion. I do not see any Head here that would give me the impression that there is going to be any expansion with the increased number of young people getting into trouble, and that is an urgent need, more space for them. I see a need for the punitive aspect of such an institution, in that there should be continued provision for a boarding institution, as it were, there at the moment. But I also see that there should be a provision with the expansion I have referred to for young people to go in for day training and education where there are people who are trained and prepared to direct their lives.

That brings me to the matter of training. I do not see any specific Head here in these Estimates for the special training of members of staff, and word has it that the emphasis nowadays is being placed at those institutions on simply persons who might be regarded as a kind of babysitter who just sit there and see that things are done and that these people are told what to do and where to go, with no real specialised training, the kind that could bring young people back on track and save them in spite of themselves. I would like to urge that if there is any related provision – and I am not sure which one it would be here – but certainly that in the future such provision would be made so that the people who run Dodds and Summervale, these industrial schools, will be offered specialised training to make them more capable of dealing with these young people. This is a problem, as I said, in light of the upsurge of crime and violence among youth.

That brings me to the other point that is related. For years we have been talking about the establishment of some kind of a borstal institution in which we would look after young first offenders rather than what obtains at the moment where a lot of young criminals are being put in Glendairy with hardened criminals and the high rate recidivism that there is in this country tells you of the end product of this kind of relationship between the newcomers in jail and the oldsters who are there to teach them the trick of the trade. I feel that we have to put more emphasis now, with the upsurge of crime among the young, on these matters – borstal training and also on the matter of training people to help them.

My next and last comment has to do with Head 34 – Education and Culture – and that subsection on page 93, subsection 08, the St. Thomas Secondary School. I see a provision here for some $300 000 which, according to the explanatory note, is for the ongoing site security and other expenses, and to pay outstanding fees to consultants for the construction of St. Thomas Secondary School. I am not sure, where reference to outstanding fees is concerned, whether this will be simply the paying of a debt or whether it is for work that is currently going on. The impression that I had been led to hold over the last year or so was that no real work was going on there. I hope, if that is so, that the provision for security is adequate, because in the area of education we have been losing a lot of hardware because of the absence of proper security on premises, not only of this new school. I know what will happen there in a new school being built with inadequate security you can be sure that a whole lot of sinks and bathroom bowls and so on are going to go down the drain, because people do that to people who are building homes, who only take weekends off. When they go back they find the shell there and they have to start all over again. So that I am happy to see that there is site security, but I would only urge that it is adequate and adequately provided for.

The security that is there is not entirely unrelated to the kind of security at our schools. I think, Sir, that it is now well-known that security on school premises is grossly inadequate. What we find is that a big school, like, for example, the campus of St. Leonard's two schools, big enough to hold over 2 000 students and you get two or three security guards there for about 24 hours a day, but at night they are totally useless and while they are there the premises are being constantly broken into, like once a week, and there is no way you are going to have these people as presently provided risking their lives walking down through the back of schools to check buildings to see what is going on. They are not doing it. So I am really issuing a call for a different type of

security. These people are not even provided with walkie-talkies so that they can check with their mates to see where they are on the premises and how things are going. A simple walkie-talkie would be something.
2.15 p.m.

I think that at night, on most of these premises, you will need guard dogs at the very least. Some people say guns. I don't know; but certainly we can start with guard dogs. No staff or stick is going to be enough and we will continue losing although we are paying people to look after these things for us. It would be a question of whether we want to save money and lose equipment. St. Leonard's Boys' School about a month ago, $20 000 in equipment taken out of the school with guards on the premises. Whether we are prepared to continue...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would the Honourable Member care to say what kind of equipment?

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Most of the equipment from the school band. All kinds of instruments as well as some other items for teaching. This would have meant that somebody had to drive up there with a van or truck or something to do this. All the while there was so-called security on the premises.

*Asides.*

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: I would not be prepared to say whether it is an inside or outside job, Mr. President.

Another concern I have under this Head of Education and Culture has to do with the position of guidance counsellors in schools. When the idea was first mooted and these guidance Counsellors were appointed to schools we thought it was a wonderful thing and that many problems would be solved. Indeed, they have been doing a very good job. Then one finds that since no proper provision has been made for guidance counsellors to be a category in their own right, that while performing this very specialised task, they still have to compete with the other categories of staff members for promotion.

For example, if a guidance counsellor has an eye on promotion to some higher level to become head of a department or deputy or so he or she then has to come back into the service, the main stream, in order to get the kind of promotion he or she should have. I think it is very unfortunate because what happens in these cases is that you then lose a person who has a specialty, who comes back into teaching at the normal level because he or she is quite rightly mindful of where he or she wants to go in the education system. This is something that needs to be looked at so we will be assured of these specialised counsellors without the kind of interruptions that we are having in our schools at the moment. Perhaps counsellors on a contract basis rather than persons who are in the teaching service or system in itself.

My last comment under this Head. I say under this Head, because I am not sure exactly where to find – and I have not found it – reference to the disused school buildings which are now being returned to the Anglican Church by Government after new schools have been built or after these schools are no longer required. I don't want to suggest that I am starting any kind of a war here but this is simply a reminder because we have had amicable relationships over the years with Government on these matters.

It is now my portfolio as the Archdeacon to be responsible for church buildings, so I am concerned that a large number of church schools have been handed back over a period of years and the kind of compensation that has been agreed to over the years has not been forthcoming. That is not to suggest that it will not be; but the Anglican Church now finds itself in trying times and therefore could do with anything that we can look around to our debtors and ask for because we are right now unable to be as charitable as we had been.

This is not an indictment on members of the Anglican Church at all because ever since 1969 and the disestablishment of the Church the giving of the Anglican Church has increased 10 fold. A Church that paid an assessment to the centre of about $6 000 is now paying $60 000, and some more than that, and they are raising it. But what we find ourselves saddled with is a lot of old buildings over which we had no control, many of them over 100 years old and therefore needing immediate attention and we would have to divert funds.

What I am suggesting or questioning is whether or not something can be done by Government to speed up the process so that when once a building is handed back, the arrangement agreed to, which was repairs, putting it into good shape of repair, or agreeing to a quantum, that it does one or the other, because the Church cannot afford to look after them and cannot afford to allow them to stay there and fall apart and must pay the insurance on these buildings when once they have been handed back.

I hope that in the very near future, Sir, there will be some provision made, perhaps there is a provision in here that I have not spotted. I hope there is some provision for this eventuality. Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, in looking at the overall Estimates I should like first

of all to congratulate those persons who every year work very hard on these figures. It is not a very easy thing to sit down and spend long hours working out figures and trying to get the tally correct because sometimes you don't get it correct and you still have to come back again.

However, looking at the entire Estimates, I should like to say that those persons who worked very hard ought to be congratulated. Too often we take everything for granted and we forget that there are people who work behind the scenes. I would like to say that the Government Printery should be congratulated. Very few people seem to remember that they have other documentation dealing with and also Estimates, Budgets and all sorts of papers.

I should like now to look through the whole thing broadly and then draw attention to a few Heads which I consider important to many Barbadians and even people coming from abroad to our shores. First of all, I should like to say that this structural adjustment period has done a good thing. Some people think it was bad but I think it has done a lot of good and as the Bible says, out of evil can come good.

We have been able to see a lot of good coming out. People have been brought to utilise their skills and their talents that they had hidden before. I say this, Mr. President, because I am one of the people who goes around and checks on these things. Just yesterday afternoon, I was at Springer Memorial School, to see one of the best exhibitions on the utilisation of local raw materials that I could see anywhere in China. Yes, China believes in the utilisation of its raw materials and what it has available to be used.

