
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

SENATE

Friday, October 28, 1994

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Friday, October 28, 1994, at 12.15 p.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator F. W. GOLLOP, (President)

His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, (Deputy President)

Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY (Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Honourable P. C. GODDARD (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business)

Senator the Honourable G. S. H. MURRAY (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE

Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS

Senator D. T. GILL

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator P. S. BERNSTEIN

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. SPRINGER, G.C.M.

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator C. A. MASCOLL

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay before this Honourable Senate the following document:

Annual Reports of Her Majesty's Prisons for the years 1990, 1991 and 1992.

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Report of the Committee of Selection which was laid before the Chamber at its last sitting was deferred until this sitting. I now move that the Report of the Committee of Selection be adopted.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Bills be introduced before this Chamber and taken as read:

A Bill to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, Cap 116.

The Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited (Sugar Bonds) (Guarantee) Bill, 1994.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Public Business is the instant Order of the day.

ORDER NO. 1 – THE MAGISTRATES JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1994

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the first matter before us, a Bill to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, Cap. 116, is an important and necessary move. The Bill seeks to allow for the summary trial of certain offences which have been created under that Act.

You will recall, Sir, that the Theft Act, 1992, the Criminal Damages Act, 1992, the Criminal Law (Arrestable Offences) Act, 1992 and the Offences Against the Person Act, 1994 have been proclaimed in recent times. The Theft Act itself replaces the well known and well established Larceny Act. The provisions of the Theft Act, as it was drafted, provided for matters involving dishonesty, particularly what we can consider to be some small scale larceny, to be indictable offences.

You will agree, Sir, that the court system, as it is, is already somewhat overburdened and the attorneys-at-law in the Chamber will be able to confirm the long delay sometimes experienced in obtaining court dates, particularly in the High Court. Were this Act to be allowed to continue in its present form it would mean that offences such as the larceny of an ear of corn or a tin of evaporated milk could end up, rather than being summarily tried by a Magistrate, being referred to a Justice of the Supreme Court and for ultimate decision by a jury of the peers. This would result in unnecessary delay in the administration of justice.

This Bill seeks, Sir, to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act in such a manner as would allow for the summary trial of offences of particular types and not exceeding a particular value. Specifically in the Bill Clause 2 would repeal Sections 36 to 42 of Cap. 116 and substitute the necessary provisions which would allow for a summary trial. As a result of that, Clauses 3 and 4 make additional changes which are necessary to Sections 43 and 44 of Cap. 116. The other important Section, Clause 5 would repeal and replace the Second Schedule of Cap. 116.

12.25 p.m.

Clause 6, Sir, would seek to give retroactive effect so that the Acts will be deemed to have come into operation on the first day of September, 1994. I am advised by the Honourable Attorney General that this particular step is necessary in order to correct some of the actions which would have taken place under the Acts which would be relevant during September. So that we would not – although we have made the amendments – have persons who have stolen a tin of evaporated milk on September 13 appearing before the Supreme Court somewhere in September next year to face a trial on that count.

The Schedule to the Act seeks to list the indictable offences which may be subject to summary trial. These offences, just to highlight some of them, include matters such as offences at Common Law, public nuisance, fraudulent opening of mail and matters relating to other postal fraud, making false representation; matters relating to the Coinage Offences Act, matters relating to forgery; items under the Theft Act, 1992, such as robbery, burglary and so on; matters under the Criminal Damages Act, 1992 such as threats to destroy or damage property, possessing anything with intent to destroy or damage property; matters such as the Criminal Law (Arrestable Offences) Act, 1992; matters under the provisions of the Offence Against the Persons Act such as threats to kill.

Included in that Schedule, Sir, are matters falling under the Perjury Act, Cap. 142, with the exception of Sections 3, 5 and 6 of that said Act relating to perjury in judiciary proceedings, false statements, for example, with reference to marriage, others with reference to birth and other such details. Also, Sir, Offences under the Statistics Act, the Electric Light and Power Act amongst several others.

Sir, another important aspect of the amendment seeks to set the assigned value as a limiting... for those matters which by their definition fall within the Schedule. A value is assigned to determine which matters can still be committed to the High Court.

In clause 2, an important point there is that theft of property not exceeding \$1 500 is allowed for summary trial. In the case of robbery, Sir, the appropriate fine on conviction there would be \$2 500 or imprisonment up to a term of 2 years. The values and penalties relating to handling of stolen property are quite similar.

Basically, Sir, this matter is intended to bring some sense of order and rationality to the administration of justice; but you will appreciate that this is only but part of what needs to be done. The Attorney General is currently examining a new Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act but that Bill would, as you would expect, be required to go through the various phases of consultation and fine tuning. The Act itself is very large and we would not want to be placed in a position where in order to correct an

anomaly which had been manifested in the manner which I described earlier. We would not want to be forced to rush through the new Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act.

The amendment that we are introducing today to the old Act is one which we hope will allow for the smooth functioning of the criminal justice system in the interim while we are in the process of working the entire Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act.

I do beg, Sir, that this Bill be read now a second time.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Good afternoon, Mr. President, I rise in support of the Bill before us. In the same way that I am not a politician, I am not a lawyer, but I would address that later. My concern here is really under the Statistics Act and I am a little concerned even though we have not had a situation in Barbados before where we have had to deal with insider trading. An issue of that type might very well arise and may be considered to be an issue related to the question of statistics and may very well fall under the purview of the Statistics Act.

Even though that particular occurrence may seem to be trivial, I have no doubt that the legal aspects of that case will not be trivial and therefore, in that context, I am asking whether or not consideration has been given to any such occurrence in Barbados. We have not yet had to deal with it because we have not yet developed a sophisticated financial market or even a very well structured environment for all kinds of business. We remain in part or *in toto* retailers, as will be demonstrated later as well.

I am asking the question on this particular issue because I believe in anticipating difficulties rather than simply waiting until something occurs. We should seek in every respect to address issues which we can fairly safely predict may occur at some point in time.

Although I support the Bill, I am asking for clarification as to whether or not such an issue can be effectively dealt with under this Bill, given the nature of it. Although it appears in principle or at first to be a very minor issue, to my mind, it will be considered a major issue in a court of law.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I did not intend to speak so soon on my first occasion in this Honourable Chamber. I would wish to take the opportunity in being here to congratulate you, Sir, on your just elevation to this position of Leader of this very distinguished body of Senators and pledge you my total and wholehearted support.

I wish in the matter of the Bill before us to lend my support to it and I would wish at the same time to make

some observations which I would hope the Minister would be so kind as to on-pass to the Honourable the Attorney General for the general concerns we all have regarding the administration of justice.

12.35 p.m.

I agree with the Honourable Minister who is piloting this legislation that our court systems in this country are terribly overburdened and that is not necessarily a factor of the level of crime although I think we have to accept that there is some element of an increase in the level of crime that is there and that we would all need to be concerned about the level of crime, much of it being petty crime, which should have been addressed quite some time already. Much of it though would have as well, Sir, to do with the fact that the methodologies which are engaged in the system, methodologies which lend themselves to constant delays, postponements and repeals.

I would wish to make the point, which I am sure all other Honourable Senators will accept, that constant delays and postponements of any matters that have to do with justice would, in my view, have to do with justice which is being either denied or being frustrated and that every effort must be made by all those who are leaders in this community whether it is within the framework of the legal system or outside of the framework, all of us must concern ourselves with the debilitating effects such delays will have on the body of our citizenry and the implications this might have for the proper administration of justice.

I would wish to say, Sir, that in my view the administration of justice will have to do much with the laws which are enacted in the Other Place and in this Honourable Chamber from time to time. It will have to do as well with the penal systems which are now in place and which we might seek to put in place from time to time as we endeavour to look towards the development of our community. It will have to do as well with the rehabilitation programmes which we might seek to put in place so that we do not accept or consider that all of those malefactors which they are in our community are "criminals". It will have to do as well with the facilities in which malefactors live and serve their terms of punishment to the community.

I would not think that I would have the same competence as one or two other persons in this Chamber, including your Honourable self, Sir, to speak regarding the matter of the laws enacted, and I would not wish to speak too much to the matter of the penal systems that have been enacted, or that we currently have in place, given my willingness and anxiety to follow the Leader of the Senate in terms of brevity and presentation but I would wish to make some remarks regarding the rehabilitation programmes which I think are necessary if we are going to properly treat the matter of the administration of justice as suggested by the Honourable Minister.

I would wish as well to speak to the matter of facilities not only as they relate to the matter of the conditions under which malefactors have to serve out their sentences but in regard to the implications this may also have for those persons who assist in the administration of justice because they have to work in either helping in the training or just in the sustaining and retraining, I may even wish to say, of malefactors.

The Honourable Attorney General knows, we have already said this to him, that we would want to see in any rehabilitation programme a much concerted effort than has been taken before now, and I accept that efforts have been taken, to separate malefactors from criminals. Although there has been some suggestion before now that there might be a need to separate on the basis of age, we are progressively having to come to grips with the reality of the fact that age, in the area of wrongdoing, is not necessarily a good separator.

In fact, if we are to be governed by what is happening outside of our own country and we were to take the CNN news which constantly comes into our own front rooms now and zero in on places like Russia, we would be very alarmed to notice that people who are pre-teens seem already to have set themselves on what seems to be lucrative lives of criminality. It seems to me that a young person in that situation who is 10, 11 or 12 might have very much that he or she can teach somebody who is 19 or 20 who may only have committed an offence out of ignorance or out of the adversities of the environment at the time.

I would like to suggest that we put in place a psychiatric and/or psychological testing and support system which would endeavour to separate persons for the application of a penal system based not necessarily on the youth or their age but rather based on the criminal record which they may have or the criminal inclinations which the testers might recognise within the psyche of those individuals.

In fact, what I am suggesting, Mr. President, is that we do not take a person who has committed an offence for the first time, maybe the second time, but who is clearly not a criminal and subject that person to the difficulties of a criminal community purely because the person has passed some magic age that takes that individual away from one centre for correction to another centre for correction or to another centre for punishment. I would believe that that kind of approach to our future corrective mechanisms will be a step in the right direction.

I am also of the view, Mr. President, that to a very great extent where a person lives, however temporarily, impacts very significantly on how a person behaves. If you were to take a person from his or her home, however modest that home may be, and you were to subject that

person to living conditions in another environment which is less than the person's home environment and less than human environmental circumstances, that person whatever rehabilitation you try to do, is not going to become a better person but is going to become a very much worse person.

I think, therefore, Mr. President, that we have to make a greater effort than is being made hitherto to ensure that the conditions under which malefactors have to live and serve their terms are conditions which are improved. I speak to the physical environment. I speak to the environment that relates to whatever programmes there are for treating not just the physical person but treating the psychological person as well. I think it is very important that we endeavour to do that.

To a very great extent I believe that the statements reportedly attributed to the Chief Justice some time ago are statements that are very timely where the suggestion was made that all those persons who are responsible for the administration of justice should from time to time visit at correction centres so that they may be able to have a first-hand experience of exactly what transpires there.

I have from time to time visited Her Majesty's Prisons only very temporarily and to visit for a very short time, Mr. President, and always in a position where I could walk when I chose to. Each time I have gone there I have left a very saddened and chastened person because I have been terribly set back by the amenities which I recognise that persons who are there have to exist under however bad they maybe as individuals in our perception. I am suggesting that those conditions can very well have the effect of making criminals out of persons who have only been malefactors.

I wish to suggest as well, Sir, that it is very necessary for us, especially in addressing the matter of those malefactors who have served their sentences and paid their debts to society, that they be given an opportunity to be reabsorbed into the community. This is an appeal which, using your good offices, Sir, I make to the country as a whole because I find in my own profession regrettably that I come across several persons who when once they have served their debt to this society, find that the society has stigmatised them, has turned against them and no longer wants to give them an opportunity to live and contribute.
12.45 p.m.

And they go and offer themselves for the job. They get the job and within a matter of days the owner of that establishment or the manager of that establishment gets a telephone call, perhaps, hears that the person has served some time in a correction centre and terminates the individual on those grounds alone.

I accept that there will be some occasions where, because of the nature of the reported crime that people will

be a little reluctant to employ the individual, especially in situations like the ones we are dealing with today, where the crime may be one of theft or where there can be no proper trust that could be put in the individual. But I am suggesting that the level of societal dismissal does not stop in those areas but it goes to every one who has got to serve time in that place even though sometimes we ourselves in similar situations might have been even more guilty than the persons in what we would have done in our responses. And since we are all West Indians, warm-blooded, I need not give examples of the kinds of occasions when our rationality might leave us.

I say, Sir, that is unfair and unreasonable and that whatever Governments we will have from time to time, Governments might have and will have to stand very much by their responsibility as the employer in the last resort and must maintain a provision for employment of those individuals where the private sector may not have the will or may not consider that it has the capacity to engage such individuals. But there must be the possibility for those persons to be saved from becoming full criminals purely because they have made one mistake in their lives and what they really need very often is a hand up and not necessarily a handout.

I wish to go beyond this, Sir, to suggest that in our administration within our justice system, an improved system, we have to look towards means by which we communicate with those persons who have been malefactors, not from a position of patronage or a position that makes people believe that we are looking down our noses on them, but rather from a position of empathy and understanding which may really have the effect of bringing people around with us so that they may change their life styles.

Where young people are involved, and I give this as an example, I feel, and my colleagues with me in the Labour Movement feel, that what we need very often as counsellors and advisers to young persons who have been guilty of misdemeanours is not a cadre of persons whose life experience takes them far beyond the capacity of the younger generation to understand them but rather we need other young people who can speak their language.

This Honourable Institution does not permit me to give you examples of the new kind of language which is used, so you must forgive me if I do not share those examples with you but I am sure that in another place at another time I might be able to give you some understanding with appropriate translations.

Because of my saying that there is a need for translations you will understand that if you are going to deal with the young people then you have to be able to start from a position where those young people understand

you. And you cannot do that by imposing people who have different backgrounds from different centuries or different decades and seek to impose those different decades and different time spans on a current time span as we may have today.

I am not suggesting that old people are to be shut away. I hope people do not misunderstand me because I am at that age myself where people consider me to be old and I would like to believe that one is only just as old as one feels so today I am a little younger than I was yesterday.

Mr. President, we have to make a very specific effort to address those people whom we are trying to correct at the level where they are rather than at the level where we want them to be. And we have to take through what they know to what we want them to know. If we can do that I would believe that we are doing much in the process towards the administration of justice.

I would wish to pause at this stage, Sir, if I may put it that way, not because there is much more that could be said to the subject but because I know that much has already been said and I do not wish merely to be saying things that others have said, either in the press or in other places, that is within the public knowledge. I wish instead that we are able, using this forum, to bring some fresh ideas on which those people responsible for the administration of justice may be able to breathe and which may assist them in preparing a system, not only that will punish, but a system that will speak to the minds of our community in such a way that at the end of the day all parties, those who work within the system and those who have to be punished within the system, can find that we are looking to their well being and to their improvement. I am obliged to you, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I would like to lend my contribution to the amendments which have been placed before this Chamber. I would like to congratulate the Attorney General on the foresight and the swiftness with which he has been able to get this document in this place.

While I do not want to criticise the framers of the Theft Act I tend to believe that in looking at sentences they tried to take us back to the long days of criminal activities in England. I do not know if they believe that Barbados has reached the stage of criminal offences that existed in England at the time. Because those of you who remember your English history will know that because of the level of sentences before Courts for felonies in those days, any offence which involved a value of over a shilling was deemed to be a felony and felonies could only be tried at Assizes where the penalty was to be beheaded or to be exported to Australia, New Zealand, Barbados.

If you look at the Theft Act, what the framer of the Theft Act did was to impose penalties ranging from 10 to 15 years for the offences which the amendment is now dealing with, which meant that these matters could not be tried before the Magistrates Court and the situation arose that from the time the Theft Act came into operation, Magistrates found themselves with persons who came before them charged with simple shoplifting of a cake of soap or things like this, because it fell under section 3 of the Theft Act where the penalty ranges from 10 to 15 years and the Magistrates Court Jurisdiction and Procedure Act only allowed the Magistrate to sentence up to 2 years. So therefore these cases were just being adjourned for six months to come back up because at the present moment the Magistrates Court is inundated with numerous cases which fall under the indictable section of the Act and those of us who practise will find that cases are four and five years waiting for the preliminary hearing before they are sent on to Assizes. The result is, and those of you who have been reading the newspapers will see that many of the complainants do not turn up in the Magistrates Court after 2 or 3 years because they have turned up so many times when nothing has happened that they lost all interest. They do not turn up, and after 2 or 3 appearances of the accused and the complainant not present, the Magistrate is forced to dismiss the matter.