There were shells, pieces of wood, a lot of mahogany bits and pieces. If you look at the earrings I am wearing they are the result of when the coconuts are coming out. They did all sorts of tie-dye batik, a lot of balsam work, making bread baskets and so on. I am just saying this to recite a few things. People's innovations and their thinking are beginning to turn. Necessity is the mother of invention and, as Joe Tudor used to say, talent is the gift of God and a hidden talent is no talent at all.

People are beginning now to find their talents and their skills. They are beginning to unearth a number of things that they did not see were usable before. When I looked at that project where the children from St. Gabriel utilised PET bottles and wood and they were sailing on a barge. Nobody would think that that was a reality but it surely is a reality because we saw it right up front in the newspaper and they were working on it for some time.

If we move around to St. Alban's School, the little infants' project is a vine project and they are growing their melons and these are little children of 4, 5 and 6 years old. They are doing melons, pumpkins, spinach and every crop that grows on a vine they are utilising. What is more, they are taking the message home to their parents and they are growing them at home in their pots, bringing them back to school to show the teachers what they have done. Those who have a little bit of land are utilising it.

So structural adjustment has brought home to people the fact that we Barbadians have a lot of talent. In the elementary schools before a lot of these talents were unearthed. People seem sometimes to be afraid to unearth these talents with the academia we are talking about. Because of this, many of the young people have been misguided. I am thanking God that a number of them are able to show that things can be done and they are possible.

Therefore, Mr. President it makes me move on to a section which is very near and dear to my mind, Program 06, which has to do with information.

I recall that one of the Honourable Senators earlier mentioned the whole question of informing the public. I think it was Senator Simmons who talked about education and the importance of education to people and getting the message across. All we do in the Senate and elsewhere and we don't get that message across to our population to have their minds become disciplined as to what Barbados needs at this point in time, we would have failed. Therefore I turn my attention to this Head which deals with information because I feel strongly about a number of things.

I do not feel that after the news on CBC on evenings I should just be seeing some old picture coming from somewhere. I believe that that could be utilised for having some good healthy discussion with some business people, church people, whoever, to discuss current issues pertaining to the development of Barbados and how we are going to go forward. There is a lot of that on the CNN channels and this is why people will turn after the news to CNN. Therefore we are losing out in informing our population on a number of things.

If you watch the Business Report – I congratulate the young person for his efforts – but we are doing so much in the National Development Foundation. We have so many beneficiaries out there who are doing well and some of those people should be put there in that slot along with the big business. Balance a big and a small. I don't see why you should have all the businesses that are very successful and businesses that people know will succeed because they have all the right mixes. Show the other fellow who has been successful at making shoes for people who have their toes off and yet they can walk because he has studied

specialty now to pad them. We have people with that kind of skill in Barbados. Show the young people involved in batiking, who are involved in doing the old art of batik. It is not an easy thing. People feel that these things are easy but they require specialised skill and if our people could develop an old Roman culture and skill and bring it to the stage we have brought it in Barbados then I say hats off to all those young people.

There are several young people doing the batik, tie-dye, handpainting. Why can't these be shown on the television or picked up by GIS and they can utilise some of these skills. It seems that only now we are having the Global Conference that we see them carry a few things here and there. That is not good enough. We do not need a global conference to motivate people in the news media. They should be out there searching for news and news is about people in a developing society like Barbados, a society which relies on the ingenious techniques of our people because we have no real natural resources.

Barbadians have gone around and utilised what they have had and they have extended this programme throughout the Caribbean region by treating our people and we have exported our teachers for many years and they have been able to help other people throughout the Caribbean region. Because of this, Mr. President, I feel very strongly that we need to look at the type of programming in the evening when people get home. I think they want to see something that will be informative. I would like to see the small business people highlighted along with the big ones. I am not saying highlight the small ones and leave out the big ones but have a good mix where you can show people how they too can be able to use their skills.

There are many people out there who will have similar skills but they are afraid and it is important to stimulate their appetite to go and ask questions about how to borrow money, who to ask to help with information on the particular skills. These are things you want also you want motivators in the community to be given the opportunity to assist.

I remember some years ago I said that we have a lot of elderly people in this society. None of us know when we will pass away but surely some of these people in the Homes have a large repertoire of knowledge and information that they can pass on. I know of an old lady who used to teach tin smith work. She is still alive. She is teaching the senior citizens at St. Leonard's Church and this woman goes all around, wherever she can find young people to teach them how to make bouché pans. A lot of people in the catering industry will know that you cannot easily get bouché pans. You cannot easily get custom bun pans at the sizes you want them. Now this woman can do those things and she teaches a number of young people free of charge. She is 84 years old and she is willing to pass on that information.

2.35 p.m.

What I am saying is that the Press must capture this and show people. When you see her finished – I have a tot at home she gave me for a gift and if you see it it looks like something – I hear a lot about the state-of-the-art being talked about – well, that is a state-of-the-art tot, very professional and smooth, no wrinkly nothing about it. She is good. When she makes bouché pans, they are fantastic. They are not going to cut your hand or anything like that. She trains the young people properly. These are the people we need to utilise. Do not let them die and carry the knowledge with them, for God's sake. This is the duty of our Government Information Service and our Broadcasting Stations to get these messages across to the public to show people what is being done in our schools. You walk around and people are saying sometimes the young people are no good. If you go to the schools and see some of the work that those teachers – and we must praise our teachers – are getting out of these little children to put on show at exhibitions, this is where the Press must go and take these things and keep them too.

I am appalled sometimes when we have Fishermen's Day or World Food Day and you ask for certain tapes you hear that those tapes are no more. They have put something else on it. I do not feel we should be doing this. If we are to have things for posterity they should be kept so that if you want something about a particular fisherman, you have it. Suppose the man dies, well that is the end of that. Suppose he did something like teaching the young people the art of sculling and you capture that picture on video, it means that tape goes and you lost that forever. All countries keep their videos and they are able to show you things back in the 1930s.

I was so very pleased to see last night on the television that they went back to some of the pictures at Lords, and some of the old calypsos that were speaking to the cricket and about cricket. That is because they were kept so we need to ask the Broadcasting Stations, Government Information, CBC Television to keep those tapes. We need them for posterity. When we have the various functions we need to pull them out and show them. This is nothing new because we are having people here with a psyche now who believe that they started and invented all the wheels when there are people who started these things long ago. Nobody sees the tapes or anything so they get the impression, that it never happened in Barbados before. That is my appeal under that particular Head.

I now move on to Head 25 which deals with Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Mr. President, I solemnly believe that a country that cannot feed itself is a country looking for trouble. If we are going to talk about tourism and we are going to be serious, we have to look at the linkage between tourism and agriculture. No matter who gets vexed with me that is the way I have always felt because there are certain developments that have to go on in agriculture that will affect tourism.

You take, for example, the growing of exotic food crops like exotic mangoes, pawpaws, carambola, all of these various fruits that are sold on the exotic market. We must make attempts at producing more because the whole question is not markets. A lot of people run away with the idea that there are no markets and this sort of thing. That is not true. As one who has gone abroad, you can go to San Antonio – I see San Antonio being advertised very much on the television. A lot of people want our pepper sauce and peppers. They want these same exotic fruits which they call the "star fruit". They just want to cut it in a star and sell it in packages. They want cassava. All of these crops they want. Of course, we have to be able to feed our own people well too. Therefore, in the area of agriculture I am happy that the Government is going to go in, and they have started to, programmes like extensive crop research because we need to have certain types of lands.

The time has come when we will have to go back to a lot of our own home-made fertilisers. Those people who are doing them – I know up in St. John a friend of mine he does the chicken one very nice and fine. I get some from him. I utilise my two backyard chickens and I do not have to buy these expensive fertilisers which are also not very good for one's health. We can get people thinking seriously of setting up plants in this area because the Ministry is all about helping in processing as well.

We used to have a cassava factory in Barbados. What has happened? Why cannot we get back to a cassava factory? I am not speaking now of Government. I am speaking of us Barbadian people. There are young entrepreneurs out there with the skills and food technology. You do not need a big, big place. This is one of the problems we have in Barbados that we feel we must always have a big plant, so sophisticated. I have travelled almost the world. I have seen small – but the thing is – efficiently managed operations with proper planning and proper organisation. That is the beauty of it. But too often we feel we must have so many acres of land to build this plant on and we must have so many thousands of this and that, and so many millions of this and that, and all of that.

We must think carefully. We are a small developing country. There is a limit to our land space, therefore, it behoves us to utilise our land space effectively where we cannot grow sugar cane but we can grow pawpaws, carambola or cut flowers. There is a big market in Europe and in the same South America for cut flowers. Do we have enough? The answer is "No". We do not have enough. Why do we not have enough when we can get U.S. $2 a bloom for a ginger lily? That is money when you can sell okras on the export market.

These are some of the things that the BADMC has been doing and is trying now to accelerate, the export of our crops to earn foreign exchange while being mindful of feeding our people because I am not leaving out that. We have to feed the people in our institutions and the hospitals. We have to feed the children in the School Meals Service. I am not too happy when I go to schools and see corned beef cutters. I am not happy about that. There could be a good piece of fish and a nice piece of tomato and cucumber and lettuce where that sandwich is a whole meal sandwich, or a hard boiled egg. We are supposed to be sufficient in chicken so or a nice slice of chicken could be done. I cannot understand why in this day I should be seeing corned beef.

We have to think seriously because we are aiming at health and health goes hand in hand with the food we eat. The food we eat is going to decide what our population will be therefore we have to decide what food we grow in order to feed our people well.

2.45 p.m.

Therefore we have to decide the food we grow in order to feed our people well. There must be a large quantity of good vegetables both root vegetables and also other mixed vegetables to feed our people. There is always the argument that Barbadians do not eat sufficient vegetables. We could also set up a proper facility to freeze vegetables. I know of a small business person from the Foundation who is doing this very successfully. This lady has a job. She decides that her son is studying science and therefore rather than walking about the place when he is finished school he has something to do. That makes sense.

Parents have to start to do these things with their children. He has learnt the art of the business and has taken a course in small business management and he is moving forward. If anything happens the boy understands the business and the two of them are in it together. This is the year of the family. If we did not do it before we have to get back to people doing things in agriculture together as a family. One person looks after the fertilizing. Somebody looks after the selection of the seeds. We have to do all of these things. I said without production we are nowhere. We have to produce or perish.

We must first select the right seeds. We do not want any freaks because that is a waste of money. Many

people have been buying seeds that are freaks. We need to identify places where we can get good raw material for planting whether they are seeds or seedlings. There are some people in Barbados who believe when they go to fairs and so on you buy all the fruit trees and carry them and leave them in the plastic bags. If people supported all of the fairs that we have in Barbados and really got somebody to help them to plant the things properly we would have a lot of fruit in this country. But people just allow them to stay around and die after buying them. It looks to come from a fair as though you are supporting agriculture. You buy 6 mangoes and so on and at the end of the day you have none. That is all foolishness.

What cannot reach everybody.... Here again we need the news media to show people these things on a consistent basis, on a sustained basis. I will always use this word here in this Honourable Chamber sustained basis. We need a sustained educational programme of how to plant, when to plant, where to plant, how to reap, when to reap because post harvest technology is very important.

In the Caribbean region we lose about 60% of all the food because of bad handling. Some people who are growing and spending a lot of money out there do not see the necessity to have their workers trained in post harvest handling right there in the field. The people go and they pop off the okras, they pop off the tomatoes. It is a waste. If you really calculate your losses then the losses would be really incredible. We want people to pay attention to that and pay attention to the training. We also want it to be shown on television. Those are the sorts of programmes that we need.

Mr. President, there has always been a lot of criticism of the agencies like the BADC and so on. Now that they have come together there is quite a lot going for us. The BADMC will seek to have a serious programme of land reform and of course sugar cane production which you can see is back on stream. One of the things that bothers me and upsets me was last night when I heard Dr. Atlee Brathwaite talk about the burning of canes. I asked myself are we our brothers keepers?

Mr. PRESIDENT: What did you say?

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Dr. Atlee Brathwaite mentioned on television last night that he is very saddened to see that people are burning the canes and therefore it will decrease the amount of sugar that we want to produce. We say that we are doing this and some people were crying and saying you must go back into sugar, you must do that. Now that it is being done there are some people – I do not know who they are. I am not to point my fingers at anybody in this world – whom seem not to want Barbados to reach its quota. I think that is really disgusting and those perpetrators should be brought to justice, if they can be caught. Because I know sometimes it is very difficult.

The other thing we are working on is the cotton development. As you are aware, cotton can bring you quite some money. But with some of the problems that took place before, we have to work very hard now. Then there is this question of people growing okras out of season. People in Barbados feel they are doing something good although the Ministry has put on the television and on the radio about the pink boll worm and so on and they grow okras. People will still grow the okras and let the cotton be destroyed. That is not helping us. I think we need to continue to talk to people about these things, not only on the television but in the school rooms and in the community where they would understand that we really need this co-operation.

There is also the question of export production. We are very glad to see that a number of organizations are getting together and a lot of private farmers are beginning again to grow a number of crops that they had stopped growing. Peppers, for instance, has great potential. Anybody around the world now would buy peppers. We, West Indians and the Indian population seem to be able to educate them that eating pepper helps to flavour the food or something. But wherever you go, people are interested in buying, especially the Scotch Bonnet pepper. The National Development Foundation has brought together some farmers and we had some money from the Agricultural Venture Trust, along with the money from the EEC and also with the Ministry's of Agriculture input in the training and moving them around to see different farms. These courses have been very successful and now they are going for the export programme.

We also help them with the drip irrigation system. These have been proven to be very successful. We also have some farmers who are very much involved in these programmes who have been farmers before. I like this kind of thing because it is health for Barbados. It is bringing in foreign exchange.

We now have the tissue culture laboratory in the Ministry and this has to do with flowers. It is amazing what we would throw away or disregard here. I remember when we went to Mississauga we looked at a place where Jamaicans were sending all kinds of green bushes and earning a fantastic amount of money. They now have 2 Jamaican businesses in Mississauga which are marketing, to Oswa Terminal and so on, all kinds of shrubs because the foliage goes with the flowers.

The BADMC is also looking at the utilization and the reforming of land. Areas where you cannot grow food, you can put those areas in shrubs and bushes and things

like that so that the people can utilize them with flowers and export them. They make money. I think Senator Williams would tell you that flowers make money because he knows and he knows that shrubs make money.

I am still concerned about the fact that people never seem to remember that fisheries belong to agriculture. People seem to isolate fish from agriculture. But we must not isolate it. I think that we need a serious programme on the whole question of fishing.
2.55 p.m.

We have a few long line fishing boats here and we are happy about that but I would like to see more people being trained in this art. It is a good thing to be trained in. It is a good thing to invest in because we love fish. The tourist love fish. They love it done in all sorts of ways in the hotels and if there is one thing they know about, they may not know about other meats but they know about fish. Therefore they like to be introduced to fish in different ways. Because of that I think it is very important that we pay a lot of attention to our fish.

I know there is to be a development project for our markets so I would not mention anything about that. I am concerned about the way that fish is handled. I would like to see something done to put that fish in a nice case with ice and display it in shops, supermarkets, the market, wherever there is a good spot. I hate to see fish brought in and thrown on the ground and people take it up in newspaper. You are going to eat that fish.