Over and above that, if they do turn up, by the time it reaches Assizes the witnesses have forgotten most of what was said in the Magistrates Court so we have another situation. Over and above that, you have the problem where there are so many cases going on to Assizes that where we used to have a one-month period for the Assizes, the Assizes now stretches down to 2 months and there are proposals for a continuing Assize Court running 12 months of the year.

12.55 p.m.

But then at that time not only do you take up two judges, you now find that you may have to employ three judges to do Assizes out of five judges. One judge is then taken up doing chamber matters and one judge to do civil matters and you now get an adjournment 6 or 9 months away from having a hearing. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Yes, the amendment has come but I want to send a message out to the Government. There have been provisions for the longest time for the appointment of two more judges and I think that we should hastily make those appointments. I go further and say that I think that we should appoint a few more magistrates. It is good to see that the sum now is \$1 500 which can now be tried in the Magistrates Court. But I think we also need to expedite the updating of the recording system in the judiciary, that is stretching from the magistrates right up to the judges. The Magistrates still have to use the antiquated system of

writing every word down and then the typists have to type a few words and wait for the magistrate to tell them what that scribble means. The same thing happens with the judges. While this is a beginning, I hope that it is a beginning that will not stop.

Sir, I hope we can also look at the long awaited new Justice Building. We have had some juggling around with this here. When I used to be Minister of Transport and Works, two architects spent a year and designed a building for the new Hall of Justice. The Government of the day acquired all the land that stretches from Roebuck Street back down to Coleridge Street all of that open space which is now a car park. The building was redesigned around the Jewish Cemetery and I thought it was the appropriate place because the logistics of holding overnight offenders and weekend offenders in the police cells to take them over to the Court were just suitable. Then came the last administration and they abandoned those plans and acquired the land at the corner of Country Road and redesigned a new Hall of Justice. I do not think they studied the logistics of overnight offenders and convicted persons because at the moment there is a long wait in the morning to get overnight offenders from the cells through the Charge Office out to the Court then back into the cells before they are transported in the vans to Glendairy. If you build a building at the Country Road corner, you need more vehicular transportation and you need more police officers because they are still in the custody of the police until they are put before the magistrate. Then they are now in the custody of the Court and then the custody of those Officers from Glendairy Prisons. So we are without a Hall of Justice because of this juggling. It makes no sense doing business in bits and pieces because you create a puzzle which one day will become unsolvable. I think we all should look at this for the overall benefit of society.

Let me move on to the question raised by Senator Mascoll and the crimes which are set out under the Statistical Act. I should like to point out to the Honourable Senator that these offences deal with the Government Statistical Department where people go from place to place and business to business and collect information which by law they must give to the Collecting Officers. The Senator raised the question of insider trading. The offences under insider trading followed a pattern. Under the Companies Law, Cap. 308 of the Laws of Barbados, Section 308 deals with insider trading. Section 430 is a penalty clause and the current system in creating laws is to provide all your penalties under the particular Act. Over and above that, you look to the main Criminal Act for other offences of receiving benefits, *etcetera* which are dealt with in the Criminal Act. But in the Statistical Act, it deals with specific crime under that section. So insider trading is adequately dealt with in Section 308 of the Companies Act which sets out what happens with insider traders business. You look at Section 430 which are the penalty clauses and

there you will find the matters for which you had certain reservations under Division (D) Offences and Penalties.

Sir, I would like to agree and I would like to compliment Senator Trotman on his concern that he set out in his speech. For a long time most of us practising attorneys have been asking to adopt the system whereby after a number of years you write or you bury criminal offences where a person has paid his debt to society that it should be erased from his card. We have situations today where persons who unfortunately found themselves as juveniles in Dodds, comes before the magistrate with even a traffic offence when they are 50 or 55 years old and you produce a card showing when this chap was 16 years old he went to Dodds for riding a bicycle without a tail-light. Now we have argued for a long time that this should be removed from a person's card. Having paid your debt to society and after a given time, that should be erased. A person should have the opportunity of starting a new sheet. It goes further. A man in his youthful days, full of energy and so on, might have committed a small offence. He recognized that and he lives straight for 10 or 20 years. He now applies to go to live in the United States and he is asked to produce a police record, and it is written at the back of the police record. If he is asked for a Certificate of Character to take to any business in Bridgetown and he might have carried on a useful and productive life for the last 20 years, that must appear at the back of his Certificate of Character. As Senator Trotman said, that hampers him. I agree with Senator Trotman that we should now take the opportunity of dealing with that.

I understand what the Honourable Leader of the House has said and I agree with it. We must bring a comprehensive Bill which will deal with all of these things and I think that we need to look at two other important aspects of criminal law in this country. One is bail and there must be in my view a specific Bail Bill, and there must be a specific bill for sentencing. Sentencing in my view takes too much of a Magistrate's sitting on a Bench and saying, "In five years come to Court".
1.05 p.m.

We need to look at it a bit deeper, we need to look at reasons, we need to have psychological evaluation. We in Barbados have a situation where young people who appear to be sane and rational, when they sit before you in an office you realise how illiterate they are and they are not there. I think we need to look at all these things before we begin to sentence.

I have had an experience once where we had three young boys before the court one morning. One was my client. He was riding a bicycle down the Wharf with no bell and no light. We have some antiquated laws which state you must have 12 inches of white on your rear fender. The police picked him up, kept him overnight at Central

Police Station, put him before the court next morning and I begged not to send that boy to Glendairy. They remanded him in Glendairy. I have often said as soon as you go through those gates and you get near to the barber shop or the bakery, you have now entered the university of crime. We need seriously to separate first time offenders and young offenders from persons in that situation. The result was, after a week up there he came back out and he was reprimanded and discharged, but within three months he was charged for breaking and entering a business in St. James. It turned out to be, and it is still so today, that when they enter Glendairy Prison and meet with the hardened criminals, the hardened criminals entice them into what luxuries those established criminals can offer and get all sorts of information from them; where they live, how they work, what places they know, and when they come out they join up and that is how most of our crimes are being committed. We need to take a very serious and urgent look at the situation.

The question of bail must be urgently looked at. While I am not attacking the police, I must say what is happening. Somebody is charged with an offence and the first thing you hear is, "Your Worship, I am objecting to bail." "On what ground?" "Well, this is a serious offence and if you give him bail he might interfere with further investigation." The person is remanded. The established principles that we learned in the English text books are nine times out of ten not being applied, and I think we need guidance, because in my view every time you send somebody up there you are in the position of making another criminal.

Rehabilitation must now be a primary focus of sentencing. If you give a man a first chance and he does not make use of it, then you know where he is going and you can deal with him on the second or subsequent occasions, but I think we must look at this.

Mr. President, I could go on for another hour, but that is my contribution to the debate. Once again I compliment the Government for acting so swiftly. I know the Magistrates and the various jurisdictions will be happy that no longer do they have to sit down and record several pages against some person who is charged with what I call trivial or minor offences of shoplifting, or theft of these such matters and we can proceed much faster, because, as I said before, justice delayed is justice denied.

I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I rise to support this amendment to the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, Cap. 116. I want to say that the whole question of crime is of great concern to me and to everyone else, because crime and our own security are

issues which everyone is speaking about, and of course the safety of the inhabitants.

I have to compliment the Attorney General and the fact that he is getting this Bill through, because it is the question of the smooth movement of the law, and we understand that. I am also interested in the fact that the Attorney General seems to be quite concerned with the rehabilitation of youth and women. I think I am very grateful to him for his stand on separating youths and women if possible in terms of their rehabilitation.

What my great concern is all about goes even beyond rehabilitation. When I look at the statistics on Glendairy Prison, I think it is about 95 to 99% men and when I compare that statistic with university entrance at Cave Hill, I see it is just about 61% women and 39% men. I am trying to make a link and a connection between crime and education and what happens to be a whole system and a whole process of education. I was heartened to hear the Senator say, because it is going to help my argument, that some of the people who come before him are illiterate, because I do not think we can just look at it in terms of rehabilitation. I think we have to look at it in terms of what creative ideas can we come up with to stem this flow of our young people towards crime.

I think recently we sat in awe and wonder and I have talked to people who feel there is so much intelligence in the criminal population, there is so much ingenuity, there is so much creativity, and I started to think and I said, "Why is it that we have so few young men going on to higher studies and we have so many going into Glendairy?" I thought, maybe what we ought to begin to do is to channel and harness the creativity of our young men. I am going to draw a distinction between the psychology of young women and the psychology of young men. Someone will ask what does this have to do with the Bill, and I am saying it has a lot to do with it, because we must not only wait until we have problems to see in what makeshift ways we can solve them, we must begin to think in creative ways about preventing the problem if necessary.

I am not saying there are not going to be many people out there who are going to be criminals and we cannot do much with them. I am also saying that punishment must fit the crime. I am also saying that we must expedite matters in terms of our criminal process, but I am also saying this seems to ring a bell to me that maybe what we are doing in our educational system is not helping those young men out there, and maybe we are not tapping into the creativity that is there. When I hear that they are making guns, when I hear that they pick locks, when I hear all these things, I am saying there must be something wrong with our system that is not using this talent creatively. I feel that we must begin to say as a matter of urgency that the type of education that suits young women

and young girls that gives them this overwhelming advantage that 61% of them can go on to university, is a system that is failing our young men, period. I have seen them and I have said it all the time, in terms of academics young women can sit down, listen, regurgitate and pass exams. That is not what our young men want to do, and I wondered why to every "A" Level school that teaches academics we do not have an "A" Level school that teaches technical work.

1.15 p.m.

I am absolutely convinced that what we need to do in terms of giving our so-called academic students an extra 2 years in "A" level schools is to balance that off with giving our non-academic students an extra 2 years in technical studies and that also by the time you get to Samuel Jackson Prescod that should be a degree award institution. I am almost sure that we will get 61% of our young men going to an institution that is technologically and technically oriented.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Davis, I am reluctant to interrupt you, but I would be happy if you stuck to the terms of what is before us.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: I am coming back to it. I do support the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act but I feel that we must begin to think about creative solutions rather than simply rehabilitation and the speeding up of the justice system that we have to go beyond that in a more creative way. Thank you.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would like to apologise for my absence from the first two sittings in this Chamber because I was out of the Island and I couldn't get out of that particular trip.

I rise to support this Bill. The situation particularly with relation to farmers and the delay in justice is a very worrying one. I would like to point out that it is not only the system *per se* but it is actually a system of defence used by the defence lawyers. They do not turn up in the Magistrate's Court as a means of disgusting the farmers from going there several times. I myself went with a farmer the other day and it had been like three years that this man had been going, (the 13th time that he had appeared) to the Magistrate's Court. Eventually the lawyer, who is a Q.C., defending a praedial larcenist for stealing carrots in the field at 2 o'clock in the morning, a woman...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator is imputing a very serious accusation against defence lawyers. Defence lawyers have the same position in Court as the prosecutors and if a defence lawyer does not turn up in Court that does not prevent the prosecutor from proceeding with the case. That does not prevent the Magistrate from saying this

matter will be heard now, get on with the case. Too many people take licks at lawyers and say defence lawyers cause so and so. Defence lawyers have a job like anybody else to do but they do not run the Courts.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I stand corrected. But I just know from personal experience that the lawyer does not turn up and if he is a QC then the Magistrates don't normally proceed.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, the Honourable Senator is casting aspersions on the Magistrates. He is saying that because you are a QC the magistrate succumbs to your absence from Court all the time. That is a serious aspersion to cast against any presiding officer in the legal system.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think your point is well made Senator.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The other point I would like to ask is that this deals primarily with the Theft Act. There is a specific Praedial Larceny Act and I wanted to know how this particular legislation is going to deal with the parts of the Praedial Larceny Act, if it applies to the Praedial Larceny Act. If I could be elucidated a bit on that.

I would just like to make one comment on this question of the erasure of criminal records. There are certain things like the Police Act, the Defence Force Act, the Security Guards Act which require that a certificate of character be extremely accurate. In those very sensitive areas one would have to be careful. We could have, perhaps, two levels of certificate of character: one that dealt only with the sensitive areas and one that dealt with the normal things. I quite agree that for the purpose of employment of a person such as a gardener or somebody going overseas that a crime done years ago could be erased.

From the point of view of the Police and the Defence Force and the Security Guards I think it would be wrong of us to erase that.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to make an apology for being absent at the last sitting although I was most definitely here with you in spirit. I believe the presence must have been so strong that the Minutes recorded me as being here.

I rise in support of the motion and I would like to compliment the Honourable Attorney General on the quick action taken because I myself have always felt as well on the question of first time or soft crime offenders being lumped together with the hard crime or very serious crime offenders that it was a mistake. I am not an attorney so this

was a learning experience for me. I am very glad that action will be taken in this regard.

It all leads, I think, towards a better society, a good society, if we don't lump everyone into the same category. To that end, I like the idea very much that the soft crime or first time offenders as Senator Bolden and Senator Trotman both highlighted in that you deal with them in a different factor, look at other avenues in which they can be rehabilitated.

I would like to hinge on to Senator Davis' proposal as well which perhaps would not be fine at this sitting but, perhaps, at another one where we are going to be dealing with education. That is, that we look at the root and not wait until we get to a rehabilitation stage. I think all this leads towards a good society.

I am going to be very brief and I just wanted to say that perhaps this is where we can utilise more fully Dodds and Summervale for soft crime and first time offenders. Perhaps we can utilise some of those dormant lands that we have lying across Barbados, the old factories, the old plantations where perhaps first or soft crime offenders could be housed, under security of course, and at the same time have the opportunity to work the lands which would give a two-fold purpose. This would be rehabilitation, training and again in preparation for the return to the "outside life". I would very much like to see that and in conclusion say, let us try fixing the roots before we get to the rehabilitation stage. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise at the conclusion of debate of this amendment to make a few additional observations and I don't think there are too many responses that I have to make. My Honourable Colleagues have already responded to some of the issues raised. I want to assure the Members of the Senate that their comments will be duly drawn to the attention of the Attorney General.

I also want to assure them that the Attorney has set in motion the implementation of the Party's plan of action which I believe has already been quite adequately and eloquently explained to the public. We are committed, as you know, Sir, to a community which is built on law and order. We consider that law and order and public safety are essential to the type of society which we want to have and indeed to the type of economy which is based as you know on a strong service sector.

We have already indicated our commitment to the reform of the penal system. We have indicated our commitment to examine the whole question of the Glendairy Prison, for example, the need for expansion, the need for separation of offenders.

1.25 p.m.

We have indicated our commitment to the reform of the law courts in terms of the physical conditions. We have moved swiftly, for example, to correct a situation in which one of the newly-built courts had no furniture so was not able to function. I think we have been able to alleviate that situation somewhat.

But, Sir, the whole question of the appointment of judges as was raised by Senator Bolden, and additional magistrates, is being addressed. We are committed to reviewing the conditions under which these appointments are made in order that we continue to ensure that the society benefits from one of the fundamental principles of our Constitution, that is, the freedom of the judiciary, the separation of executive judicial powers and so on.

We are also committed to improvements in the capabilities of law enforcement officers and judicial officers, law enforcement officers in terms of our policemen and so on, and the judicial officers as well. We are committed to several wide ranging reforms and improvements in the administration of justice because we believe that will be our ability to properly administer justice as Senator Trotman alluded, which is an important part of the criminal reform that we have to examine. We recognise that the system must allow for rehabilitation offenders. We recognise that the system must allow not only for their rehabilitation in the short-term but it must also cater to things such as was mentioned before, where minor offences are committed as part of the general indiscretion of youth. We would expect that they should not mar the relative comfort which one should enjoy in one's old age.

In wrapping up, Sir, I just thought I would bring those general comments and to ensure the Senators that law, order and justice are important planks of this Government's programme and that the Attorney General has been working quite assiduously on bringing these matters on stream. We are just putting this Chamber on notice that this is just the first step. It was a bit of an emergency step but in the fullness of time those programmes which we have already explained in other places will be brought before this Chamber.

I now move, Sir, 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. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to delay the Chamber but I note at Clause 2 that the language is very specific and it does say that the person is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$2 500 or to imprisonment of a term of 2 years. I am wondering whether in the judgement of the Senate that does not remove discretion and whether the language should not say "conviction to a fine of up to \$2 500 and to imprisonment for a term of up to 2 years, or not exceeding". The intention I mean here is that it lends discretion up to a certain level rather than being as specific and apparently, to me, inflexible as this is suggesting.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, and Honourable Senators, the wording which you have noted there is, indeed, different from what we would have observed in previous Bills of this nature. This is as result of the new terminology and structure in drafting. What it does is simply to prescribe the maximum limits with the implied understanding that one can go from zero to the maximum. It is really just a new technique in drafting. According to the Interpretation Act the term really means "not more than" so when it says "summary conviction a fine of \$2 500" we are really saying "not more than \$2 500".