I think there is much to be done and I know the Government is trying its best to get it done but we have to change the attitudes of the Barbadian people to fish. It is a fact that you can get bacteria by knocking about fish. That is vitally important to those people who do not understand. People cannot learn without a teacher. A teacher is a very important person.

Mr. President, I should like to congratulate those persons who are growing flowers and have got involved with the horticultural association and the Ministry of Agriculture. They seem to be working a very good cooperative programme for export of flowers. Barbados has been doing very well at the shows abroad and I think that is something very commendable and well organised. I think it will speak millions for us soon from now in terms of dollars and cents in foreign exchange.

Mr. President, in the area of what I would like to see with the fish and Speightstown development, I feel that is a town that could be devoted to fish – fish shops and also things made from the fish – earrings, necklaces, *et cetera*. We could have a nice barge or boat leaving Bridgetown and going into Speightstown and people would be able to buy fish and chips. I am talking about sweet potato chips, real chips, not mock chips. They could buy cassava chips, yam chips, *et cetera*. Technology may be good or it may be bad. Some people make out. I do not know if you have heard about the worms that were made into nice hamburgers but these things can happen because of development and technology so the scientist can come up with all sorts of things. But there are a lot of things that are around that are not good for us.

Now, I could not leave agriculture without touching the high import food bill for many of these canned vegetables coming from extra regional sources. I am also very concerned about frozen vegetables. If we want to keep the tourist industry going properly and we want to keep our chefs employed and so on we have to let them use their creativity. That is vitally important. When a man goes out and he studies, he wants to come back and use his creativity. He does not just want to throw something out of a can. That is not creativity. Therefore we need to look seriously at the amount of money ...

There are certain things in this country that I know I am going to be told we can never do successfully but those are in the minority, Mr. President, when it comes to food. So those that are in the minority let them remain there but those that we can make – the baby foods – we can make and present. The nutrition centre has tried it and they are trying to do a lot more but they do not have enough officers. We could make these mixtures of carrots, yams, mashed fish, and a fish that we should be using more is the shark because it is cheaper. If we are using small fish you will remove the bones and the children will have a nutritious meal. We have to look at nutrition because nutrition must go hand in hand with agriculture. We are growing the food and therefore we have to find ways of utilising it through processing.

I remember when the Pine Hill Dairy started, people used to say that the milk tasted like all sorts of things. Today it is a success story. A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step and if we never take that step we will never get anywhere. We have to start taking steps in terms of preserving our vegetables. I see too many bread and butter pickles coming from Canada. Mr. Bix markets his products by walking about with a little bottle. I met him in Trinidad. You cannot blame him for that but what you have to do is blame yourself.

Do not ring me and ask me about asparagus tips because I would tell you to go and buy some carrots and beans and lettuce and beets and so on and make a nice salad. That is what you have to do. We need people to market salad. Do not let the fast food chains do everything for us. We need people to get into this business.

I have a little friend up there in Bay Street who has a little health food shop. She does fruit drinks so you can buy them ready done and she is also a nutritionist so she can advise on the amount that you can utilise. We want to see more of these little shops springing up where people are going to eat well and sensibly. And the price is good.

Mr. President, there can be no success in a country that cannot feed itself and its agriculture is not moving. Therefore with that I move off agriculture and I want, Sir, to touch on the Ministry of Education and Culture. I particularly would like to touch on the question of the business studies in schools.

I should like to congratulate the Government on the business studies in schools because that is an area that was lacking for many years and the young people I mentioned before have come out of these business studies programmes. They are going up to fifth form and they are taking exams in it and they have to do practical work as well, not only theory.

A lot of people believe these exams are only theoretical they are not. If you see the CXC syllabus and what the children have to do, as a matter of fact there was much work on show that is for the examination. Now that makes me feel very happy and as a small organisation with some funds we are welcoming these young people out of Springer Memorial, the Seventh Day Adventist, St. Michael School, with open arms to give them a small loan to help them to buy their fabric and whatever the raw materials are so that they will be working for themselves from the beginning.

We have had many successes and what hurts me is that those successes are never brought to the fore by the news media. It is also a fact that we need to look at some of the subjects that we should be studying in schools.

I know of one parent, her son said he wanted to be a carpenter and she almost killed him because to be a carpenter was to be an idiot. It seemed that way. Today the boy is an architect. He went by way of carpentry, moved to his grandmother, decided Mum and Dad I am sorry. I am not going to quarrel with you but that is what I am going to the Polytechnic when I finish school and do.
3.05 p.m.

He was successful through and through and then he got a scholarship for four years. Today he is an architect and a very good architect at that. You see sometimes children see things that can lead them on and he is on his own and doing well. We must not take the children and push them about. This is one of the things that we have to learn to start the children from in school. If we see that they have the ability to do something, try to encourage that child in every way. Try and talk to the parent and see if the parent will understand that this is the way that this child wants to go and try to not humbug the child and say that the others are doctors and lawyers and you must be one too. Because I know of a young man who suffered from dyslexia. Today, he is making money and many of his friends who are in law or medicine are not making any. He is making money because everytime there is a funeral, wedding or whatever, people go and buy his flowers. This is a dyslexic person that I am talking about and all of you would know that these people write backward. He does not have to write when he can employ somebody to write for him because he can employ a good secretary. He has good business sense. Therefore, we must also look at those children who have a handicap. I am happy to see that a lot of them are included in the normal schools. I am very pleased about that. I also congratulate Government for doing that. We must not hide the children who have a handicap. They must be exposed to whatever educational needs that are required for them or that they are able to do. Some of them make beautiful cards and do beautiful paintings and they do all sorts of things. They are children too and we must not look at them with scorn because they must be right there in our education system doing what they do best.

Regarding the whole question of adult education, again I am pleased with the Community College and the amount of students they are turning out in the different areas especially in Fine Arts. I say that because we are seeing the state of the art clothing that we have never seen before. When you hear of all of these exhibitions, I am inviting Honourable Senators to go and see the young people's work. Up to Sunday night, I saw one of the students of the Community College work. Paris could never get near to him. I am telling you that. He makes female and male clothing and his work is outstanding. He is a designer and a fine artist. He paints and he does all sorts of things. But I want people to understand that education is about extracting. Not that you just tell somebody to do something that you want them to do.

When they go to the Community College and they are able to develop their talent for two years in the Fine Arts and get an Associate Degree, they can easily go on to any big university and come back here fully equipped. Before they go, everybody will want them to make clothing, do tie-dye or batik and they will have some money in their pockets. The lady who makes all of my clothing including the one that I am wearing is now 24 years old and I am sure that she has a good bank account from the time that she was 14 years old. I am saying that people believe that certain schools do not produce certain people. She went to St. Leonard's School and when she was fourteen she was winning all of the prizes in arts. You name it, she

was winning. She sat the CXC Exams and got good results and then she went to the Community College for two years and did Fine Arts. Indeed, judging from the clothes that I wear, she is a fine artist and everybody admires them. I am putting in that plug for all of the young people from the Community College whose work is really fantastic. We must congratulate Mrs. Greenidge who heads that department. She really looks out for her students and she sees to it that they utilize their talents in real fine style.

Also, the question of the teaching of the deaf, I think that is fantastic to communicate. We sometimes do not look at ourselves as Barbadians and see where we are going and what we are doing. The Centre for Continuing Studies that used to be called the Extra-Mural Department has been innovative in many of these secretarial programmes where the secretaries now can earn real good money because they have the qualifications. The deaf can learn to communicate with each other or other people who understand the sign language. These are all aspects of education in this society that is really bringing out the creativity of our people in Barbados. When we look at the school gardens, we can see that an effort is being made to really show agricultural science in its true potential. With a little more help and perseverance, I am sure those children will go a long way.

Mr. President, like Senator Springer, I am not sure where you include derelict buildings. But I have seen many derelict school buildings and I do not like that. I really hate to see when the newspaper starts to highlight that and I feel that we should get in and do something. If the school starts leaking, we should get in and do something quickly because it is for the good and welfare of our citizens. The students are our citizens and do not let these buildings go to pieces. It hurts to see some of the school buildings with a good school population with energetic teachers and their places are really looking outmoded and horrible. They even try with the gardens to make the place look beautiful, but then the buildings look so terrible that the teachers really do not know what to do. We have very good PTAs and we must congratulate them. PTAs have been doing a lot of work and saving Government a lot of money and we must congratulate the PTAs of these schools. They have been giving pianos, repairing buildings, doing this and doing that, and giving tennis lawns. When the PTAs can do all of that, it speaks well for our citizens and it shows you that they must have the kind of environment in Barbados that they are able to do it.

Mr. President, I should now like to touch on the area which is Head 36. Barbados is a signatory to the Alma Alpha and we say health for all by the year 2000. I am indeed very happy about what is happening at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in terms of development and the number of diseases in which we had to go abroad to have treated, and the quality of nursing care. Let me put the emphasis on the nurses who are like angels of light, because when the doctor goes they have to be there to hear all of the aches and pains and they do everything to make you feel like you are a human being. Those angels of light are doing a wonderful job. They are being retrained in many areas and they are also being trained to take up some new positions whether it is with the open heart surgery or the Burns Unit. It is fantastic to see our nurses can go out to those hospitals and be outstanding. They beat the native people all of the time with the examinations and so on. I must congratulate the nurses for doing a really fine job. But we need a lot more of them especially in the Public Health area where nurses have to travel on a daily basis to look after people's bad feet. They have to give people insulin early in the morning. They have to take blood from them and take it back to the polyclinic.

These people have their days really set out for them. What I would like to see in that area is similar to the barefoot doctors in China, where we have some people who are like at the level of Nurses' Aides who can go out with these people. We used to have some Nutrition Aides who were trained, who went out with the Public Health Nurses and were able to assist them. They knew how to bandage feet and so on, and I feel we need something like this because our elderly population is growing and a lot of these senior citizens live alone and need things done, like drops put in their eyes on mornings and so on. But we have very few Public Health nurses and some of them have to cover a vast area. You take the Black Rock Polyclinic and the area that it covers. Those few people cannot really cover that, if you really look at it properly. So I am appealing that they get more of those people who are trained and they also get some people to assist with that area as far as health is concerned.

3.15 p.m.

We have a disease that is now known to Barbadians called lupus. It has now been highlighted. The worrying thing about that is it is an attacker of black women primarily and we have to be very conscious, very informed on it. I was very happy to see one of our little Youth Service people, Ona Harewood, who works with CBC, go to attack that, to get the information and to talk to the people to bring an awareness to the public of the importance of knowing something about lupus, because there is no real cure for lupus. People can live a long time but they will have to know about it and know how to treat themselves. I am also here saying I hope that any drugs that have to be given to lupus patients can be had through the Drug Service, because there are not many patients. I have gone to a seminar and they have been appealing for a particular drug which helps considerably. This drug is used very effectively in other countries. People who can afford it can go to America and get it, but those who are here really cannot get it.

The Nutrition Centre has just a few officers, they have to be stationed at polyclinics and demands on them are very, very great. They have also to service geriatric hospitals and things like that with regard to the diet and seeing that the people get a proper diet and advice and all of that. I think that programme needs more people. We need to put some more emphasis on training people for the National Nutrition Centre in the area of health.

I am also mindful of the fact that there are many, many areas of which Barbados can be extremely proud. One of the areas is immunisation. By the year 2000 all these diseases that children used to suffer from in Barbados – diphtheria, tetanus – we will not be having any more. Those at two years old with measles, rubella and those kinds of diseases will not be having them anymore.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, you have two more minutes.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Sir. I will try and wrap up in that two minutes. I think that is very heartening, because in several countries around the world that have more money than us lots of children die from measles, diphtheria and tetanus.

In closing, Sir, I should just like to touch on two things quickly, community services, the progress of the Youth Service and what they are going to do, the Child Care Board and how they are struggling. One thing I do not like is the look of the building and I think something can be done in that area. I know that many people will touch on women's affairs. I am still a firm believer that we need a lot more in that area. The women need a lot more things, they need a lot more staff in the Women's Affairs Department. They need a lot more people to help with the voluntary organisations, because most of the work that is done for that Department is done by voluntary organisations who assist the Department. It is not the Department doing the work, it is the voluntary organisations out there assisting that Department, so anybody who has ears can hear that.

Mr. President, in the area of Foreign Affairs I am glad that we now have Trade Commissioners. I think that is something we needed to have for some time. These are the people who are going out there to see that we are able to have trading links with these countries, that we do not buy everything from them but that they buy something from us. I think that is a very good thing in that area.

I also want, under Tourism, to say how happy I am that we are having a new hotel school or school of hospitality studies. For a long time in Barbados we have been training the people and the curriculum is right. I visited Westminster College where Robert Kidner, who started the Hotel School here, lectures and they have no different curriculum from us. I am a product of the Hotel School....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your time has expired, Madam.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER:... and, Mr. President, I sincerely hope that Barbadians will make great use and do everything in their power, especially the hoteliers, to employ and promote those students coming from that school.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, if I could just do like the excellent example set by Senator Erskine Simmons and give a little overview, I find it particularly difficult to understand certain submissions made here today. On the other hand, it is very, very easy to understand others.

The point of education was stressed tremendously all today. I think we tend to lose sight of what education really means. I was surprised to hear fellow Senator Walkes refer to people living in St. Peter and St. Lucy as working-class people. Am I a working-class person? I do not know. This is where we are going wrong. We are sticking a stigma on people and fooling them that if you hold a certain job you are working, but if you are an executive you do not work. Then when they get to be executives they think seriously that it really does not call for any work, and this is where we lack education. People in this country are taught, and of all people by a Trade Unionist, to refer to people as working-class people. All of us, I think, who earn a living by working for ourselves or with a salary or whatever are working-class people. If you want to say middle income people, or lower middle income or upper income, I think that is the classical way of describing them, but not working class, because you are fooling people that when they reach the top then all they have to do is to wear designer clothes, come to work at 9 o'clock, go home at 12.00 for lunch, come back at 3.00 and say goodbye at half past three and you are a big shot. I would like to see that changed.

I was also horrified to hear the tourist industry referred to as a bell hop and maid industry. I wonder if the ones who said it know that our competition in the Caribbean, and fellow Commonwealth countries, have a subject from primary education known as tourism.
3.25 p.m.

The two countries that have it are showing improvements in excess of 14% per year. Again, if you drive around Barbados and see how the people who work in the tourist industry live, the standard, I mean as against many others. I know for a fact that at least six houses

in Sandy Lane have been remodelled, that is the word they used, in the last year, and the cheapest is US$700 000 000 as a contract. Now you tell me that that kind of money coming into this country and employing people and goods is an industry that should be despised and called a maid and bell hop industry? I find that hard to believe.

I would like to address Senator Clarke's remarks, Sir. He did take tremendous pains to make his point and I am not criticising it as to the profitability and the increase or sometimes decrease in the total turn over of certain big companies in town. He also got criticised on the Floor for being part and parcel of a Government that was encouraging big business and killing small people.

I wonder if anybody in here has read a paper in the last six months about a place called Plantations Limited. That is a real small one! Only the second largest in the Island. It has gone through the eddoes. So Dr. Clarke has a responsibility to the shareholders. I was particularly disappointed when he made reference to economic democracy and the absence of it and how he described it quite incredibly.