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

Clauses 3 – 6 inclusive were called and passed.

1.35 p.m.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, 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. R. R. FARLEY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, 1994.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

ORDER NO. 2 – THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL
MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. (SUGAR BONDS
GUARANTEE) BILL, 1994.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the matter before us is the Barbados Agricultural Manufacturing Co., Ltd., (Sugar Bonds Guarantee) Bill, 1994. Sir, this Bill seeks to provide Government's guarantee for the payment of principal and interest that becomes due on the redemption of bonds which are to be issued by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited for the sugar industry revitalisation programme.

This matter, Sir, is a matter which forms part and parcel of the plans which were put in train some time before this new administration to restructure the sugar industry. The matter we are being asked to decide today, Sir, is a matter which seeks to provide working capital for the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited to continue with its programme.

The basics of the Bill, Sir, are that the moneys to be raised will be paid into a sugar industry revitalisation fund. This fund will be managed by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company which is required to establish a sinking fund and the sinking fund is designed to meet the redemption of the bonds and all associated expenses.

The Act also provides for an annual audit of the Sugar Industry Revitalisation Fund and that reports on that annual audit and other details of the Fund are to be laid in Parliament as soon as practicable thereafter.

Sir, just to provide some additional information based on this matter that we are asked to make a decision on today. Now, the Barbados Agricultural Management Company was established to take over the assets of Barbados Sugar Industries Limited and a number of plantations which comprise approximately 42% of the land which is cultivated in sugar cane.

Another aspect of that arrangement was the creation of the Agricultural Credit Trust which took over the sugar industry portfolio of the Barbados National Bank. That consisted mainly of loans to BSIL.

The BAMC is presently cultivating the lands of those heavily indebted plantations under the terms of a 12-year lease and as I said earlier, that accounts for about 42% of the lands under sugar cultivation.

The arrangements that we are about to enter into are for the provision of working capital, not only for next year's crop, but for the 4 subsequent sugar crops which

would take us to the point where in 1999 the projections for BAMC indicate that it should have reached some level of profitability. So we are seeking under this programme to provide that additional financing that would be required to meet the obligations.

So far a loan has been obtained through the Caribbean Development Bank for some \$23 million. However, the overall cost of this aspect of the revitalisation programme at the time when the appraisal was made was some \$60 million.

The overall programme for the period July 1994 to June 1998 is the period during which the \$23 million would be applied and that leaves a shortfall of approximately some \$42 million or so, according to the projections we have received. The decision was made sometime earlier in the year to seek to finance the shortfall in working capital through the issue of bonds. Apparently, the Government's partnership in this arrangement will be Citibank. Citibank will provide the financing which is required and the Government's guarantee will be insured by nature of these arrangements which we are discussing today. Part of BAMC's programme for the revitalisation of the industry projects that by 1998 the level of production of sugar should be 66 400 tonnes and, if it is to be able to attain those levels of production, the financing that we are seeking to provide today will be required. The Government as you know, Sir, is the sole shareholder of the company and therefore we will have to undertake the financing which is required.

2.50 p.m.

In terms of next year's crop, Sir, projections are that we will be able to meet some 36 000 tonnes. This is a revision because the previously published target was in the nature of some fifty thousand tonnes. The revision has been based on the impact of the drought as well as other matters relating to the cane fires and other activities from the last sugar crop but primarily from the drought, Sir, which unfortunately occurred during the planting cycle for the industry.

As you may be aware, Sir, that amount falls far below Barbados' quota to the European Community which is some 54 000 tonnes and Barbados' domestic demand which is in the order of some fifteen thousand tonnes. So what BAMC's projections are suggesting is that Barbados will not until 1998 be able to meet its basic obligations with respect to sugar.

Sir, I think we all agree that the sugar industry is of vital significance to this country from the point of view not only of level of economic activity which it generates mainly in the earning of foreign exchange, but also there is a significant degree of national pride which is tied up in activities in this industry. I am sure we all remember the activities and the public comment which was generated by

the use of Guatemalan sugar in Barbadian households in recent times. I think people were somewhat concerned to put it mildly, Sir, that a sugar producing country such as Barbados would have to resort to what was widely acclaimed as inferior quality sugar substitute. Some people claimed that it might not have been sugar, but they were rightly so to be concerned.

The other aspect, Sir, which relates to our concern about our failure to meet our obligations is the fact that exports of rum have become an important contributor to the economy. You would have observed, Sir, that the local consumption of rum is something of a national past-time. The molasses required for this rum which is currently being imported can have significant impact on the cost of rum production in one direction or the other depending on the transportation cost and so on. The other important aspect of that, Sir, is that we have to be concerned about any possibility for expropriating an infringement of the rules of origin. That is the higher the level of imported inputs which we use in our local production, the more likely we are to infringe the origin agreements which can form part and parcel of any duty free market access that there might be at this point in time for some of these products and rum is no exception.

Sir, the Government is presently reviewing all matters relating to the sugar industry. The fact that we have brought this Bill before this Chamber seeking to raise working capital to finance the revitalisation of the industry does not necessarily signify that we have signed off on all of the arrangements that have been made thus far. Clearly a review would be acceptable in order to ensure that whatever actions we would continue to take would be in the long-term interest of the sector. That review is important not simply because of a change of administration, because one would expect there would be one because of a change in administration, but because of the nature of the industry and the factors which are of significant importance in the industry are themselves factors which are subject to constant change. We concentrate quite frequently on the level of production in the industry. We are concerned about the output of sugar per acre. We are concerned about overall output and so on. But one of the significant factors, Sir, that influences the earnings from the industry is the value of international currencies. Over the years the earnings which Barbados has made from exports of sugar have been heavily influenced by exchange rate variations. For example, I am sure that you would know of the years which were referred to as the "windfall years". I myself was not around during those years. I do not know whether you were, Sir. But we have all heard stories of men having so much money that they used to light cigarettes of \$100 bills and that any bills that looked green they used to use those for feeding their donkeys in Barbados. From time to time we have had these windfall type situations where it so happened that the value of the European currencies, whether it was back in the days of the pound or perhaps

today there may be other currencies which are used, have been favourable to us and have allowed us to earn increased sums out of the same or in some cases a declining level of production. When the fortunes were against us, we could often earn less in dollar terms from a higher tonnage of sugar exported. So that because of these changes that are likely to occur from time to time, I am sure you will agree with me that a continuous review of any strategies and programmes which are made to form part and parcel of efforts to revitalize the industry would be warranted.

Sir, the other important aspect of this matter which again dictates that we constantly review our direction and our actions is that a revitalisation of the sugar industry cannot be taken in isolation.

3.00 p.m.

The sugar industry is part of the wider agricultural sector and the revitalisation of the industry will also depend on the extent to which we are revitalising the entire agricultural sector. Indeed, although BAMC was formed with the express mandate of controlling the heavily indebted estates and cultivating the land thereof, part of BAMC's proposed programme includes the production of non-sugar produce, and this aspect of it is of vital significance.

I am sure, Sir, that your analysis of the situation may very well be similar to mine, that we need to look at agricultural units as complete entities and we need to judge their profitability in relation to the total earnings from those agricultural units. I think perhaps we experience some difficulties where the earnings from sugar were considered to be synonymous with the earnings from agricultural production. As you will be aware, Sir, on any reasonable size holding in agriculture – at least back in the days when I used to roam the fields, either for having a taste of the wonderful sugar cane, flying kites or doing whatever else one would do in a field of canes – but you will recall that there used to be a system of rotating. The older folks would suggest that you needed to rest the land from canes every five to seven years. You would plant other crops in the fields and then you would return to sugar cultivation. That allowed us not only to have enough acreage under sugar cane to meet our local requirements and our export requirements, but it also allowed us to develop a vibrant non-sugar agricultural sector which, I am pleased to note, continues to grow – no pun intended, Sir.

We need to ensure that in BAMC's work they continue to view their own profitability, and hence a return on investment on agricultural lands continues to be made from an appropriate mix of lands in sugar cultivation and lands in non-sugar cultivation.

The other important aspect of the linkage between sugar and the wider agricultural sector is that ecological and other studies have shown that the sugar cane as a plant, notwithstanding its use for the purpose of sugar, is extremely important to the stability and continued availability of the top soil in Barbados for generations to come. Which suggests, Sir, that in the absence of sugar cane we would need to use crops with similar characteristics. I was trying to find whatever technical word they use, it slips me at the moment, but we need to find plants which would provide us with the same level of protection for our top soil that sugar cane provides. We have seen in other parts of the world where appropriate care is not taken, where there has been a shift in the use of land for particular crops, more for pure economic reasons than for any other reason, and the results have shown that after perhaps 10 or 20 years there is no economic value to be derived in agriculture because those lands are lost. We must always bear in mind that we are only holding this land in trust for future generations of Barbadians. I hope to have a long lineage that will remember me. At least even if they only remember that I was here in the Senate with you, Sir, that at least will be good enough for me.

In all seriousness, Sir, it is important that we recognise that apart from the production of sugar from the sugar cane, sugar cane is useful as a plant which helps to secure the ecological balance of this country and therefore ensures that non-sugar agriculture has some future.

This whole notion of the preservation of land has some implications for Barbados' land use policy. You will agree, Sir, that over the years one could not discern any clear land use policy at certain points in time. I think that that matter will have to be addressed if we are to commit ourselves to this level of resources for the revitalisation not only of the sugar industry but for agriculture. What we must consider is that the level of resources which we are seeking to commit today, in addition to what has been committed already, cannot be an ongoing practice. The restructuring which we are undergoing today is not one which we should, or for that matter could, afford to repeat in any period in the immediate future, so we must ensure that we do whatever incidental things which might be necessary to obtain the maximum level of return from this investment we are making in the revitalisation and restructuring of the agricultural sector, including sugar.

I make the point again, Sir, that clearly in this country we will have to decide whether we want to have an agricultural sector, including the sugar industry, or not. Otherwise, the decision which we make will certainly have some implications for the lack of resources which we commit to the revitalisation effort.

The employment aspect of the industry, Sir, is another one which we will have to consider. Presently there are

some 4 400 persons directly employed in the sugar industry in Barbados and I am sure that my colleague, Senator Laurie, will have figures as well for those in the non-sugar agricultural sector. That level of job creation is one that we cannot ignore. Naturally, over time there are shifts in emphasis, clearly mechanisation will have an impact and as well a change in levels of productivity, but at the end of the day there will be significant levels of employment continuing in this sector.
3.10 p.m.

Efforts have been made to move towards the levels of productivity in the sugar sector. I am sure you will have vivid memories of the discussions, work stoppages and other issues relating to the productivity bonus in the sugar sector. I am sure that matter will be dealt with fully by my colleagues over the course of this debate.

Sir, I will ask this Chamber to consider in the course of this debate the importance which the committal of these resources to the revitalisation of the industry will have on the capacity of this economy to maintain the jobs of those persons in the sugar industry directly and by extension persons in wider non-sugar agriculture.

In closing, Sir, I will ask my colleagues to support this measure which I have indicated is part of the efforts at revitalising the sugar industry. It is only but part of the process that has already been put in train. The process, however, as I indicated, is and will constantly be under review to ensure that we are really moving in the right direction because we cannot take the committal of this level of public expenditure to be an exercise in triviality. We also have to ensure that having decided on our general thrust that the various entities which we have identified as being those ones most suitable for implementing our national policy are acting at all times in pursuance of that national policy, that they are acting with professionalism and integrity and that by their actions which might be done in the spirit of their independence, whether real or perceived, they do not derail the process to which we have committed such a large chunk of the public purse.

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

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the restructuring of the sugar industry in Barbados cannot be seen in a vacuum because this exercise in fact is going to have implications for the financial sector. We have a situation in Barbados where, as identified, the employment in this industry has now fallen to less than 5%. It continues to earn, however, foreign exchange and to be useful in the area of its contribution to GDP but it accounts for almost 7% of the total financial credit in the system. That is important from the point of view that in fact it can serve to

destabilise, if not handled properly, the financial system of Barbados.

Since I don't have the privilege of having my speeches carried verbatim in the dailies I am going to discuss this issue at length. Some individuals, in a very unprecedented move, in fact, have had that privilege, not even extended to Prime Ministers of this country. So I will take my opportunity in this Chamber to discuss the issues as I see fit.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hope, Senator Mascoll, you are not referring to the conduct of any Member of this Honourable Chamber.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Do you mean, having had their speeches carried verbatim in the dailies?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I have only recently in the daily of yesterday and today of the *Advocate*...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot comment on newspaper reports in this Chamber.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am not commenting on the report. I have mentioned that such a privilege has never been extended to any Member of Parliament as far as I can recall, with the exception of the Prime Minister at the time of the budgetary debate. I am simply saying, Sir, that because I would not have such a privilege I am going to take my opportunity here to be as explicit as I can be and rather than be brief, since being brief is a function of knowledge which Senator Symmonds found out last week... Because I would not have such a privilege I am going to take my opportunity here to be as explicit and to carry on and not to be called down because people want to leave by 4 o'clock.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member cannot make such a statement that he is going to be called down because persons want to leave at 4 o'clock. That is an insult to the presiding officer. The Honourable Member should be made to withdraw that statement.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not sure exactly what the Honourable Senator was saying. Perhaps you can be more explicit.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I am going to take the opportunity to explain because it certainly has been misunderstood. I am not suggesting that the President is going to call me down I have been told that there is a tradition of leaving this Senate on Fridays by about 4 o'clock and I am saying...

Mr. PRESIDENT: The tradition is not part of the Standing Orders. We are governed here by the Standing Orders.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. It is not meant to be any attempt at your authority in this Honourable Chamber. I think that that is a misrepresentation. In fact, I never even...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your explanation is accepted. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. In terms of the restructuring it has cost the indebted plantations BD\$250 million and that is no small fee. What we recognise is that there are some 40 estates and that even if you were to sell them on any market the net worth would certainly be negative. No one can deny that there is need for a restructuring exercise but what has to be recognised is that just as the previous Administration took harsh decisions in many areas of the economy this Administration must recognise that choices have to be made.

Indeed, if you are convinced that you need to address the cost structure of the industry, then you have to weigh in making your choices between the question of employment generation which I know is a sore point of the Administration because of the need to create 30 000 jobs but in the interest of the industry you have to make decisions to reduce the level of workers in that industry because the evidence does suggest that over the years the industry has been carrying an excessive amount of burden, especially among workers of the managerial area. That has to be addressed.

When it comes to making decisions and choices you have to be clear as to whether or not you want this industry to go forward and be cost effective and viable and productive and profitable in years to come or whether or not you are seeking to protect a few individuals in terms of their jobs and then ask the entire country to carry through some process of sacrifice which was all done for the sugar industry over the years.

One has recognised as a result of all the research that has been done, there have been tremendous studies in this area that demonstrate that we can only have a sugar industry, if in fact we address the whole question of cost. Therefore, I am saying to you that there is need for that to be addressed. If decisions have to be taken to remove some individuals from their existing levels of employment or existing employment in the industry, then those decisions have to be taken. There is no question of whether or not you will remove or get rid of a few people in the industry to protect the entire industry. It goes without saying that decision has to be made. So we expect that you will take those kinds of decisions.

In relation to the debate as it surrounds the BAMC. The BAMC is not in fact the critical institution in this debate. The critical institution in this debate is the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust. The BAMC is really just a subsidiary of that. I say that to make the point that that particular Board has not yet been constituted. I am informed that that issue may be sealed by David or Goliath quite soon.

I am simply saying that you cannot proceed in this area just simply talking about the Barbados Agricultural Management Company without recognising that the more important component of the institution is the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust. You have to move swiftly to create the Board in order to provide the kind of guidance that is necessary. But the new policy of appointing politicians to chair Boards which is the case at the BAMC will not carry very far in this particular regard. You need to have, as I said, a fully constituted board at the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust. That is the critical thing.

Therefore the whole question of simply going or coming to this Honourable Chamber and getting sugar bonds and asking us to support the measure will not get you very far in terms of addressing the issues within the sugar sector.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is continuity that has to be addressed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, Please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: in fact, the measures have been identified to be most appropriate for the sugar industry of Barbados and decisions were taken with the understanding that they would be pursued. What I am not witnessing is the desire on the part of the Government to shift the relation to the question of employment because some people have cried foul in relation to the question of costs within the industry when you have recognised that the only way that Barbados can be viable in the sugar industry is if indeed you address the whole question of costs. Let not a couple of workers stop you from making the necessary adjustments within the industry for the sake of political expediency.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair, not individual Members.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, Senator Murray never had the ability to be a Sobers. You have been led by a Sobers but you never had the ability to be one.