The strides made in this country since 1945 in economic democracy must be unequalled in any country in the world, except possibly Singapore. The strides made in this country in jealousy are without match. Totally without match when you can tell me that what is popularly referred to in the Caribbean today as a poor black man or an Afro-Barbadian cannot make economic advancement. God help the person who ever refers to me as a Euro-Barbadian. I will tell them about their genealogy.

How come a black Barbadian can start a business here 10 years ago and through one building in Bridgetown do an excess of $100 million in business per annum – no ill reference to Senator Bellamy although he is not here – and exceed A.S. Brydens with a turn over per annum as Senator Clarke told us of $82 million in over 50 years of operation. If that is not economic democracy I would like to know what is.

Of course, the cocktail circuit, the gossip mongers and everything else will say, "Who is behind it? How is he doing it?" All sorts of dirty aspersions. But what they don't realise is that when they are sleeping he is working. I say that that is a role model to be held up to Barbadians.

Mr. President, a year ago the Government wisely, sensibly saw fit to go public with this company which from 1983 had a tremendously attractive record with its shares so as to broaden the base of shareholdership in the Island. Twenty per cent of the shares that were put up for sale sold and the majority of them were sold to Barbadians overseas. The dividends to be paid this year are up 80% over last year. Barbadians did not take any part of it. What more can we do? Why was the opportunity to invest in Barbados lost. Who is to blame?

Dr. Clarke said there was no economic democracy because he could not get shares in the big companies. Well, my broker arranged to buy $27 000 in BS&T only this week. There is economic democracy in our country. There is a stock exchange. People must be educated to use it and exercise their rights.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Mr. President, nowhere, no time, no place did I ever say that there was no economic democracy because I could not get shares in big companies. I believe in this Chamber, during this very sitting, I told another Senator that I do not use the term big business. It is not in my vocabulary. I have other ways of describing them.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Sorry, Sir. I said big companies not big business. Anyhow, I just want to demonstrate my feeling that this country has come a long way and there are opportunities out there for it to happen provided people are prepared to work and take risks.

I would like to say a couple of words on Head 19: Finance, although it is with tremendous trepidation. I am not going in for any figures because I think Senator Bellamy handled that. I would like to go on record as congratulating the Minister of Finance in coming out publicly and saying that the Government is tightening its belt and I hope the example is taken by everybody.

I heard in here tremendous criticism levelled at the Government for selling the so-called heirlooms, family silvers or whatever you would like to call them. My description of family silvers are the people of Barbados and the elderly especially. That is my idea of family silvers. Not businesses and statutory boards that are losing millions of dollars, year after year after year, and then a Government coming and taxing poor pensioners to put $18 million in this and $10 million in that and $11 million in the other because those that are managing the particular government businesses are doing it inadequately.

Senator Harcourt Lewis made reference which I have heard in here many a time that he has no time for those people in the public service who don't pull their weight. I hope that Minister Thompson addresses them in a big way. What does this Government want money-losing affairs for? To employ people to lose money and then to tax the same people and not be able to support the old people? Incredible!

3.35 p.m.

Sir, with all due respect, Senator Dr. Clarke, I think it was he, who made much reference to the improvement in the funds spent in the Geriatric Hospital. Let me tell you. Forget the trading part of the BADMC. If I had in my personal possession the amount of shrinkages that have taken place in the BMC over the last 20 years, not a man in the world could get me to turn another stroke of work and you tell me we will have to give more money to the Geriatric Hospital? Give it to them in the form of a pension so that they can support themselves and stop the squandering of money. The welfare state is the state that will make poor people poorer. Look in Russia and Bucharest when the same Ceausescu got shot and see what you call poor people. That is what a welfare state does for them. Look at the gold palace he was living in. Bucharest and Ceausescu had a welfare state. Anybody ever seen the pictures of the thousands of suffering children? I hope to God that the Government or any Government of Barbados does not take it seriously.

While you are at it, Senator Clarke, I would like to know...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Address the Chair, please. Do not address Senator Clarke.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Sir, if you were bragging about the good climate you were creating for business to make good profits, congratulations if you did. But I would like to ask this Honourable House if Senator Dr. Clarke could tell us in his response the reasons for the Central Bank making less profit than it made the year before. Was there wastage because of carelessness and a badly run institution?

Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne I want you, with the President's permission, to take what I am saying in the spirit in which it is said. How can you possibly tell me after Senator Fraser made such excellent remarks about agriculture, that this Government has not got $120 000 to give the Barbados Agricultural Society which in my opinion is doing, and was always doing an excellent job. It has not got money to put gas in the vehicles of the inseminators that go through this country to inseminate cattle for the small farmers. It has not got money, not to buy the vehicle, it was given to them but to put gas in it. If they do over a certain amount of miles per month they have to remain home because they do not get anymore allowance; and I picked up a paper and read about the amount of money that one Austrian named Matheison gone with out of this country! I do not know if I can be prosecuted. I can be guided by you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That really is not relevant.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Sir, let me give you a classic example of what is happening in this country. If a poor man goes into a store in town, takes up a shirt or pants, goes in somebody's yard and picks a mango, breadfruit and I can tell Senator Fraser that maybe a lot of people do not plant those fruit trees that they carry home from fairs because they are frightened that one of these days they might bring themselves in trouble with who is coming in to take off the fruit when they grow. Will they not be prosecuted? Can you honestly tell me that that man goes before a Magistrate and if one of our learned lawyers is not good enough to get him off he will be jailed or fined.

I believe I have to place this as a document of the House – I have here in the High Court of Justice, Civil Division of a matter of a company going into receivership. Let me read it to you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are prepared to make this a document of the House?

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Yes, Sir. This is a judgement...

Mr. PRESIDENT: But I must point out that matters which are *sub judice* cannot be the subject of a debate. That is in accordance with the Standing Orders.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Sir, it is my understanding that this was over ever since.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The case which you are referring to?

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Yes, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh I see. Thank you. All right.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS:

"Chemical Industries Ltd. $17 923 plus interest at the rate of 8%.

C. O. Williams Asphalt and Quarries $89 080.35 plus interest.

National Insurance Board $1 130 703.50."

You want to tell me, Sir, that a company in this country – I do not think that McCarthyism should be started in this country where people are pilloried and hounded. But can you honestly tell me that a company can owe $1 million before somebody in the National Insurance can pick up the fact that they are trading? I am not finished, Sir.

"National Insurance Board $495 046.83.
National Insurance $76 256.27.
Commissioner of Inland Revenue $13 660.79.
Commissioner of Inland Revenue $725 556.55.
Commissioner of Inland Revenue $43 448.02."

If that is not a couple of million dollars I do not know, Sir. You tell me that Government needs to run more businesses? I say to you, Sir, that they had better follow the example of Singapore.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, on a point of order. Through you would the Senator enlighten this House on the source of the document?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think he did when he started.

*Aside.*

Mr. PRESIDENT: You did not? All right. Will you please do so. I thought you had.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: You are telling me I must do so, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes. It will have to be made a document of the House as I said, anyway.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS:

> "In the matter of the property comprised in the debenture dated March 4, 1977 made between R. M. Construction & Quarries Ltd. and the Mortgagor of the one part and the Royal Bank of Canada as Mortgagee on the other part. And in the matter of the Property Act, Cap. 236, in the matter of the Companies Act, Cap. 208, of the Laws of Barbados, R. M. Construction and Quarries Ltd. in receivership and Royal Bank of Canada Defendant. R. M. Construction Plaintiff."

I want to ask you, Sir, if there is any Senator in here that can tell me if due diligence has been exercised in recovering these monies. And what is the status of such?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Alleyne, I take it you are on a point of order.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Yes, on a point of order, Sir. I believe that the Senator has the responsibility to give this House the entire picture. To the best of my knowledge the National Insurance Board has taken action in the Courts of Barbados. I need say no more in respect to this particular matter.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I thank you tremendously. That is the question I asked. I would not know that. But suffice it to say that serious investigation needs to take place. Who bought the company when it went into receivership? For how much? For how much more than other people offered? Who is running it today? These are funds that belong to the poor pensioners of Barbados. These are funds that people paid in. National Insurance as far as I know is what people pay in. PAYE is what you take out of people's salaries.

Mr. PRESIDENT: PAYE is different from National Insurance. Therefore it is cash you hold for he who pays. 3.45 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I understand what you are saying but they are deducted.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: We do not want any more business. I asked Senator Clarke yesterday for a clarification, having made the point that our wages bill in the Government of Barbados is $400 000 000 and our total revenues per annum is $1 billion. Mr. Senator you are probably one of the most experienced businessmen in here. You tell me which business you know except very, very high intensive labour businesses can operate successfully with 40% of their total revenue going to wages.

Mr. PRESIDENT: How do you manage that?

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: I do not know, Sir. I would like to ask what is the norm amongst countries of the world, what part of their total revenue is taken up in labour cost? Did you ask me something, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I asked how do you manage that?

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: I am again delighted to hear from the Ministry of Finance that tourism is at last acknowledged as the engine for growth. I do share the view of all that said it – Senator Barker was the first – that agriculture is tremendously important to this country.

Sir, I should like to touch a little bit on agriculture. I think that is Head 25 and along with agriculture on Head 42 because they have an interconnection which is transport and so forth. Much has been said in here today about water and the water woes. Senator Margaret Walcott's ideas I thought were excellent. I through you beg Senator Harcourt Lewis to rethink the idea of making the establishment of holding tanks a deductible item. Much reference has been made to holding tanks to irrigate. But holding tanks can do everything in a household except drink. It can wash the car. It can wash the dishes. You can bathe with it. All the rest of countries do it.

But I want to get back to my main point. My main point is, and reference was made to it by Senator Erskine Simmons about what happened in the old time days. Mr. President, we do not want any million dollars spending

in a consultant. We want a $1 million spending in remedial work that was started by a gentleman called Mr. Errol Barrow and his Government and continued by a gentleman called Mr. Tom Adams and his Government.

I do not know if you know, Sir, but from right after Independence when, I think, the first study was done a recommendation was made and the work was carried out in mainly the gullies leading to the Constitution River to cut annexes in the gullies until fissures were found and then to build weirs across the gullies to trap the water and lead it into the annex. I do not know how energetic you are, Sir, but I would like to carry you one of these mornings through the ones going from Belle as far as Exchange and show you that 95% of those annexes are choked solid. No water goes into them anymore. They are not serviced. The burns have been totally or almost totally destroyed. I never knew about it, Sir, until I was bidding the ABC Highway and I had to walk through the gullies and I asked what are these things?

Let me back up a little bit. The old time foolish planters who get all the criticism and some they earned but they were not as foolish as we thought. We had a method here of cultivation with cane holes which kept the water and it leaked through slowly. Every farm or estate as it is known had a well at the end of every gully. Every 3 or 4 years every well was cleaned out. You had 2 methods of collecting water, in the cane hole and in the well. They made sure that it got back into the system. We had to do away with cane holes and we went to furrowing which means that the water runs twice as fast. It goes to the well. There is not any well cleaning that has been done in this island in the last 10 years since 1981. The farming community has not been able to clean them out because of economic reasons.

I will never forget, as long as I live, that I was a young contractor and I got the job to move the earth to prepare Durants Golf Course. The first thing the unknowledgeable Welch carpenter then supposed to be supervisor told me to do was to fill up 5 wells down at the bottom of Durants that used to flood then. I went and told the then Sir Kenneth Hunte that I thought it was madness and he went back and told the supervisor from Miller Buckeley and I got chased off the job the following day.

I happen to run some farms in the St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. James district. In the rainy season those areas run 15, 20 feet of water right across the gully. And you know what happens in Speightstown. Dr. Erskine Simmons put his hand on the second half of the problem. If the same annexes were put into those gullies and the one that was existing that was put in by 2 former Administrations were cleaned I guarantee that you would see such a improvement in the water table at Belle that it would be unmanageable. The study is there to show you. It is in Government's hands and it was put into practice. We do not have water because we are not caring what we have.

I go back to one other point, Sir, in respect of the inability of the people employed by Government failing to collect what is rightfully due to the Government. I am of the opinion and I state it clearly that if everything that was due to Government – according to the Laws of this country – was collected in an expedient manner that our taxes would drop immediately and our pensioners could get the whole pension to take home.

It is my estimation that 30% or more per cent of the vehicles travelling the roads of this country are neither licensed nor insured should they not be made to pay their just dues?

Mr. PRESIDENT: What gives you that impression, Senator Williams?

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Sir, 18 months ago a very good friend of mine was struck by a vehicle, broke his leg, his hip, his pelvis and spent 16 months on a bed and in crutches, went back to work and was told immediately that he was unable to carry out his work, given his gratuity and sent home. The offending person was prosecuted. They did not have a valid driver's licence. They did not have insurance. The car had not been licensed for 4 years. The driver was duly charged for them. He was also charged for driving negligently – 5 charges. That person pleaded not guilty, was asked if he had a lawyer. He said no. He was told to get one and come back. The following month he pleaded guilty and he was reprimanded and discharged. What does that tell a policeman he should do? People all over this country are jumping up and down on the policemen. How much could it cost to put 8 policemen every day, like used to happen, on the ABC Highway and check every motor car and vehicle in Barbados. They used to be in Waterford Bottom. Sir, the vehicle that killed ...
3.55 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I did not hear you so well.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Sorry, Sir. I am telling you from practical experience, Sir, because I am in the business.

Mr. President, I want Mr. Thompson, as Minister of Finance to make sure that an educational programme in the collection of what is owed to Barbados' Government is instituted and practised. And as I said, I do not want to start McCarthyism around here, just simple things like paying taxes, paying what you collect from people, paying to drive on the roads that cost money, it be paid.

I will say a little on agriculture, Sir. I wonder if I missed it or if there is still any intention of building an abattoir for the agricultural industry, the cattle industry, and I wonder if I could make the suggestion that an abattoir be set up on the same basis as the Pine Hill Dairy which I considered to be excellent. Bring in foreign firms and give 25% to them, 25% to the populace, 25% to the people who will market the products and 25% to the butchers and set it up for us in Barbados and leave it for us to run.

Sir, I also ask why it is that we are having tremendous excess of milk because of reduced purchasing power and our children are still given imported substandard powdered milk? We have tried every way possible, maybe through you and the Ministers you can get it.

Mr. President, the Pine Hill Dairy is prepared to look at creating a special item for school children and reducing the price.

Senator Cole forgot to mention one of the tremendous benefits to the cruise industry and that is the restocking of the boats with food items when they come through Barbados. I am happy to say that the Pine Hill Dairy is now supplying 80% of the cruise ships with their milk and milk products. They have been able at last, after much frustration, to get into the export market to Canada and the United States of America but we were held up for 118 months because of labelling problems. As you know, Sir, there are many more ways for skinning a cat than one.

I get to my final point, Sir. The so-called level playing field because I saw a piece in today's papers which surprised me a little bit and you may hear rumours around the place, Sir. Sir, if I go to bid for a job tomorrow in my own country which is Barbados, although some do not believe it, and the money comes from IADB, CDB, EEC or EDF or BDB, I have got to face international competition. Every hotel in this country has to face international competition and the small hoteliers have to compete with no lesser a hotel chain than the Hilton, Trust Houses Forte, Windham.