In relation therefore to the structure. Why is this so critical to Barbados? What we have is that the balance sheet of the BACT comprises assets of the BSIL indebted plantations and on the liability side you have government equity. What is going to happen is that any income that is made in excess of expenses of course will be transferred to the central government. At times when that income is less, when the expenditure – meaning that there is a loss – the same central government will have to find financing in order to address this. That therefore, will have implications of the whole question of financing within the system.

Since this Government, Mr. President, seems so prepared to willy-nilly reduce revenue while attempting to honour or to please almost every interest group in Barbados and therefore will have to incur expenditure, it will not be long before the Ways and Means limit at the Central Bank of Barbados is exceeded by this Administration and the same criticisms which were levied before... You would now have spat up into the air and it is going to fall right back into your face because you are not seeking to understand that the whole question of managing the fiscal affairs of Barbados are related to the whole financing issue and not necessarily the size of the fiscal deficit.

One is saying therefore that you have to be ever conscious especially in an environment where you cannot access any foreign borrowing that you manage your fiscal affairs in such a way that you do not excessively rely on the Central Bank which would be the case sooner or later before the end of this fiscal year. Then you will have to explain to the people of Barbados why you made such a hue and cry about the Ways and Means limit at the Central Bank and now you too will exceed that level.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I think my Honourable colleague is repeating the very same speech he made last night.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Senator Murray, because you don't understand the intricacies of the economy...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, please address the Chair. Do not be sidetracked by his comments.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I love the asides. I enjoy asides. I am accustomed to them in debate.

What I am saying is that you cannot discuss any sector of the Barbados economy in a vacuum. More importantly, when it relates to the question of financing you cannot do so. In this case, this is a financing issue which could have implications for not only the Central Bank but for the wider financial system. I am quite within my element to discuss the whole question of financing of the fiscal deficit of Barbados even within the context of

this Bill which we are seeking to pass or to reject in this Honourable Chamber. So that ball is straight at the stumps.

In relation to the question of demission, certainly no one in Barbados can deny that the governments over the years have not paid sufficient attention to the agricultural sector. Both sides of the fence. That is as clear as you can want.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: That is an issue of vision because you recognise that over the years you could not have maintained the sugar industry as it was in the 1950s and 1960s when it employed 25 000 and accounted for 25% of the Gross Domestic Product. Any person with vision at that stage would have recognised that the sugar industry would not always continue to be king.

In fact, what we are now living to see is that worldwide the sugar industry is under pressure. So that is not an issue, Senator Murray.

Mr. President, we have to save the agricultural sector and that is recognised because the agricultural sector, as I said before, was neglected by all administrations because maybe of a general lack of concern and understanding as to the importance of its role. That was not said by me. That has been said by the greatest economist in the Caribbean, the only Nobel prize Laureate ever in the region in that area, Sir Arthur Lewis. He has been neglected by the people in the Caribbean. Had they recognised the importance of the agricultural sector they would have paid even more attention to it and I am inviting even this administration to look at this.

On the question of non-sugar agriculture which has been elevated beyond its real importance. The non-sugar agricultural sector in Barbados is really more to do with the livestock industry in terms of its potential. I am telling you that it has more to do with the fact that in the area of livestock we have done particularly well within the area of non-sugar agricultural sector within the last 5-10 years. I have no doubt that my learned Senator would appreciate my comments, a man who is in the area.

Therefore part of our focus and strategy should have been in that area of the livestock production in Barbados rather than a full concentration on the production of carrots and beets and the like, because we will never be able to compete effectively in those areas, primarily because of the economy of scale. As has been stated earlier, maybe what should be happening with BAMC is that BAMC should be producing for the export market and allow the small farmers to take up the domestic market.

Even in that regard, in the non-sugar sector there is still need for a full understanding as to what the strategy,

the whole concept should be within the agricultural sector. I like the word and you used it in your article. "conceptualising sugar".

What I am saying to you is that not only do we need to look at the whole question of the wider agricultural sector but within the agricultural sector we need to look at whether or not we should be producing vegetables and the like or whether we should not focus more on the production of sheep, goats, cows and look more towards those areas where we can compete. I am all for saving of the agricultural sector. I am all for agriculture. I have always been for it because I well respect and understand that no economy can sensibly move forward without a very viable agricultural sector. You can pretend as much as you like that tourism can do it for you. You can pretend as much as you like that all of a sudden we have elevated the offshore sector which comprises of seven sub-sectors and which has been in place since 1965, the offshore sector, especially the exempt. There are seven components of the offshore sector, IBC, SFC exempt insurance and the like. Therefore what one is saying is that you need to have a comprehensive strategy also in that area and that you cannot simply relegate the agricultural sector to a secondary place in relation to the offshore sector, when the evidence is there to show that you had not done as full an evaluation of the sector as you should have done so do not let us demote.

3.30 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Eight years in that sector? If, indeed, I am called upon, Mr. President, to debate that I would very wisely demonstrate that there has been considerable progress made in the offshore sector in the last 5 to 10 years. I hope that Senator Goddard has a copy of that report which demonstrates how well that sector has done in the last 5 years or so. There is more that can be done.

The question of efficiency which has to be considered, therefore, is what happens in a restructuring. You are simply going to relocate. You simply have to allow the forces within the market to define for you where you can best utilise those resources which you have. So in as much as there may be a lay-off in the higher levels of the employment structure within the sugar industry, there may very well be need for more people within the lower wage levels and that is what part of the restructuring exercise has been all about. But that has really come about as a result of the whole question of accountability.

We know for many years that people have been managers within this industry, not necessarily based on any ability or competence, but it might have been as a result of the whole question of inheritance being well placed at a particular point in time. Therefore the time has come for

that kind of thing to stop and that has informed the establishment of the BACT as well as the BAMC. What we are saying, therefore, is that the question of accountability has to be addressed and must be addressed, therefore choices have to be made by the existing Government. Do not run away from the choices. That is what management is all about. You have scarce resources, you make decisions in the interest of the wider economy, and within a particular sector you have to evaluate whether or not to move this particular route, or if this particular route is going to be to the benefit of the entire sector or the benefit of the economy as a whole.

The whole question of accountability too – over the years we have recognised that many a sugar planter never kept adequate financial accounts and therefore brought down a little bag with a piece of brown paper, went to the Barbados National Bank and was able to access certain levels of finances and that has been arrested. I hope that, in fact, we will never return to such an eventuality in the history of this country. So we have addressed some issues and certain people must be given credit for that.

On the question of accountability as well what you are saying is that you need to look at the sector as a whole. You need to look at all of the components of the agriculture sector, particularly the sugar industry, in order to ensure that we get the very best returns from the resources which we are putting into that sector.

The issue therefore becomes, if you are satisfied, given the analysis that has been done in the sugar industry, that there is need to restructure. If you are satisfied that the cost structure is out of sync, and that you have to put measures in place in order to address that, then what kind of future do you have or hope for the sector. Again, you cannot look ahead without understanding the international environment in this regard. You cannot look ahead without understanding what is happening in LOME, the fact that prices are tied to beet sugar, the whole question of subsidies within the European and U.S. markets, how would they affect the sugar prices.

When they remove subsidies there may be a reduction in production within these larger countries and therefore a reduction in production may very well cause the world market price to increase and, therefore, from that angle there may be some benefit to the local sugar industry. But the analysis again has not shown that. Even though the GATT arrangement, the LOME Agreements and all those other instruments are calling for a reduction in subsidies, it does not appear that there will be any automatic reduction or increase in the level of sugar prices. In fact, what could very well happen is that with the withdrawal of subsidies, the whole question of cost will now be passed on to the farmers and it will find its way into the price and as a result we are saying that we are not so sure what the future in terms of sugar prices will be but what we are sure about

is that given the wage structure in Barbados, and given the conditions under which we operate, that it is going to be exceedingly difficult to reduce the level of cost associated with the production of sugar. Therefore we have to look at the international environment and in that context gauge where we are going in relation to the sugar industry. The only thing we can do effectively is to manage the cost within the industry because the sugar prices are given to us.

The good Senator suggested also that you can get a situation in Barbados where the revenue going to the sugar industry is affected by changes in the exchange rate and that is known so there is no safety up ahead in relation to the revenue from the sugar industry by way of either the price side or by way of the output. In fact, in that regard what has happened this year in terms of weather is going to seriously affect the output of sugar in 1995.

Why is that important? That is important because in terms of the projections that Government is making in relation to revenue for next year, they will have to consider that sugar output is going to decline and sugar output when it declines will affect the Gross Domestic Product. In addition we cannot expect that tourism is going to perform in the kind of soberian way that it has performed in 1994. Therefore, one is saying that what you have to anticipate – that is my word, soberian – is a further negative impact on GDP.

I am saying that to say that given the measures which you are putting in place to restoration of mortgage interests and the like, in relation to putting more workers in NCC, in relation to getting more workers at BTA and all of these other measures, you have to be ever conscious that you are going to widen your fiscal position and once you widen your fiscal position, it come right away back round to the whole question of finance and that is where the connection is made because you cannot exist in a vacuum. As it relates therefore to the future again, there is no evidence that there is going to be any substantial reduction in the cost of fertilisers, even in the cost of machineries and these areas. We are not so sure again that even from the non labour point of view that there is going to be any positive impact on the whole question of cost within the sugar industry even when you take out the labour cost and look at non labour issues of fertilisers and the like, so this is not an easy wicket on which to bat. That is why it is going to require some patience and some very optimum decision-making on the part of the Government. It is not going to be an easy wicket especially in light of your attempt to create 30 000 jobs. It will not be easy.

The whole question too of the impact of drought. As we know in the sugar industry, you take 80% of your lands and you put them into cane and you rotate the other 20% but if, certainly, there is going to be a drought situation then you may have to call upon part of the 20% in order to resuscitate some of the output or to get back to certain

levels of output. In terms of the proportions you may have to adjust the 80/20 relationship in order to get back some of the output which you might have lost as a result of the drought. That too can have its impact on the overall sugar output within Barbados over the years.

Then we all know the connection between the sugar industry and the rum industry. We also know that it is not in Barbados' interest to go the route of simply producing bulk rum that what you should be doing is looking more towards the question of branded rum for Barbados. What is happening international is going to be a positive in that direction because, hopefully, again with the GATT Agreements and the like the markets for rum should be opened up in such a way that we can take some advantage of those opportunities.

In that context, we need to look at the sugar industry in a positive light but while recognising that the whole question of restructuring is not to ensure that you maintain the 4 400 within the sugar industry. If you do that you are not going to be able to manage the industry effectively because the whole purpose of restructuring is to ensure that you reallocate resources towards those areas within the economy where the resources can be best used. If you are not afraid of the future, and if you are so convinced of your capacity to create 30 000 jobs, I am saying that in terms of making a decision in relation to the sugar sector that you should feel very comfortable to relieve some of the workers within that sector in the interest of ensuring the financial viability of the sector.

3.40 p.m.

Don't be afraid in the interest of the industry to lay off some of the managerial staff because you are going to create the jobs anyhow because of the restructuring exercise. So do not let that stop you from doing the right thing. Do not let that stop you from making decisions within the sector that are in the interest of the sector by simply looking to protect a few individuals. You have every confidence having inherited a very good track on which to bat that you can do very well. Why be afraid.

I am saying to you that as we look ahead therefore we are talking in terms of the sugar industry, recognising that the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust is only supposed to be around for 12 years. In order to give that industry time in which they can, hopefully, theoretically, bring the sugar industry back to its state of viability and then, as all of us would wish, give back the ownership and the control to the plantation owners. That is the wish and that is going to require a substantial amount of management. But over that period of time, do not expect that it would be easy and do not expect that you can avoid making tough decisions in the interest of the wider economy. It cannot be done. My concern therefore in this whole exercise as I started out with, is to ensure that the

more pressing need of addressing the structure of the Board at the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust is undertaken immediately and undertaken with the understanding that you need to put individuals there who can manage that trust effectively with the understanding that having given up a golden opportunity to put adequate management at the BAMC because of your policy, you need now even more so. You have not appointed your boards for the BAMC?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I must object. Throughout your presentation you have been using the word "you". I do not know whether it is meant to be a reference to the Chair. I think it may just be a question of your sentence structure. I would be glad if in future you would address the Chair. If you are speaking about the Government say the Government. But when you use the word "you" as you continue to do I can only interpret that to be a reference to the Chair and that is not in order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Let me clarify that, Sir. I have never been known to be disrespectful and especially as it relates to office and that "you" is not intended to be addressing the President of the Senate. It is mainly to address the Government.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please say that.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you. But the issue is, therefore, how do we ensure that there is some financial viability restored or coming back to the industry. And just by way of clarification again, the structure of the BACT is such that the revenue which you are going to derive at the BACT you are going to get from these payments are interest on old debt or dividends from the BAMC when that is profitable. The other sources of revenue would be income from resale of non agriculture plantation assets. Then you have to balance that off on the other side.

Now the other side would be operating expenses – salaries of managers, office rental and that kind of thing. And then we have the extraordinary clause of income which is to be transferred to Government.

Now, it is one thing to come to the Senate, Sir, and ask for us to honour a sugar bond. It is another thing to ensure that very effective use is made of the resources which are going to be channeled to that area. And this is my plea. My plea is for an understanding of the importance of the sugar industry, an understanding from the point of view of how that industry can be managed effectively given its restructure in today's Barbados. My plea, Sir, is to get the Government to understand the importance that that sector has to play within the economy of Barbados in terms of revitalising and maybe increasing or enhancing our capacity to earn foreign exchange. My plea, Sir, is to allow the Government to understand that the question here

is not just a question of the preservation of employment levels. My plea is to get the Government to understand that the issue is more focussed on addressing the specific needs of the sugar sector more so than simply being concerned with protecting those individuals.

On that score, Sir, as I attempt to look to the future I can see that there is a continued role to be played by the sugar industry of Barbados but I am also asking that particular attention be paid also to the non sugar sector but that we look at the research that has been done and appreciate that that research has pointed us, the agricultural study that was done using domestic resource costs measures which is a measure of the foreign exchange earning capacity versus the utilisation of it, that those kinds of indicators can guide us more effectively towards a viable agricultural sector than merely coming to the Senate, which I appreciate, to ask for further moneys to be spent in this area. Again I plead for a more comprehensive approach, not only to the sugar sector but also to the wider agricultural sector.

The whole question of agro-processing which was aborted, apparently because of political reasons under the previous administration. The agro-processing plant, I rest it there, which was aborted, apparently because of political reasons, an idea whose time had come and the credit unions of Barbados had recognised in fact, how strategic it would have been to get involved in such a venture only to be derailed by certain elements within the credit union, apparently who were put there to orchestrate the demise of it but that is another issue and will be discussed in another place and time.

I am saying to you too, that that too has to be considered as part of the whole method by which we can enhance the agricultural sector. The other things which I want to address which are up ahead and unfortunately Senator Barker is not here to share this one with me because he got the opportunity last week to parade publicly on how difficult the value added tax system is to implement and what are all the negatives of it only to discover one week later that the Honourable Prime Minister has in fact embraced the concept and the notion. And I can well understand and appreciate the difficulty that the Prime Minister may be having with Senator Barker in that respect because he has really truly demonstrated a lack of competence in that area.

More importantly ...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I did it last week in front of his face but you can tell him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let me draw your attention to Standing Order 34, that it is out of order to use offensive

and insulting language about Members of either House and I think your use of the word incompetence to a Member of this Chamber is insulting.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I can explain that. Do you wish me to? I can explain and demonstrate why I refer to him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not asking for an explanation. I am just asking that it be withdrawn.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I will withdraw my comment. I do not recall calling him incompetent. Did I call him incompetent? His work is incompetent. I do not know if he is. Within in his competence I think is ...

Anyhow, Sir, the issue is really startling because how could you, as a Minister of State, right next to the arm of the Prime Minister, have one view on the value added tax system and the Prime Minister, only a couple of days later puts a completely different view to the people of Barbados. I have difficulty.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sorry. I thought we were discussing sugar bonds. It seems as if the Honourable Senator is discussing a value added tax and I have not seen anything in the documents before me to lead me to believe that value added tax form part and parcel of this particular matter which is now before the Senate.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Again, Sir, it only goes to show that there is a lack of understanding of the holistic nature of an economy. What I am really addressing here, Sir, is the issue of tax policy as it relates not only to the economy but to the wider sugar industry and on that score I will now seek to explain why I see the value added tax system as important even in relation to the sugar industry. What one would recognize, Sir, if I may be permitted...

3.50 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Yes, Sir. Thank you. With the value added system being implemented, there will be the abolition of stamp duties and consumption taxes. What I am saying, since it is obvious that it was not apparent to you, that after you have abolished the stamp duties and the consumption taxes it will mean that by way of...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. President. Unfortunately, I cannot follow the Honourable Senator. I would like him to explain first where are the stamp duties and consumption tax on the sugar bonds today so that I understand where he is going.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hear you, Senator Bolden. I was awaiting an explanation from the Honourable Senator. I think he was developing his point and I was giving him an opportunity to do so.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. I can well understand the difficulty.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The substitutes...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Less the Honourable Senator is talking about that thing called "sugar" which was imported into Barbados and, as I know, all imports carry stamp duty and consumption tax – that thing with all the straw and so on which was imported by the other administration and dumped upon the people in Barbados. He is trying to say now that with the VAT we would not have to pay stamp duty and consumption tax on that thing which is imported. If he wants to discuss that, let us hear that. That is what I want to hear.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, I am giving him an opportunity. Please allow the Senator to proceed. I will decide if I should stop him. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. In addition to the fact that there are alternatives to sugar which can be used as substitutes, therefore one is saying that if you create an environment in which alternatives to sugar are permitted into Barbados at much cheaper cost then it offers competition. In that context, Sir, I am saying that the change in the tax system when it occurs will provide additional competition for the local sugar industry because the substitutes are going to be permitted into the country at low cost. In that regard, Sir, it has implications for the financial viability of the sugar industry.

Mr. President, I am saying that you can well appreciate the discussion as it relates to the sugar industry even when I bring the issue of the alternatives into play because you well know, Sir, that no industry can survive on its own unless it carries a complete monopoly without appreciating that in an environment where we are freeing up the trade and moving towards NAFTA and the like that there is going to be increasing competition for almost every sector of the economy. Sugar will not escape the pressures that will be brought to bear as a result of the reduction in taxes and as a result of our moving into a system like NAFTA and the like. The whole question of high factor corn syrup which was used as an alternative in the European and American markets eventually eroded and was responsible for the decline of sugar prices over the last two or three decades. It is because of the artificial alternatives...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: One day you may have to import. So you must respect that. But you must understand, Sir, and I repeat that the economy is holistic. No sector of the economy can exist in a vacuum and, as a result all of the tax measures and the whole financial system, the labour market and all of these various sectors are going to impact on the development and the growth of any individual sector within the economy. That also explains that even within this debate you can discuss the whole question of an Incomes Protocol if you wanted to because it would have implications on the wage cost within the sugar sector. So no one could stop me if I wanted to discuss the issue of an Incomes Protocol, because it has relevance to the wage structure and the wage cost within the sugar industry.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would not say no one could stop you. If it is relevant to the debate, you may proceed. If it is not, you may not. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: In fact, Sir, on that note I will introduce the whole question of the impact of the Incomes Protocol on the wage cost in the sugar industry if you permit me, Sir. Because what you are saying is that the labour cost within the agricultural sector and the sugar sector amounts to almost 60 to 70 per cent of the overall cost. Therefore, if you have a policy that attempts to put a lid on the growth of wages, it is to the benefit of the overall sector. What I am saying is that the decision to link increases in wages in the sugar industry to productivity was a wise decision and no wonder this administration has taken in fact the opportunity to extend that Protocol and indeed to attempt to make it more meaningful because that is what happens over time. You redefine and refine the system as you go on. It will not be perfect upon implementation. So that even the Incomes Protocol, which is now being renegotiated, has implications for the survival of the sugar sector. That is because it cannot exist in a vacuum.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: That too can have implications. Soon from now there will not be a crop. Let me also explain, Sir, that for a number of years the industry has benefited from the concessionary financing. Again, unless the Government moves cautiously in the area of its fiscal management, we can have a situation which I just outlined where it has to depend increasingly more on finance from domestic sources, that is from the commercial banks and the Central Bank. If that happens, the Government would then be competing with the private sector for funds. When the Government competes with the private sector, it pushes up the interest rate. Therefore, what one is saying is that over time the cost of capital to

the sugar industry itself can also escalate. What we are saying is that the whole question of effective management not only of the sugar industry is vital to the survivability of the sugar industry itself because it is all linked. There is substantial evidence to show how important all of these issues are.

I think you well respect, Sir, that the entire management of the economy since 1991 has been management with a focus to carry the economy forward.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Senator Gill's reference to blight was misguided because I thought he was using it in relation to Bradshaw, Best and Babb.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not relevant to what we are discussing. Please proceed. I think that I have given you a fair amount of latitude. Please stick to the Resolution before the Senate.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I intend, Sir, to convert that latitude into longitude.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not know what you mean but please proceed.
4.00 p.m.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I have been interrupted on numerous occasions, as you will respect, and you can appreciate. Therefore, what one is saying, if I may be permitted, is that the whole question of financing of the sugar industry must be understood in its real context and no mere coming to this Senate to ask that sugar bonds be passed will correct the difficulties that exist in the sugar industry.

I am inviting the Government to swiftly address the issue of the Board of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust. I am inviting them to understand that all of these measures are critical to the overall availability of finance, and in that context the Prime Minister of Barbados demonstrated some degree of *naïveté* in relation to the whole question of financing deficits when he accused the Civil Service of overstating the Capital expenditure, because little does he know that during such a programme you manage your expenditure and that in such a situation the easiest area to manage is the Capital expenditure, because the Current expenditure of wages and salaries have all to be committed to. The area of Capital expenditure which was managed to bring the level of expenditure from \$171 million to \$120 million was because it was required to protect the foreign reserves of the country, and that was fiscal prudence. It has nothing to do with the Civil Servants not being able to estimate correctly the Capital expenditure,

it has to do with the fact that we had to manage the expenditure side in order that the foreign reserves could be protected. The expenditure side is best managed by way of looking at the Capital side, which is just something you can quickly adjust almost overnight. You cannot do the same on the Current side with wages and salaries and the like. That is prudence and should not have been said publicly, because it demonstrates the lack of understanding in relation to the financing of fiscal deficits.

Almost everything in the country can be brought right back down to the question of the foreign reserves and the financing of deficits in Barbados, because at the end of the day the most critical factor that can carry us into the 21st century is whether or not we decide as a Government to play a particular kind of role within the economy. If we decide to play like in the 1960s we are going to run this country into trouble, so therefore there is need for a redefinition of Government in terms of its size and its structure. What one is saying as a result of that is that that has implications for financing, both at the Government level and the private sector level, so when once you accuse the Civil Service of over estimating Capital expenditure shows a fundamental lack of understanding.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, that has nothing to do with what is before us. You are persisting in irrelevance. Please stick to the motion before the House in the few minutes that are left to you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: There are a few minutes, Sir?

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am asking, Sir. How many?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, you have about five minutes left.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: That's all, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: That's all.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: So I can swipe? Sir, I will simply wrap up by saying that the restructuring of the sugar industry is necessary and that has been demonstrated by way of all kinds of analysis that have been done. We recognise that the 40 estates or so which have been brought into this programme, even if you were to sell them, cannot get you any positive net worth. The whole question, however, is that we need to save the agricultural sector, but we have to understand that in doing so we have to take tough decisions and we cannot just be concerned by maintaining a few jobs in the industry at the expense of the economy. One can well understand that fear, because the realisation of 30 000 jobs will not be easy in

this period. An excellent plan, but what is required now is some degree of accountability which has been brought back to the sugar sector as a result of the establishment of the same BACT and the BAMC, and now we look forward not only to management accountability, but financial viability. That financial viability cannot be had unless we address the cost structure within the sugar sector.

I am saying that the outlook for sugar is not bright when you take into consideration the international developments. The question of Lomé, the issues surrounding GATT, the development of NAFTA; all of these areas are going to impact fairly negatively on the sugar industry and therefore what one is saying is that there is a by-product, rum, which we have to try to protect. In that regard I therefore see the need to put some emphasis in the area of the sugar sector, not only because of the guaranteed markets which have dwindled over the years but also because rum in itself offers a tremendous opportunity for us to export and to create foreign exchange and employment. In that context I see the need for the sugar bonds, but understanding more so that we need to look at the sugar industry within the entire economic framework and not be confined to the economy.

On that score, Sir, I look forward to measures being taken within the industry, and most importantly, the appointment of a Board at the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust as hastily as possible.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I must confess that even though this is our second sitting, it is becoming rather tiresome to be subjected to the patronising attitude, day after day, of the Senator who just sat down, when we are dealing with things like economics. It is quite unlike the attitude displayed earlier by Senator Bolden when we were debating a matter of law and he dealt with it in a manner which we could appreciate without intending to be insulting. It reminded me of a quotation I read somewhere, I think it was Mark Twain who said that "everybody is ignorant about something", and I wish the Honourable Member who just sat down would remember that. He is grandstanding day after day as though he is lecturing everybody. When I look around this Chamber I suspect that all of us here have had higher education in some field or another. So because you might not be a pseudo lecturer in economics it does not mean that you do not know anything about economics, especially when one remembers that we have had two Ministers of Finance who did not even do a first year course in economics. I really do not understand and it is becoming tiresome,

as I said, insulting and patronising and I wish that we could go beyond that.
4.10 p.m.

On the other hand, I wish too that the Honourable Senator had taken the opportunity to attend the Sitting in the Lower House on Tuesday when this same measure was debated, because it is at odds with what his side had to say about it, especially if one listened to his Leader. He had a completely different attitude. He demonstrated an attitude of sincerity because this was a continuation of policies he had put in place and in the interest of continuity, this Government is maintaining it and therefore he had the good sense and sincerity to recognise that continuity was at work and he appreciated it.

That Member spoke about recognising the difficult situation which the sugar industry is in. He recognised and admitted that there were no easy solutions to sugar and to dealing with its problems, and there was not this grandstanding and this glib talk that has so far characterised most of what the Honourable Senator said. Up until the point when I heard the Honourable Senator I said to myself that I never thought I would have lived to see the day when a discussion of sugar could be dealt with dispassionately, objectively, rationally and fairly like I had been hearing up until he spoke.

When one heard the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, when one recalls the manner in which it was dealt with by all sides of the Lower House on Tuesday, one would have thought that we had at long last reached the point where we could see sugar for what it is, shorn of all the emotional baggage, all the hang-ups about slavery and all that this implies for the psyche of the Barbadian people; that we could treat it in these days, especially when it is obviously down, if not out, like any other economic activity that is in need of revival, and therefore administer the dosage and the medicine it truly needs.

Alas, we have not quite reached that point yet. All we need now is for somebody else from up on "the hills" to come down and inject some Becklesism into it, and then we will be right back where we started and no progress would have been made.

Mr. President, I am amazed that we could have also been bombarded with repetitions about the need for financial management and accountability when fresh in all of our memories must be what can be charitably described as financial blackholes – CARSICOT, St. Joseph Hospital, Sherbourne, things of that nature which have demonstrated clearly that the same sense of accountability and financial management that we are now being called upon to exercise was absent from the affairs of this country for the past 8 years.

I thought charity would have begun at home and that the Honourable Senator with all his training in economics would have therefore been teaching those lessons to his colleagues rather than to us. Maybe they were not administered or they were not taken or understood.

Mr. President, sugar is with us and it is going to be with us for a while yet. Until developments elsewhere in terms of industrialisation of food usage find other uses for sugar than we now know I am afraid we have to accept the fact that sugar is still with us. It has brought certain benefits to Barbados over the years. It still continues to bring various benefits some of which the Honourable Senator, in all fairness to him, recognises – the foreign exchange earnings, the question of jobs and then the question of ecology and aesthetics that having sugar around gives to the country, especially where things like tourism are concerned. I am sure none of us would like to see Barbados end up like, for example, Antigua, where it is a bleak, desolate land even though it is a tourism destination. It does not please the eye in the way that sugar has to do to the environment of the Barbadian landscape. We still have a lot going for us where sugar is concerned but what I want to see is that we end this love/hate relationship with sugar where we love it for the foreign exchange it brings, love it sometimes for the jobs it provides, but on the other hand we hate it because of our antecedents in history.

I know that sugar has been good to us. It deserves, Mr. President, the support it is getting now. It is a support that is needed and deserved and I am sure that Honourable Members recognise that even though it might be sometime yet or perhaps never be where Barbados was once described in the 17th century as being "the fairest jewel in the Crown of England" because of the wealth it generated through sugar, we still have a duty to recognise and to give it the support that it deserves in order to prolong its contribution to Barbadian economy and to the Barbadian society.

Mr. President, while we are bewailing the fact that we have not been able to maintain the accustomed production levels and while we are rightfully concerned about the fact that the markets are dwindling and some of our guaranteed markets will probably disappear in the not-too-distant future, I think that one of the areas that we are overlooking is the fact that sugar, which has been with us for more than 300 years, has in the interim while its economic fortunes have fluctuated allowed us to develop something which in these modern times is now known as "intellectual capital". Maybe while we might not be able to do much in terms of producing and selling at lucrative prices every year on the world market, I think it would be useful if some attention were to be paid on capitalising on this intellectual wealth we have accumulated, the expertise that we would have gained over the years when for example, it would have made Barbados a leading light in the propagation of sugar cane species in the production of sugar. All of this amounts

to a tremendous storehouse of knowledge and expertise over the years. Maybe some thought could be given to see how all of this could be brought together and how it could be exported in the information age and the age of intellectual capital, to the benefit of all concerned.

Mr. President, where the sugar bonds are concerned, I think that the floating of these bonds will be made available to insurance companies and credit unions. I am particularly interested in the credit union movement seeing that I am a credit unionist myself. The investment would be guaranteed by Government and I think this presents an opportunity for the credit unions to put some of their funds into a venture which would help guarantee returns for them and which would allow them to make a social contribution and a contribution to the economy of the country in a way that they could not have been guaranteed if they had put their money, unwisely, from my point of view, into the ill-fated agro-processing plant in Christ Church, which has been doomed for a long time and has no visible means of resuscitation for anybody's expectations.

Therefore I would like to urge the credit unions to take advantage of these bonds. They already invest some of their funds into Government paper and other sure securities and I think that this is an excellent opportunity for them to ensure both good and safe returns for their membership and at the same time contribute to the ongoing growth and development of Barbados and to ensure the continual stability and the survivability of an industry which has done so much for us in the past and which with the good management which is obviously being administered now will stand Barbados in good stead in the future. Thank you.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I am sorry that through my own fault I only saw this paper this morning so I didn't have too much time to discuss this with people in the sugar industry whom I know would have liked me to have raised a number of points on this question of the BAMC.

I think one point I would like to raise at the outset is to allay the fears of the Senator about the question of managerial cleaning up of the sugar industry of which I have been most critical over the last 20 years. It really wanted doing. The appointment of somebody like Booker Tate, which I strongly supported, was on the basis that they would have no familial ties, no other interests and would be the ones to clean up the act. As far as I know they have done so.

As far as I know there are 2 area managers now who manage 40 estates. I presume that they are continuing to whittle away at anything that is not good and are putting in place a managerial team in Barbados. They only have, I think three or four staff members here themselves.

4.20 p.m.

There are a couple of other points on the BAMC. In the last administration BAMC was treated as a quasi-Government organisation. As I represent a lot of non-sugar small farmers, we had to compete with BAMC who were getting duty free materials. They get diesel and so on without a road tax. Our farmers did not get that. They grow the same crops. They have gone into and diversified into the same crops as the small farmers and that did cause some concern to us. We have been having ongoing discussions with BAMC and Booker Tate on this question of diversification because diversification has been with us for 40 years but we really have not achieved very much in diversification, in my opinion, because the past Ministries of Agriculture and Ministers of Agriculture of succeeding Governments have said "diversify out of sugar cane" and the guy with 2 or 3 acres of cane took it out of sugar cane and he put 2 or 3 acres into cucumbers. The price of cucumbers was .60¢ when he planted it, it was .15¢ when he reaped it so he lost his shirt whereas with sugar cane he knew the price he was getting and he knew that he had a guaranteed market at a guaranteed price and that is all the farmer wants. He has so many risks to face out there, as you see what happened here. This is the worst drought since 1841.

The sugar industry has lost, but do you not think a lot of small farmers out there have also lost? Some of them have gone out of business. Some of them are broke because of that drought. It is not that just the sugar industry has lost. We have to figure out that these small farmers are also extremely susceptible.

We talked about the problems in the sugar industry. We talked about the "health" sugar from Guatemala. I call it "health" sugar because I think it was very high in additive fibre. Health foods these days are high in fibre therefore this sugar was a kind of health fibre. What I would like to ask about this is that we continue to import 15 000 tonnes of sugar, according to Senator Farley. That is our local consumption and we will continue to import that because we are allowed by the LOME Convention to import that sugar and export ours into the quota. Not that we alone have been doing it but Trinidad has been doing it, Jamaica has been doing it and Guyana was doing it also so everybody was doing it and we will continue to do this.