Every little manufacturer is being told and thankfully good sense will prevail and the raw material duties are coming off but every manufacturer in Barbados, big and small, has to compete with the open market, both regional and extra-regional. Sherbourne is not built locally. We lost the bid for steel because we were told that we could not produce it in time. We had the right cost but could not produce it in time. I do not have to say anymore but you know it is not finished yet.

I am getting to my point, Sir. All of those folks that Senator Fraser was referring to, and I congratulate her and I think she is right, have to compete with Japan, China, Taiwan and other places. I have to compete with the Chinese Communist Government arm of construction that pay the people a pittance of what we pay ours. I see an ominous move now, Sir, I hear rattlings about those people that buy and sell not wanting to have competition from outside and I hope our Government does not listen to it. I will give you an example, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think our Government would want to listen to rumours.

SENATOR C. O. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Sir. I do not have an undeniable right not to face competition. I do not see why they should. I can tell you something. I travelled around Barbados yesterday with certain people. I went into two stores and bought two lunch boxes that primary children take to school. One was $29.95 and the other one was $26.30 approximately. The same type, Sir, but the ironic part was that one of the gentlemen showed me his sales brochure. He pays US50 cents for it in the States and sells it for US85 cents. Did you hear what I said, Sir? $29.95 and he showed me where he paid 50 cents for the identical box in the United States of America. It comes from Taiwan or China. I seriously hope that the playing field is levelled for all Barbadians. I hope that nothing is done to obstruct competition in this country, Sir, because I have got to face it. Some of these same companies that are developing this plan of concerned citizens have businesses in other countries. So they want to travel and make money in other people's country but do not want anybody to go on their doorstep.
4.05 p.m.

Sir, I see a lot of ways that we could be more efficient. I think we should be more efficient in collecting what is ours without indulging in McCarthyism. When I say that, I mean in carrying it too far. There is no reason when a company collects NIS for people that they cannot claim. What is going to happen to those poor people when their names are not at the NIS if they take sick? I congratulate in getting rid of the incorrectly labelled family silvers and heirlooms and paying more attention to what I consider the family silvers and heirlooms and that is the people who helped put this country where it is today and who are no longer able to work. They to me are the life-blood of what we today enjoy.

With those words, Sir, I congratulate who prepared it and I support it.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Sir, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for 30 minutes.

*The question that the Senate be suspended for 30 minutes was put to the Senate and agreed to.*
4.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed. Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, we have listened to the debates...

*Aside.*

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Are you speaking? I am winding up.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. But Senator Barker-Welch had indicated that she wanted to speak...Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. President. We have listened to the debates and to the contributions from the various Senators. The consensus appears to me that there has been general agreement and support for the Appropriation Bill which is before us. There are just a few comments that I would like to make. I would like to congratulate Senator Phillips and Minister Lewis for the sterling contributions which they made in the debate. I believe that it was Senator Cole who touched on Head 43 – Tourism and International Transport and suggested that the all-inclusive type of hotel accommodation tends to regiment the tourists. Mr. President, I do believe that we in Barbados as we seek to promote tourism must recognize that the tourism product is not a homogeneous one and that in Barbados we have to accommodate the various types of tourism that we have. The all-inclusive to the extent that that type of accommodation is not in Barbados will attract its own clientele to the detriment of Barbados. However, all-inclusives within Barbados will have to fire cooks, restaurant staff, beverage managers, maids and the like to cater to the tourists once they come to Barbados. Even if transportation is put on by that very hotel, you will still need to find a driver and the service of that vehicle will take place here. So at the end of the day there is value added to be earned in the terms of foreign exchange and also employment opportunities from all-inclusive operations.

I do believe that it was Senator Cole who pointed out the benefits which could be derived from the cruise line passengers and we should do all in our power to capitalize on that source of potential long-term visitors. Here it is we have in our own midst people coming to Barbados and getting a feel for the country and I believe at this point in time we are not doing sufficient to convert that cruise line passenger into a long stay visitor. I am heartened to hear of the benefits which we are currently getting in terms of the provisioning of ships by the Pine Hill Dairy and I am hopeful that more business in Barbados will find opportunities through horticulture and other agricultural products and other services to develop them so that they can be sold to these ships as they come calling on our shores.

I believe that it was Senator the Venerable Archdeacon Springer who alluded to the absence of a training vote for Summervale and Dodds. All training in Government takes place under the auspices of the Government Training Division and any training that is anticipated and scheduled for the faculty of those institutions will be made available through the centralized Government Training Division. The reason for this is quite simple because training is centralized because when individuals in the different Ministries go off and do their own training at times it is not possible to determine the level of training and how the beneficiary of that training should be graded and it presents anomalies within the Service. It is an attempt to avoid at source such anomalies that training is centralised so that the course could be evaluated and the person, upon completion of the course, could determine what sort of increments, if any, they should get in terms of their own job.
4.50 p.m.

Senator Williams in his summation stated that significant strides have been made towards economic democracy in this country. I stand by my earlier assertion that opportunities to participate fully in the economic life of this country are not fully and readily available. I believe Senator Williams offered us as an example of the type of shares which are available, shares from Plantations Limited, but I hasten to add that this is one company that has gone into receivership. I do agree with him, to the extent that those shares were already on the market and anybody who bought shares in Plantations Limited now finds that company in receivership. There were other shares available on the market and those shares also came from a company by the name of Barbados Agro-Industries, which is also in receivership or now defunct. So I am saying that when shares appear on the market and are readily available, beware! To date the shares which are made available are not shares in companies which are the strongest economically or financially. They are marginal companies where holders are trying to leave the boat and are then making these shares available.

He also enquired into the reason for the fall in the Central Bank's profits. We in this Chamber over and over have heard the call for Government to cease and desist from borrowing from the Central Bank, because it has been said that when the Government borrows from the Central Bank it creates money. I have stated and I will continue

to state that this is only true, and will only be true, to the extent that there is no excess liquidity in the system. To the extent that there is excess liquidity in the system, that is where the commercial banks are not fully loaned up, the borrowing between the Central Bank and the commercial banks in terms of the effect on the economy makes no difference. The only difference it will make is that if you borrow from the Central Bank the earnings will remain in Barbados, but if you borrow from the commercial banks, and the commercial banks are foreign owned, at the end of the day you have to find the foreign exchange to allow them to repatriate the profits.

I think it is erroneous to argue that borrowing from the Central Bank it is high powered money and borrowing from the commercial banks it is not high powered money and herein lies the difference. What is not said at this point is whether or not there is excess liquidity in the system. If there is indeed excess liquidity in the system, the impact on the economy is no different whether we borrow from the Central Bank or from the commercial banks, and in a country like Barbados where most of the commercial banks are foreign owned and those commercial banks lend to the Government for borrowing, then those profits at the end of the year will then be repatriated. So here is the Government borrowing the savings of Barbadians who have saved in an attempt to make investments and now must pay a premium on Barbadian blood, sweat and labour in the terms of profits to the parents of these foreign owned commercial banks. So the reason for the fall off in profits in the Central Bank of Barbados is not due to bad management or anything of the sort but rather the reduction or the decline in the use of the borrowing window at the Central Bank of Barbados by the Government of Barbados.

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.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Appropriation Act, 1994.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we have had somewhat of an anti-climax after the tea break. We have cleared the Order Paper, as far as I am aware, but I am also privy to information regarding some legislation which should pass the Other Place within the coming week, and I now move that this Senate be adjourned until Wednesday, 6th April at 11.00 a.m.

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

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