Now, if we import sugar at world market prices and we sell it to the local consumer here at this very high price that is set by a Government regulation, to me I think that is something like \$1 000 a tonne. If we import 15 000 tonnes that is \$15 million. Where is this \$15 million? Senator Farley says we are looking for \$66 million over 5 years but we have \$15 million coming in and it is going into the Consolidated Fund, or is it given to BADMC to subsidise their operations, or it disappears as it did in the first year or so that it came in here, nobody could ever figure out how or where it went to.

These are the things that really concern me because this is a source of money that if it was not going to the Consolidated Fund – you say, okay this is sugar money. The consumers of Barbados are paying this for sugar. They would feel better if that money was going into the sugar industry that they are supporting rather than going into the Consolidated Fund. Surely if this is \$15 million a year do we really need to have any other subsidy other than that if that went direct towards this Sinking Fund or whatever it is called?

I would like to stress, all speakers have mentioned this, the environmental effect of the sugar industry. I think we cannot stress it enough that the sugar industry will preserve this land. That is why we need to talk about a land use policy. Senator Farley mentioned it in passing but I think this is such a critical area that I would like to see the Government address it and come out with a clear land use policy because it has happened over the years that each succeeding Government has said, okay and we have this horrible situation where the Minister of Lands, or whoever he maybe, or the person in charge of Town and Country Planning can actually overturn a decision by the Town Planning Department after that has been consulted at every level. It goes to an Appeals Board and the Appeals Board turns down the application, then the present legislation allows the Minister to change this decision of all the technocrats and to grant an application to develop agriculture land for non agricultural usage. This is something I have felt very strongly about and I would like to see the Government move very quickly to a land use policy that one can see through, that is very clear and there is no question about who you are as to whether or not permission will be granted.

The question of creating jobs. I think without a doubt that the least cost of creating a job is in the area of agriculture, and I am very pleased to see this present Government shifting towards rural development where we can create small farmers out there in the countryside and create lots of jobs in that area and do that probably cheaper than anywhere.

On the question of productivity. The sugar industry was the leader in terms of paying on productivity and certainly during the crop time all sugar workers have been paid on a productivity basis for 50 years or more, if not before. In all these areas I think I would like to say I would very much like to support this particular motion.

I thank you.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, since sugar is vital to the thriving of agriculture and it is the only crop in Barbados which, as has been pointed out, can withstand unpredictable weather conditions, whether there be long periods of drought, as there has been

recently, or heavy rainfall, and it also reconditions the soil, the decision to give it another chance is right and laudable.

Mr. President, my concern is mainly with agricultural education. There was a time in the 1930s and 1940s when the avenues to tertiary education were 1 Barbados Scholarship, 2 Island Scholarships to Codrington College and a Bovell Scholarship to ICTA or the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture for those who were not around in that time. In addition, students at Harrison College studied Botany for the Higher School Certificate and then went on to ICTA because it offered the only opportunities at that time and some of these people were sons of estate owners.

ICTA produced agronomists, agricultural scientists who went on to make a name for themselves and some of them whom we know very well became heads of agricultural departments in other Caribbean islands. Nowadays, unfortunately, students are not being drawn to agriculture in large numbers nor do we in Barbados have farm management schools although at CXC and Cambridge Biology does cover some aspects of botany and zoology. But in order to prepare for the 21st Century, and that is one thing that I would observe from what Senator Mascoll said, I noted he mentioned the 21st Century and he mentioned it only once, We have to prepare for that for us to compete globally in agriculture and in science driven technology generally. If we are to do that many more of our best students, our bright students must be encouraged to study agriculture and food technology.

4.30 p.m.

I am not going to bore any one with historical reasons. They are now commonplace but secondary schools have been trying for some time to motivate students but one of the problems is that parents tend to steer their children away from agriculture and indeed even technology and steer them towards academic interests and the traditional professions. And students, themselves, Mr. President, tend to opt for those subjects which they think will bring them greater and more lucrative career opportunities. Thus you find that in many secondary schools, technical and vocational subjects, particularly agriculture, are under-subscribed.

This means too that agriculture is not always economically viable and I can speak of this from personal experience when, to my regret, after great enthusiasm on the part of staff and myself we introduced agricultural science only for it to have to be discontinued later on by my successor because it was not economically viable. People need to be aware that you should not necessarily close the door to other experiences.

We have to try more and more to make parents conscious of the importance of agriculture and of the role

of the students themselves in the development of agriculture in their country.

The Dean of Agriculture at St. Augustine has stated that lively teaching, observation and A practical problem solving approach will help to act as stimuli. The subject has just been introduced at the Community College and this is encouraging. The Minister of Education, the Honourable Mia Mottley recently asked principals to identify areas of excellence and again it is encouraging that the principals of two schools have named agriculture. So that in some ways the picture is bright and an increase in the throughput of secondary students gaining entry to universities will secure the essential nexus between science and technology which is necessary for its achieving increased agricultural productivity and improved technology management.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: It seems to me, Mr. President, I get called upon before I am quite ready in this Honourable Chamber. I got the distinct impression that so many other Honourable Members were just dying to have the opportunity to speak on this week's subject.

I merely wish to make the observation, Mr. President, that the majority which the successful political party obtained in 1986 and again in 1994 was the kind of majority which in my view should have clearly indicated that a mandate had been given by the people of the country for certain social engineering to take place as could take place in the field of agriculture.

It has been my criticism that the Government of the 1986-91 period did not grasp that opportunity to take a hold of the mandate which was given by the people for that social engineering to take place.

It is my wish, Mr. President, that the Government which got a similar mandate in terms of size, overwhelming support, in 1994 would recognise the dimensions of that instruction by the people for certain social engineering to take place and that they would not fail or disappoint the people of this country.

Agriculture, Sir, lends itself to the kind of social engineering which the people of Barbados require. In this field, especially where taxpayers' money will be utilized, the public needs to feel a sense of involvement. They need to feel a sense of belonging. They need to feel a sense of empowerment and the Government is well placed by the overwhelming support of the people to make sure that in the field of agriculture this kind of empowerment takes place.

It is somewhat to be regretted therefore that in the speech from the Throne a matter of this significance did not manage to get any pronouncement except for mention

on one occasion on page 5. Of course my colleagues and friends would tell me that you cannot mention everything and I accept that. But I would like to have the public at large have an understanding of the seriousness which attaches to this aspect of our development and therefore I would want to believe that even though the mention is not there the action which is to follow would leave no doubt in anybody's mind regarding the seriousness that attaches to agriculture on the part of the Government and the other players which there will be toward the national development because I have never been one to subscribe to the view that we have to depend solely on the Government for our national development.

I believe that the Government, the private sector, the trade union movement, other non-governmental organisations and the people as a whole, all have a role to play in this developmental process.

Against this background and in that spirit, Mr. President, I rise to support the intentions of the Bill because I believe that as Senator Murray has said, sugar has regrettably become 'footballized' over very many decades in this country. Pardon me, Sir, I have a very limited vocabulary and I have to make up words as I go along. But we have to rise beyond that position of treating the subject as a football when sugar is so critical, and agriculture is so critical to our well-being as a society.

Even in the most highly industrialised countries, Mr. President, those Governments which are forward looking spend considerable parts of the gross domestic product of their countries in supporting agriculture and in some instances in subsidizing agriculture. Indeed we have the terribly contradictory position where the major players in the world at the same time that we must liberalise our trade to the extent that we should reduce all subsidies and support for agriculture then they do not act in the same manner and they have all forms of protective mechanism for their agricultural products be it in Great Britain, the United States or France or Germany or where have you, or where the Honourable Senator has just returned from the land in the Orient Nippon sometimes called Japan. I am sure that Senator Goddard found that place very pleasant and a challenge especially to developing countries like ourselves.

4.40 p.m.

If the protection is there, Mr. President, then we have got to be able to look squarely at any Opposition which there is – I am not referring to Opposition parties. I am referring to opposition forces – to indicate that the interest of the country dictates that there must be a certain support for such a vital industry. I believe the reasons have been very well put by previous speakers regarding the ecological aspects of protection, regarding the foreign exchange

implications of that protection, regarding the employment potential and I shall not wish to speak to all of them but rather to express certain other concerns which, Mr. President, I am sure you yourself would also share.

One of these concerns, Mr. President, would relate to the matter of jobs within the industry. Another would relate to the lands which there are within the industry and the allocation of these lands to agriculture. The third concern would be the need for a regime to replace the current lease arrangement which the Government has set in place to be managed by the Booker Tate interest. Within that particular situation, I wish to re-assert that the taxpayers of this country would demand a certain assurance that after the 5 to 12-year period during which the Booker Tate Management will be in place and during which evidence indicates that there will be a resuscitation within the industry that we need to be satisfied that the money which as taxpayers we will put into this industry is not money which will be allowed to lapse, because the same mismanagement that there was heretofore becomes again the order of the day. In short what I am saying, Mr. President, is that the owners of the sugar lands and the Government which is supporting the sugar lands must enter very early into the kinds of discussions which will ensure that after 5 or 6 or whenever the period is that the lands have repaid the outstanding amounts of money to the banks, that there is a regime in place that will not allow the same people who could not manage for so many years – they may be dead but their systems might be alive – to continue in that form of non-management which existed. I hope that there will be, because I believe there can be, a particular regime put in place to secure the lands in the interest of all of the peoples.

I am not saying, as I have been accused of saying before now, that we should enter into a period of expropriation because my brand of socialism is not a brand which says that we must take away what people have and not give them compensation for it. I believe therefore that it should be recognized that we are not talking about that level of undemocratic behaviour. We are talking instead of discussions which will move towards an appreciation by all of the parties that what we have as a country must be managed in the total interest of the entire community while not denying individuals their individual entitlement to ownership in their particular bits of revenue or bits of assets. The peculiar nature of our sugar is such that we will need in the final analysis to establish the framework for the number of different systems from those systems which generally have applied elsewhere. One important aspect of that regime has to do with labour. I think that you would recognize, Sir, that in many other areas of economic activity the people go to work and when they reach 60 they start looking towards retirement and at 65 most of them have gone off on a pension of one form or another.

Because of the historical elements within the sugar industry, if we would permit that very loose interpretation of what has happened in the socio-historical aspect of the industry, younger people have refused to enter into agriculture generally and into sugar in particular. Now what we therefore find is that those people who are working within the sugar industry except for the factories are people who by and large have an average age well in excess of 50 years of age. In fact, I think that in some plantations it might be safer to say over 60 years of age as Senator Laurie will agree with me. Those persons have remained in the industry in very many instances because they have been conscious of the fact that if they leave the industry it would collapse from lack of manpower effectively to grow and to reap the canes.

I would wish in that regard to suggest to the Leader of this House that in discussions further with the Minister responsible for Agriculture and since this matter would have some relationship with the Ministry of Finance as well that they take on board the suggestion made by before now in another place and in my professional capacity as a trade union leader that there be a special regime for persons over 65 who are leaving the labour market in agriculture and that a special dispensation be set up which would allow for some kind of *ex-gratia* award to those persons out of the money that will become available. Because I do not believe that the normal Severance Payments legislation would be a fair manner in which to treat these people who have remained physically at work, contributing significantly to the job but who could now in the re-organisation within the sugar industry which will take place who will be sent off either by attrition or by some other re-organisation of the industry and who will get nothing whatsoever because they are beyond the age of 65 years. I think that it is very important that the Government would make a move in that department and give us certain assurances so that those workers who over the last 3 or 4 years who have been part of the re-organisation and who have sacrificed their jobs or who have had their jobs taken away that they will be beneficiaries to this particular regime that I describe.

I would wish further, Sir, to suggest that the Government should go further and establish a form of realisation for those workers that it has established a regime made in the public interest for the management of the resources within the industry so to be structured that members of the general work force in the industry have some say within the management systems that are going to be set in place. The Government has too great a stake in the sugar industry at this point to allow the industry to be managed in the same way by the same parties as it was managed before.

I think furthermore that the labour management relations must assume new dimensions. I am aware that my

friend and colleague, Senator Bolden, has had some discussions with me regarding the feelings of certain workers in the industry about the level of management relations as it relates to them as a group of people. I think that is unfortunate especially since the Government as a major supporter and guarantor of the industry has a significant role to play and should have a certain respect for what would be Government's role as an exemplar in labour management relations.

I would wish to say that even as I say that I am very conscious of the fact that the level of management which we now have is superior to anything that we have had before. But because there is superior management and because there is a level of discussion and negotiations that we were denied before now and because furthermore there is the concern for the health and safety of workers which the Barbados Workers' Union has particularly been in the forefront of generating, that is not to say that we can take pockets of workers and disregard their intrinsic rights as employees and not enter fully into discussions with them. Especially where Government funds are involved, Government must insist that those persons who are beneficiary in any form join with the Government in being exemplars in the area of labour management relations.

4.50 p.m.

I wish to say a brief word, Sir, in regard to the matter of the shortfall in sugar which, regrettably, we are going to be faced with in 1995. It would seem to me that the management structure is setting in place a good regime for 1996 crop, as economists would say, all things being equal and God being kind to us. Nineteen ninety five, however, is very clearly going to be a nightmare and even though this might be perceived as a political statement – and I know we are not supposed to make those statements in this place – I am suggesting, fervently hoping that there will be a greater level of understanding by the public at large and by the major players, which they are, in the matter of guiding and leading public opinion than unfortunately there was in the past, and that when we have to import sugar that the reasons for the importation would be recognised and that we would join together in appreciating that if we grow only 34 000 tonnes of sugar this year, it is in our interest as a people to export that sugar so that our foreign exchange earnings may be much higher than they otherwise would be if we have to take our 15 000 quota for local consumption out of it and only export the remainder.

We will have a difficulty, first of all, in gaining the foreign exchange earnings to be able to do the kinds of things a Government should do, but equally importantly we run the risk of losing our quota on an international market that is now being less friendly towards the Caribbean particularly in trading matters than it was when we had on our back door the situation in Grenada and when we had

a Guyanese phenomenon, and when Cuba was considered to be a great enemy to the system of political management that we agreed to, but now that the world has no schisms, has no political differences for the time being, the value and importance of the Caribbean is being reduced and it is left to those of us who impact in any way we can on the international community, like the Honourable Senator and Minister of International Business, and that some of us who would be involved in international law and those involved in international trade union business, to use the occasions of our travel to remind the world at large that we have not lost our trading, political and economic strategic importance, but I am saying that in relation to sugar that valuable position which we obtained before and had before is lost in the matter of globalised trade on a pitch that is not level. Consequently, we have as a people, notwithstanding the rights and the importance and the relevance of the political dynamics that will take place in a country, to make people understand the importance and the relevance of what is sugar to our economy.

Finally, Sir, I would wish to make the point that the Barbados Workers' Union has before now submitted a proposal for a comprehensive land use policy to the previous administration and I believe that they took certain aspects of it in their Five Year Development Plan. What they did not do, and what I am still looking for, is to have a meeting of the Barbados Workers' Union and other interest groups within the sector, and we are calling on the Minister of Agriculture and hoping that he will have such a meeting so that he would be in a position to understand fully the dynamics of our submission and be able to take on board those aspects of it which will probably fit into the present policy framework of the Government. We are not trying to suggest as an interest group any one sector – the BAS, the BWU or any other – has all the answers, but we are trying to suggest that to the extent that we are able to draw from the various different views of the major or as many of even the minor elements within the society which have points of view to impact on economic development, to that extent the Government can make a reality of its statement that it is the new Barbados Labour Party, it has a new vision, it is prepared to utilise the full mandate of the people and it is prepared to go beyond that to give the social engineering that is required by the electorate in the magnitude of the majority that has been given.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, someone once said that in order to build we first have to destroy. It is my opinion that this has been the philosophy that guided the past administration in the last eight years in relation to their relationship with the sugar industry.

I believe it is a national scandal that sugar production in this country could have fallen from 111 000 tonnes in 1986 to 48 000 tonnes in 1992. I also believe it is a

scandal that Barbadians who have become accustomed to eating and drinking their own sugar found themselves in a situation in the past couple of years, and at least for the next 18 months, where they will have to live on a diet of Guatemalan sugar. I believe that part of the reason we have found ourselves in this situation has been the lack of a sensible land use policy, as Senator Laurie indicated in his speech earlier today. We have a situation today in Barbados where 12 000 lots of land are lying idle as house lots. We know of the demise of the Lower Estate and Cottage Plantations in St. George and I think that this Government and any future Government must have a serious policy towards land use.

I want to give reasons why I think Barbados needs to support the sugar industry, even in 1994. I do not want to repeat a lot of what Senator Farley has said, but we know the foreign exchange which the industry has earned for this country. I want to go a bit further than that. We had a situation in Barbados last year where there was a link developed between the sugar industry and the tourism industry. Two tonnes of Muscovado sugar produced by Bulkeley Factory was used by a small company in this country, placed in burlap sacks and sold as a souvenir at a price that would have been a lot higher than what we would have been able to get on the world market or even among the guaranteed prices. The point I am trying to make is that there are opportunities for us with special sugars in Barbados. Last year we exported 3 000 tonnes of yellow crystal sugar to Britain, which is a direct marketed sugar, which went directly to consumers, as opposed to the vast majority of our sugar which goes to Britain to be used by Tate and Lyle in the refineries to make granulated sugar and other specialty sugars.

We also have the important situation here where the rum industry has been developing at tremendous pace and we also have an indigenous product, Falernum, which I think has tremendous potential as an export product. But while I want to speak to the support which I hope and believe this Government would give to the rum industry, I want to outline a couple of problems the industry has been having over the last three to four years.

5.00 p.m.

The industry finds itself in a similar situation to the sugar industry in that a lot of the equipment in the refineries is obsolete. There is the question of energy cost. The two refineries in Barbados use Bunker C fuel and, I know as a fact, that as recently as August of this year Government was approached to remove the consumption tax on Bunker C fuel to give the refineries that leverage that they must have to become more competitive in the export market and Government did not budge.

I am calling on this present Government to do all in its power to ensure that the refineries in this country

get a fair deal and be placed in a situation where they can compete successfully in the overseas market. Senator Mascoll made a very important point that we have more to gain by exporting bottled rum than bulk rum and I agree with him on this issue.

Since 1992, the West Indies Rum Refinery found itself in the enviable situation where they were able to earn as much as US\$4 million in export earnings. The vast majority of this has been the result of Malibu Coconut rum being now totally made in Barbados. As a matter of fact, the statistics are interesting. To date they have exported 30 million bottles of Malibu which were produced in Barbados. It offers us an opportunity, because not only do we get advantages from this in the sugar industry but every bottle of that Malibu rum which is sold in 150 countries around the world carries the stamp, Made in Barbados at the Refinery in Brighton. This is important to us that we link sugar and agriculture to tourism.

I also want to speak in support of the retention of the sugar crop because as a person employed in a company that owns a feed mill I know the extensive cost that we had to bear over the last couple of years when molasses had to be imported for the two major feed manufacturers in this country. There are tremendous benefits which can be had from sugar and its products in this country. I will make reference to Senator Laurie. He is well aware that bagasse is being used by the BAS in their mushroom projects as a basis for the propagation of the mushroom.

There is also the possibility that molasses and bagasse mixtures which have been treated with certain micro-organisms to decompose cellulose, to produce nitrate, and hydrolyse starches; and proteolytic enzymes have been successfully used in the feeding of cattle worldwide, particularly in tropical areas and can be included to the extent of 20% of the animals' diet.

So the evidence is overwhelming, in my estimation, as to reasons why we in Barbados need to support the sugar industry. I have concerns, however, as the 1995 crop approaches. My concerns are that I hope that the goodly Senator Trotman and our Government can get together to ensure that we have an early start to the crop. We well remember that in 1992 a situation developed where we had a productivity strike and that crop went into July and we had a lot of serious implications as a result of that.

One of the implications was that during the wet season, because of the extent to which we are forced to use mechanical harvesting, a lot of ratoons were destroyed. Then we had a shorter period of time between that crop and the subsequent crop as a result of this. This is one of the known non-weather factors which impacted on the level of sugar production in recent times.

So I am calling upon you, my goodly Senator, to do what you can to assist the country and the Government in getting this programme going.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Senator is misleading this House because he is purporting that the trade union movement, especially the one in which I happen to have the distinct honour to be part of... The Honourable Senator is misleading this House, giving the impression that this Senator in his capacity as General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union has been responsible for a late start to the 1992 crop. That, Mr. President, is not true and I would wish the Honourable Member to withdraw the sentiments because he is misleading this House.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: That was not my intention. It was to urge all those in the sector involved to do what they can to assist the country.

Another concern which I have is in the Booker Tate Report. They have been calling for the closure of Bulkeley Factory. I do not know where we will go on this issue, but I hope that whatever position we take that it will be made in the interest of this country. We are in a situation where we only have three factories and I think a lot of thought has to go into this rationalisation process so that the country can benefit from the area of sugar production.

My concern, as Senator Farley said before, is that this situation of the revitalisation of the sugar industry must not be seen alone. We must also look at other areas of non-sugar agriculture. This is where I take issue with statements made by Senator Mascoll who said that vegetable production and processing were elevated to a position which perhaps it should not be. I am saying that when I was a youngster we had reached a stage in Barbados where we were able to develop technology to produce something called "instant yam". My understanding of it is that the only reason why that did not continue was because of the cost of the raw materials.

We are bright people in this country, and with the efforts of people like Dr. Colin Hudson, the technology is now available in Barbados where we have mechanical diggers so that we can reduce the labour aspect of the cost of digging these yams and find ourselves in a situation where we could once again look at the possibility of revitalising the instant yam project.

I say this for the simple reason – and I want to refer again to the goodly Senator Mascoll – in most developed countries a processing plant is not really utilised for good wholesome first-grade product. That wholesome first-grade product is used in special markets. It is there to take

advantage of the products which might be damaged in harvesting so that you can recover some costs rather than losing it. In truth, dumping it. That is why I see a role for the agro-processing plant but not perhaps in the same way that you have seen it. My firm belief is that one of the reasons why the agro-processing plant failed was because there was no production before there was processing.

Let me take a look at the fishing industry. Incentives were put in place where Barbadians were able to move from day boats to ice boats and there was a tremendous surplus in fish and the private sector saw an opportunity to get into processing. The point is that you must have surplus production before you can get into processing successfully. I think that is one of the major reasons other than perhaps some bad decisions that were made in relation to equipment which I understand was obsolete, and what they brought in was not really a whole system.

The point I am trying to make is that we must have production and we must put in place systems that would allow farmers to see advantages in producing vegetables and when we have that surplus in vegetables, then we can think about processing.

It is basically for these reasons that I have absolutely no problem in supporting this Resolution, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and to highlight some of the problems that have plagued the sugar industry and agriculture in general over the years. Just for the record, I would like to remind this Honourable Senate of the production levels of some hallmark years.

In 1967, sugar production of this country exceeded 204 000 tonnes. In 1975, it was 98 000 tonnes, a reduction by half. In 1986 it was 111 000 tonnes.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: They are accurate. You don't have to check.

In recent years, we have been covering around the 50 000 tonnes level. That speaks for itself. There is one common thread that has impacted on that decline in production. It has been a land use policy that has been observed in the breach. A land use policy has been stated and it has been written, but it has not been observed.

It was particularly savaged in the years between 1986 and 1991. Particularly savaged. When lands in a high rainfall area, on a level piece of ground, in the plateau of St. John and St. George, can be cut up, forty acres turned into house spots of 4 acres a piece at \$25 000 an acre, one has to wonder if we are sane in this society. So all we talk

about the management, the structure and so on, one has to look at the land use policy. One has to look at the subliminal signals that are being sent about agriculture. We have different ways of supporting agriculture or various areas of agriculture.

In the United States, the consumer – the Government does not support sugar but it arranges it so that the consumer subsidises sugar to the tune of between \$2 billion to \$4 billion a year. I am so vague about that statistic because it is such a byzantine way of doing it that it is very difficult for the statisticians of today to really define what that consumer subsidy is to American sugar. In the same way, the cost of Japanese rice is ten times that of the world price.

We say that we have opportunities with livestock and dairy production, but we have a price support level for milk which makes it attractive for people to go out of sugar cane and grow grass.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: So we have to understand how we are protecting the various sectors of the agricultural community and supporting it. At the key and at the heart of this whole process has been a land use policy and it is the policy of this Government, stated and real, that it is going to have a vigorous land use policy to maintain as much as possible the effective productive agricultural lands of our society.

Mr. President, the Honourable Senator Mascoll talked about controlling costs, but the present management team sport a Mazda 626 that costs \$120 000, has innumerable air-conditioned pickups and it has sunk a lot of money in equipment that is difficult for anybody to justify with the production levels expected for sugar in these years. They are not directly related to increasing production. I have no quibble about buying a new tractor, but I would like to see some return on investment made or analysis made on the capital products being bought for this industry.

I agree with the fact that sugar production and non-sugar agriculture are closely intertwined and I am also pleased with the comments made by Senator Symmonds about the fact that the industry, agriculture as a whole, has not attracted our best brains because we have not had a profitable industry. Where our best brains have been applied in agriculture, those units have been highly profitable, and there are pockets of high profitability within agriculture today. That is because there are people in those areas who are committed, who love the industry and who are well educated and use new technologies, new concepts, and are cost effective.

I think we are going to find that over the years we are going to have to change our targets for production. If one takes into account the fact that we have a 54 000 tonnes U.K. quota. We have a 15 000 tonnes domestic demand and we also have a window of opportunity in the United States of between 7 000 and 9 000 tonnes. That varies from time to time. That comes to a total of 78 000 tonnes.

Taking into account our periods of drought and periods of plenty, one must plan for a 15% shortfall or overrun in the sugar production of the Island. So we can expect sugar to vary by 30%, given the same parameters of land use, but different parameters of rainfall and the same parameters of fertilisation and husbandry. When one takes those factors into account one comes to recognise that the national target must be 90 000 tonnes. We can expect the year when we will have a shortfall of 15% which would bring us back to our 78 000 tonnes which would let us meet the export demands plus the local domestic market.

Senator Welch made a very valuable contribution, Mr. President, when he highlighted the fact that the marketing arrangements for sugar need to be changed. He illustrated a couple of areas where a 3 000 tonnes or 2 000 tonnes bloc of sugar was sold in different arrangements and at prices well above our guaranteed price, far less well above the world price.

I am concerned about the interest of Booker Tate and the interest of Barbados with regard to the marketing of sugar and I think that the interest of Barbados must take priority and I think that the sugar industry could well be advised to re-assess its overall marketing position. I think that there is no doubt, Mr. President, that the sugar industry in Barbados contributes much to the society, much to our economy and much to our environment. It earns valuable foreign exchange, and agriculture is an important pursuit for any society. It brings a different spiritual dimension to the way of doing business.

5.20 p.m.

The Japanese do not have quiet gardens and placid lakes in small land spots for nothing in a crowded society and we must be mindful of those things.

I think it is important that we understand the different track records of various administrations in the actual support of agriculture and the performance in that support. I think when you look at the statistics that I recounted at the beginning of my presentation, you will recognise that sugar production over the decade between 1975 and 1986 stabilised and it varied with the vagaries of the weather.

At the heart of this whole thing, to make agriculture work, is to send a strong measure of land use policy that is

favourable to agriculture. We do not want to encourage people to throw lands into fallow disuse in the hopes of high capital gain for a very few in this society. We cannot countenance that and it is a rape of the land that has taken place and a rape of the people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, even though I may not be able to express myself so eloquently as other Members have in the area of agriculture I think I would just put in my little layman observation and trust that it would be useful to this debate.

Sir, as I look around the neighbourhoods, especially in that environment where I live, and I see the lands that used to grow sugar cane in vast amounts, and these fields are now overgrown with bushes where rodents, criminals and other unacceptable elements are found in the community, I really would prefer to see the lovely fields of sugar canes with the arrows blowing from side to side, especially around November/December.

Mr. President, my parents were individuals who grew sugar cane and I know of the hard work they put into it. I also know of the benefits they derived to help maintain the family and to run the various things they were called upon to do. I still know a lot of small farmers out there who would be also glad to continue to get involved in the development of sugar cane but because of the exorbitant costs in transportation, fertilization and labour costs, they have had to bow out, like my parents have. A lot of them are still sad. It is okay for people to say that Barbadians do not like agriculture. There are some in their 40s and 50s who want to see the sugar cane there that they too can get the benefits and have a little sugar in their tea as compared with what we were experiencing a year or two ago.

Mr. President, our people are out there in direct need of employment and it would hurt me to see that we get this sugar industry back on stream then for Barbadians to bow out gracefully when it comes to the time for reaping the sugar cane. It hurts me deeply to see how other Caribbean people come willingly, some with degrees and so on, to help reap our sugar cane. I trust this new thrust we are on to will, with some education, let people see the stigma is only there. Remove that stigma. The whole involvement in the sugar industry will help to improve the situation.

I have always said to the young people with whom I dealt that when my parents worked in the sugar industry and they received their money at the end of the week it never had on molasses, it never had on a little grain of sugar, it had on the face of a very important leader, or the Queen or some other person that they could go to the supermarket and nobody was able to point it out. I wish we could move away from that stigma and let people see

that agriculture is important; but all of us have to dip our hands into it in order for it to improve.

The Scotland District, Mr. President, I can only speak of what I know. I said I am not involved in agriculture in any way. I have assisted however, and I knew a couple of little things about it but as a child growing up we had land in the Spring Vale/Trio Path area and it grew a lot of sugar cane where trucks had to go down inside that bottom by the gulf to bring up the canes from down there. I am hurting inside when I see the condition of the fields in Spring Vale/Trio Path leading all down to that Scotland District particularly when I know that some of the methods we have tried – yes, we must mechanise the industry but why are we going to do it in areas where we know that the land cannot take a big tractor just touching the top of the soil.

We are used in those areas to having drains and wells sunk, and cane holes because those old men, even though they did not go to university, they knew what was necessary in helping to hold the soil together instead of it rushing and going down to Long Pond, or wherever in St. Andrew the water goes. I trust that with the technocrats – yes, we need those individuals to go to universities and do some studying. They are very necessary and we need to mechanise the industry, but if it cannot work in some areas we have to do like we have to do in education. We have moved away from some of our basics and we try to follow suit of a lot of other countries and now we recognise that there is a need for us to get back to the basics because our students are not reading.

If our land in St. Andrew is running away because of improper drainage, because of improper cultivation of the soil then we must get back to that, at least in that area, and ensure that our fields are growing again, that some measure of employment is brought back to help those poor people out there. They are hurting because it is in an area where they were always involved in agriculture and there is little or nothing now to help to keep them employed that they can feed their families and feed themselves.

Mr. President, I would want to say that when I pass Ashford and Hopewell and I see the land that is ploughed onto the highway and the smallest drizzle of rain carries that top soil down to Jack-in-the-Box gully and into other areas, it really hurts my heart. The khus khus grass served a very important purpose. Senator Laurie may be able to help in this situation but we still have khus khus grass at home and the soil does not go down the drain even though where we are living is sloping.

I strongly feel that if those practices worked in the past, even though we do not have to stick to them in any hard and fast way, where they were useful and where we

see the need I feel we should get back on track and see if we can continue to improve the situation. Do not try it if it does not work in every area. Where the land is okay and it can work, fine and dandy. Let us get on with it, but where it calls for special drainage, special cane holes, whatever, I strongly feel that we should get back to it and I am sure that that would help to improve the situation.

With those few comments, Sir, I would not want to be repeating the foreign exchange that is derived from it, and so, I would not want to deal with that at all. I just want to make my contribution in that small way through the eyes of a layman, and I would want to lend my support to this particular Bill.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I had hoped that I would not have had to speak on this and I sat all this time because I was sure that all my illustrious colleagues would have mentioned all there was to mention about the subject and I dare to support some of the points made by some of my friends here.

Continuing from where Senator Symmonds, and also Senator Goddard joined in this, but where Senator Symmonds left off on the matter of education associated with agriculture, particularly sugar agriculture, I think that one needs to go further than speaking of bringing educated people into the industry simply for the sake of having more knowledgeable persons in there. I see it as having an important contribution to make in terms of the research potential that there is by having people who are educated in agriculture associated with it. Of course, it would have the effect as well of lifting agriculture, and in this case sugar, to a level that it needs to be lifted to.

The fact that Senator Forde was concerned that people who should be associated with agriculture are not getting involved because it is too low for them and yet it was the life blood for many of us in the past where we got our school fees paid out of sugar agriculture, but there is a further point where research is concerned where I think we need to recognise that we have in our sugar industry in this small country perhaps the only inventor of the sugar cane harvester anywhere. I do not recall before Dr. Colin Hudson hearing of anybody else who had invented the harvester. I am told that we export it to other places, Australia as well, so then we are competing with a country as large and as important as Australia. I believe that there is potential for further research into the industry and into the implements and the machinery used. This is only going to be done if we can attract people who are educated in the right way, educated and able to do the research necessary in these areas.

5.30 p.m.

Then there is another aspect, Sir, which I think permits me to put in a plug for the ladies. I am

surprised that the lady senators here did not mention this. My wife, whenever there is some special occasion maybe a wedding, or Easter or Christmas, or a birthday, goes looking all over the place to find icing sugar and I can never understand why we have been in sugar for nearly 300 years and up to this day, as far as I know, we have not been producing icing sugar. We send our raw material, as it were, abroad, other people make it and send it back to us at great expense. I believe this is an area that we need to explore so that we produce all the different forms of this particular product down to, or up to, icing sugar.

My last point, Sir, has to do with a little concern for the people in agriculture and in sugar, apart from those I would like to see in it who are educated. I mean the ordinary workers. I think they are very often overlooked in this whole aspect. Many of them are satisfied to earn their living or their seasonal income in this way and appreciate of course the efforts made by my colleague here on my left to make sure that they get their just due even if it takes a little while for the crop to start. I am not apportioning blame here, Sir, one appreciates the efforts made to ensure that justice is done.

Sir, what I am concerned about is that these labourers go off to work and they have the difficulty of the normal facilities, toilet facilities, a place to have a wash if they need a cool down during work or at the end of the day if somebody has to go from St. Andrew to town and there is no transportation provided they might have to get on to the bus after cutting burnt canes for a whole day. I think there must be provision made around the plantations and it is must be mandatory that these facilities are provided to enable people to be able to withdraw to toilet facilities or bathroom facilities.

I would also like to be assured, Sir, that provision will be made to ensure that there is proper and adequate medical care for people who work in the sugar industry. That is my contribution, Sir, and I will support the Bill.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Thank you, Mr. President, I would like to share some of the sentiments which some of the Senators on this side as well as the other side expressed. But before I do that, one must remember that any industry which has earned an island like Barbados the kind of moneys which sugar cane, over the years, has earned it, should not think about going the way of scrapping the industry without giving it serious thought.

We only have to look around, Sir, at the achievements which the country has made, we have to look at our Bridgetown Port, we have to look at our hospitals, some of our earlier highways and you would see the sterling contribution. And when I say sterling I do not only mean

in foreign exchange. You will see the sterling contribution which the industry has made – well into the millions.

There is a saying that the more things change the less they seem to change and I have with me a report of a Commission of Inquiry and it was done during the period 1962/63 and in this Report you will see that mention has been made about educating the people about the industry. I am sure that if the correct measures were taken to educate the children at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels we would be much better placed today to handle the problems which have arisen, maybe as a result of the changing of different training paths or the environmental changes be it weather or otherwise.

One has, over the years, used lots of emotive language. The sugar industry has been used as a political football and some of the most unkind remarks have been made about the industry but I think that over the years, the producers have come to their senses and they know that we are now in a position where we cannot afford any margin of error and with the contribution which sugar has made you have got to just pull your socks up, straighten up and fly right.

Most of us have spoken only about the profits which accrue as far as the granular sugar is concerned but this report makes mention of actually downsizing the number of sugar factories to three and we are hearing the same thing ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: What document are you referring to?

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Sir, I made mention of it earlier but I do not think I caught your attention. It is the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Barbados Sugar Industry 1962/63 and the Commissioners were Professor Rawle Farley, Max B. Ifill and J. C. Browne. I am told it is already a document of the House, but I did not catch your eye. We have got now to look at the stage where we are not only looking at the granular sugar and the molasses. This document referred to the downsizing of the sugar factories bringing them to 2 or three and you will see that at that stage there will be a conservation of energy if you had linked the rum distilleries physically alongside some of these sugar factories. There is less wastage. One would act as a direct fuel for the other one and we could go beyond just the rum.

Maybe if we had given serious thought to sugar over the years like Cuba which now is one of the leaders. And I have here, and this can also be made a document of the Chamber, a bibliography of the by-products of sugar and our very own Mr. Laurie, is mentioned in here, for his

research work. But it goes further on than that, I am sure if we were serious about it over the recent years we could be in line with Cuba, we could be in line with Mauritius in terms of, not tonnage production but in terms of the development of other by-products in the industry and this is where I would like to strengthen Senator Murray's contribution with respect to the intellectual capital.

We have in Mauritius and we have in parts of Cuba and in parts of Latin American where they have actually moved into the manufacturing of pesticides, weedicides, and in more recent times, Drug manufacturing. I would not like to refer to it as a wonder drug, but any time a country can boast of having researched and developed a preparation such as the one which I am going to refer to called Ataroximol, and that was researched in Cuba, that is a lot to be proud of. As a by-product of sugar this is used today and there are people right here in Barbados who are flying overseas to get it and coming back home because it is used as a cholesterol lowering drug. And any time, Mr. President, Sir, you have research going into a product like this your return is not only now dependant on the level which sugar itself can get on the world market.

5.40 p.m.

One is also speaking about the returns. One has also got to see sugar as one of those foreign exchange earning industries where you can be almost sure that 100 per cent of the returns to sugar actually turn up in the Treasury and you do not have other areas of leakages left overseas, *et cetera*. So if you work out the ratio of foreign input to foreign return on the sugar, we can see that there is no difficulty why we should be associated with this Bill.

Before winding up, I would like to send a word of caution to those people who think that the industry which smacks of a servile mentality. We hear the very same thing being associated with the tourism industry. We get people who think it is *infra dig* to be serving people with a certain degree of decency and style. If for a moment, we think of scraping or sidelining or pushing aside the sugar industry in preference for tourism or may the other industries which are much roaming around, we must look at the fact that our children have first got to be taught the seriousness of the industry. We must see how long this industry can stand up to the test of time and any decent commission or enquiry that is held to look into sugar will show you the peaks and the troughs in the industry. Maybe we are now going through a trough and, with the world as vicious as it is in trading, it will take a little while before we come out. When we do come out of this and if we are fortified or strengthened by way of capital input, I am sure that we will be a much stronger country.

Sir, I feel or have no reservations whatsoever about

being associated with this Bill which will be backing and supporting an industry as strong as the sugar industry has been over the years. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I am extremely pleased to see so many of my fellow Senators are supporting an effort by the former administration to restructure the economy of Barbados, because restructuring the sugar industry is part of an overall programme to restructure the vital economic sectors of our country. I would, therefore, feel extremely proud and I do feel proud to stand here in support of this Bill.

I believe though in discussing sugar and the revitalisation of the sugar industry that we need to discuss agriculture. I have heard many others state that and I want to support that view. I recognize and I think we all recognize the important contribution which the sugar industry has made to this country and I stand here as someone who was raised in one of the areas in Barbados which has produced maybe the most sugar cane there in St. George. Therefore, I would have handled sugar cane. I do not know how many of us have. I stripped the trash and handed the canes on the freight carts and the trucks. So I have been a part of the sugar industry for a long time cutting and loading both burnt and unburnt sugar cane.

I think that in discussing sugar and agriculture I feel we need to bring tourism in. I believe we need to bring tourism in because we are placing a lot of emphasis on increasing the number of our tourist arrivals in Barbados and I wonder if we are overlooking the fact that tourists are people and we have to feed them. If we are going to be increasing the number of people who come here who are going to be eating at our tables, certainly we need to concentrate a bit more on our land use policy and what percentage of our land that we are going to allocate for food. Because I believe that we can reduce our food import bill considerably and help to save some of the foreign exchange which we are probably spending a lot of money to earn since production costs are high to earn this foreign exchange that we are talking so much about.

So that although I am very much in favour of the inputs to revitalise the industry, I am also very concerned that the large numbers we are bringing here we are sending out a lot of our foreign exchange to feed them. I would like to encourage the Government to look very carefully in that area of our food import bill and put some kind of incentives in place for us to grow more food and help us to save some valuable foreign exchange.

I also want to make a plea here on behalf of the workers in agriculture. I do not know how many Senators

rate than men for performing similar and the same tasks. It has been drawn to my attention by the women in agriculture that they are paid a lower rate per day than the men are. I do not know how you determine which area is more burdensome than the other since agricultural labour is so difficult. I have been asked by women in agriculture to try to have this area addressed. There is a considerable amount of discrimination. I accept any counsel that can be given to me from those who know better.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: On a point of order, Sir. I hate to interrupt a speaker who may be so early in her occasion on speaking in this Honourable Chamber and I hope that she forgives me for doing it. But it is not true to say, Sir, that women earn less money than men in the sugar industry or anywhere else in Barbados for doing the same work. No Barbados Government administration and the Barbados Workers' Union would be parties to such an arrangement. The truth of the matter, Sir, is that there are different tasks which are set and, if a woman undertakes the same task as a man, she gets the same rate. Now I would accept that in the past there have been areas of discrimination where women were not allowed to do certain jobs. But with the enlightenment that we have got over the years and women's assertion of their equality, they have been in fact able to even cut canes and do other things that men do. I would therefore wish that the statement is corrected by the Honourable Senator.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Senator Trotman. As I said, I stand to be corrected but it was drawn to my attention on many occasions and I thought that I should raise it. Now I believe that I can go back to them and try to find out what they do and what they do not do.

In sitting here this evening and listening to the debate, I tried to picture a Senate in Barbados in the year 2025 and wondered what Senators would be addressing. Something in the back of my mind keeps saying to me that at sometime we will be asking ourselves now that we have educated our people and we have brought them to this level where they are making so many demands and they want to have certain standards of living we will be addressing housing. They are going to be considering the types of houses which Barbadians can own in a 166 square miles island. I do not think it would be too soon for any Government in this country to anticipate that and cause any land use policy to address that. Are we going to ask people to consider high rise housing in order that our land space can be used for other things? I see my friend over there shaking his head, but the question is, how do we know that we are going to contain our population to the extent that that would not become necessary? I am a bit futuristic and I am throwing these things out and I hope the land use policy will be that futuristic also in scope.
5.50 p.m.

Therefore, Mr. President, I stand here to support this Bill. Again, I believe the former administration ought to be commended on its foresight and the decision to make sure that the sugar industry is addressed, since it makes such a valuable contribution to all sectors of our society. We looked at the by-products and there are a number of other areas in which the by-products of sugar cane can be used, and which need to be addressed, which can also help to create some employment in the country. I therefore will not hesitate to support the Bill and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, in wrapping up debate on this Bill I just want to make a few comments. First, I would like to thank the Senators for their general support of this Bill, although I would not share the comments of the last speaker, Senator Thompson, that the last Government ought to be congratulated for putting sugar at the forefront of the economy. Indeed, Sir, I think most analysts of the statistics for the period 1986 to 1994 would not agree that the outturn figures have indicated anything in the nature of putting sugar at the forefront of the economy, unless of course one is suggesting that the rate of decline in that sector by nature of being less than the decline in others put it at the forefront of declining sectors. I do not think that was the intention.

Senator Mascoll, in supporting this Bill, made a number of useful points, much of which really were in agreement with the points which the Government put forward, at least when the Senator was travelling along the appropriate path. I want to assure him, however, as far as his concerns for the Boards for the Barbados Agricultural Management Company and the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust, that the formation of those Boards is presently being addressed and we too are in agreement with him that there is a need to ensure that the highest quality management, both on the policy and the level of operation, will be evident at those institutions. At the present time, in the absence of a Board, we are not necessarily in a position to comment or do anything in relation to the quality of the management at the level of the operatives, but we will leave it up to the Board, which I am sure when it is announced will probably cause the Senator Mascoll to do some somersaults with joy and appreciation at the quality and depth of the persons who will be appointed to that Board. That Board will be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the day by day operations of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company are in keeping with the broad policy objectives which we have all agreed to.

We also on this side take Senator Mascoll's point of the critical role of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust within the financial system of the economy. In fact, it was the size of the loan portfolio to the sugar industry

within the Barbados National Bank which necessitated that in order to prevent the Bank from being further tainted by the quality of that loan portfolio, that there needed to be a surgical separation. We recognise, therefore, that the size of the investment which will be made in this company will be of critical importance. As usual, Sir, given this side's excellent history in matters of not just general management but fiscal management I am sure Senator Mascoll will feel quite confident and assured that we, in our usual excellent style, and we have our record to show, I am sure he will be happy with the way that that matter will be handled.

Mr. President, it is quite clear, as has been suggested during the debate, that the cost structure of the industry will have to be addressed. It is well agreed and well established that in the matter of sugar, given the present nature of the marketing arrangements, we are price takers as far as the output is concerned and therefore if we are to return to a state of profit and ultimately maximise that profit, then we have to contain our costs.

The other side of that coin is the point raised by Senator Welch, that if we have enough latitude as far as our availability of sugar is concerned, perhaps we could explore additional markets. I will not list them as alternative, because we still prefer to have the safety of those guaranteed markets, but if the level of output permits there is scope for developing those niche markets especially by the time the scientists are finished tinkering around with their various analyses of all these different substances, they will come around to the home truth that some natural products carry in the aggregate less dangers than the highly analysed synthetic substances which we are consuming under the guise of good health.

In the recent past, Sir, in another place, at another time, Members of this side made public comments to the effect that the cost of doing business in Barbados is one of the major prohibiting factors with respect to our competitiveness internationally. We recognise that wherever possible various things must be done within the limit of our capabilities to address the problems of the cost structure in the different industries, be it tourism, agriculture, international business sector and part of the restructuring will seek to receive the benefit of economies of scale and other rationalisation which would have an impact on the cost of producing unit quantities of sugar.
6.00 p.m.

I am happy, Sir, that the Senators who contributed to the debate have agreed with us that the restructuring and revitalization of this sector is really part of the entire programme of the development of the agricultural sector and though there will be some measure of debate on the relative weight which should be assigned to the sugar sector and the non-sugar sector, either against one another,

or against other contributors to the GDP, I think we are all agreed that the maintenance of an agricultural sector with, as far as we can see based on our research that has been done, sugar being a vital component of that, is important to Barbados. I think what we are all agreed upon is that we must devise strategies which will allow for the restructuring and revitalization of the sector without at the same time destroying the public purse and causing inappropriate resource allocations in that regard and we are committed to doing that.

Sir, we are also all agreed that within the context, as Senator Mascoll reminded us of the holistic nature of the economy, and I believe that he might have acquired that from me some way along the line, we like to interchange these ideas, that not only is the economy a holistic and dynamic entity but the broader society.

We also take the point that in terms of our wider efforts to revitalize and restructure agriculture the whole nature of education in its broadest possible meaning has to be addressed, education within the context of the formal system as well as education within the context of socialization. The development of norms and values of people in our society will have to be addressed. That is going to be extremely important in determining the long-term future of the sector because essentially the empirical and other analyses which are done on anything that you can think of, are only guides and at the end of the day many of the decisions that are made are really influenced by one's personal values, one's personal philosophy, what is important, what is good, what is bad and so on.

We must really set about to make those appropriate changes to both the formal system of education as well as the socialisation process to ensure that agriculture does not become so stigmatised and that the weight of sugar's history, whether in the recent or the distant past, does not become such an albatross around our mental necks, that we end up throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Now, Sir, the whole question of proper agronomic practices has been raised and this is particularly important within the context of the production levels that have been declining over the years as well again part of our concerns about the longer term with respect to the future of agriculture as a whole. I too have observed the presence of a new road surfacing technique. I think we are all familiar with the asphalt finishing which some people refer to as barbergreen. But in recent years there is a new one being added which used to be once used for agricultural purposes. I am referring to the fact that nowadays after sometimes even the slightest shower many of the roads in the country side become covered with sometimes 4 inches of the finest top soil that one can wish for. Not only is the soil lost in those cases but the nutrients which are essential for

adequate yields in the various crops that we may plant are really washed away.

We really, Sir, must not believe that the world started in Barbados last year, or as somebody suggested in 1961, or whatever point in the recent past one might suggest. But in all seriousness, although I might still be in the tenderest part of my years, I do not recall that problem being a major one in those early years.

I believe, Sir, that some of the agronomic practices really do have to be examined not just for sugar but in all the non-sugar areas in order to ensure that the top soil remains where it is supposed to be in the fields so that when we decide on whatever we are going to plant, whether it be sugar, sour grass, grapefruits or whatever, we will have somewhere to plant and that is an important aspect which we really must address.

In closing again, Sir, I just want to reiterate that this Bill which we have been debating today, the Barbados Agricultural Management Co. Ltd. (Sugar Bonds Guarantee) Bill, 1994, which seeks to permit the Government to provide a guarantee for bonds to be issued by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company in order for it to obtain working capital for the use of the sector during the periods 1994 to 1998 which, in this instant, will amount to some \$45 million over that four year period, which is in addition to the \$23 million that has already been secured through the Caribbean Development Bank, that is part of the ongoing restructuring programme and, as I indicated earlier, because of the shifting nature of the output, the changing nature of exchange rates in our markets, the shifting nature of the return to the sector, we will obviously have to keep the entire programme under constant review so that we are able to respond, where appropriate, to the objective conditions to ensure that our response will at all times be appropriate.

I beg to move now, Sir, 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. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in committee.
6.10 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, 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. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited (Sugar Bonds Guarantee) Act, 1994.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

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