
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, August 16, 1995

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, August 16, 1995, at 11.15 a.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) (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 T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS

Senator D. T. GILL

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Miss V. J. DAVIS

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator C. A. MASCOLL

Prayers were led by Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is now in session.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to give notice of the following:

- (1) To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land for the Highway 2A Phase 2 and Clermont Road/Canewood Road Improvement Project;
- (2) To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at St. James, St. Thomas and St. Michael to improve Highway 2A;
- (3) To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease to Tab Ltd. and Life of Barbados Ltd. of a parcel of land at the Pine, St. Michael for the construction of a car park facility;
- (4) To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the sale to D & B Services Inc. of the parcel of land at Paradise Beach Drive, St. Michael for the upgrading of the Tower Hotel.

I also want to inform the Honourable Senate, Sir, that I propose with their concurrence to move these matters through their stages today.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS RECOMMITTED

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

- (1) White Paper on Education Reform for Barbados;
- (2) The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 14) Order, 1995;
- (3) The Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1995;
- (4) The Civil Establishments (Teachers) Order, 1995;
- (5) The Annual Report of the Child Care Board, April 1990 to March 1991;
- (6) Instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 81st Session held in Geneva from June 7-24, 1994.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill which will provide for the establishment of the Rural Development Commission which *inter alia* provide for the improvement of social amenities, provide assistance to small farmers and give assistance to the establishment and development of cottage industries in rural areas and for related matters.

Now, Sir, this Bill which we are being asked to consider today is a fulfillment of our commitment to providing appropriate mechanisms which would help us in the words of the 1994 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party to rebuild strong, vibrant rural communities in which our people will find it desirable to reside, work and play. Sir, our interest in matters of rural development however are of a long-standing nature and have been given expression in various ways over the years. The establishment of a Rural Development Commission is our method of giving expression to our commitment to rural development. It is important at the onset of this debate, Sir, to set this whole matter in its appropriate context.

Historically, Sir, most of the rural economic activity in Barbados was centered around plantation agriculture.

You will agree, Sir, that that has changed somewhat over the years with the expansion of other avenues of economic activity. The result of that long-standing agricultural framework has not changed as rapidly as the relative importance of that particular sector in that the legacy in terms of skewed ownership of the agricultural base towards arable land as well as the existence of several tenant communities still exist. But, Sir, over the years this administration in particular in our previous term in Government has taken several steps to correct this situation. In fact, Sir, the 1979 to 1983 Government Development Plan identified 4 important projects to be undertaken during that period with respect to rural development. Those included, Sir, the promotion and development of export agriculture an integrated rural agricultural development plan, irrigation development as well as the land settlement and land lease scheme and I will speak more on those as we proceed.

Sir, another important feature of the current structure of Barbados which sets the context for the nature of this Rural Development Commission and the activities which it will pursue as it seeks to execute its mandate is the fact, Sir, that although there is not as clear a dichotomy between urban and rural Barbados as you would have in other countries, Sir, there is a high degree of dualism in terms of what really constitutes rural Barbados. You have a situation in which in the rural areas there are pockets of pretty substantial development characterised by excellent housing, good road infrastructure, full electrification, street lighting and other amenities, surrounded virtually by an ocean of under-developed areas characterised by poor housing development, weak infrastructure, lack of support services and, very important, Sir, lack of opportunities for economic advancement either by way of agriculture or other economic activity.

11.25 a.m.

It is that latter element, Sir, that this particular establishment, that is, the Rural Development Commission, would seek to address. It also clearly indicates, as would be expected, that agricultural development would form the main framework of the development thrust within the rural sector. What a Rural Development Commission would seek to do, Sir, and what it would enable us to do is to be able, within the framework of agricultural development, to provide for the other necessary infrastructural development, including irrigation, roads and the like, which would enable persons to exploit the full economic potential of being resident in rural areas. But as I indicated, this is a step along the evolutionary path which had been set in motion some time ago.

You would remember, Sir, that the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and the Tenancies Development Act were major features of the work of this Party when

last in Government. Those two pieces of legislation bridged the gap which existed between the interest on the part of Government in having agricultural development diffused amongst a wider range of persons than the small land owning class and putting it into reality. In effect, what that programme sought to do was to enable the tenants in plantation tenancies to own the land which they had occupied for so many years. These lands, as you will know, Sir, would have constituted in many cases not simply a house spot, as was the case in the urban areas, but many of them would have included a small agricultural holding. That programme, therefore, provided the base for creating a new land owning class of small farmer. That programme was very well received. In fact, it provided the opportunity for over 7 000 spots to be taken over by the persons who had occupied them, and these were scattered around just about 320 tenancies.

Sir, what really constitutes a rural development programme? If we take a look at rural development programmes in general, we can see a number of common characteristics. These include a land use programme, a restructuring of the farming system to improve efficiency, productivity and the like; the use of co-operatives; establishing inter-sectoral linkages, particularly with tourism and manufacturing; entrepreneurial development; the rationalisation of institutions which interact with persons in the rural areas; export development, and of course the successful rural development programmes are characterised by a relatively high degree of participation by the persons who are destined to benefit from the programme. If it is executed in that manner, it allows for a higher degree of success.

It is my submission, Sir, that the programme to be executed by the Rural Development Commission will conform to those generally accepted principles on which rural development programmes are based. If you take a look at the programme itself, the Bill speaks to the strategy which will be adopted by the Commission in the execution of its work, and it speaks to agricultural assistance to small farmers, allocation of land to persons desirous of farming, provision of amenities such as better street lighting, housing and road improvement, opportunities for training both for the job market and for self-employment, and the provision of a climate of investment for the enhancement of the above.

To implement such a programme requires that the structure of the Commission is such that it allows for the use of existing resources which may reside in other areas of the Government, and indeed in the wider community. The way in which the Commission is structured is such that it allows for that to happen quite easily, in a way that would not be possible if a simple rural department was established within the ministerial structure in the Ministry of Agriculture. The reason of course for the linkage

between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is again in keeping with what I had indicated earlier, that any rural development strategy must of course have agricultural development as its cornerstone. So one can expect that there will be a high degree of co-operation and collaboration between all the various sectors which are involved. As I said, that would not be limited to the Government's own department but, certainly, would include all other relevant agencies, including private sector agencies.

11.35 a.m.

Sir, I want to spend a little time looking at the elements which I outlined as being necessary for a successful rural development programme. Starting with the whole question of a land use programme, clearly the high number of landless farmers in Barbados constitutes a significant constraint on the development of agriculture in Barbados. It is extremely difficult to have rapid development in this sector without the availability of land.

The Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act constituted one of the first elements of this particular programme but, in addition, the Government will embark on programmes of leasing lands to farmers. You will remember that in 1979-80 the Springhall Land Lease Project was one of these first projects that was executed along that vein. There were a number of difficulties with that project and, of course, several lessons have been learnt which would inform the future programme. Some of the key lessons learnt related to project implementation. The project was conceived as a pretty good project but implementation was one of the difficulties there.

The Government, itself, through the BADMC, owns about 500 hectares of agricultural land which is just around 2% of arable land in Barbados and certainly that would constitute a reasonable starting point. But as you would expect, Sir, control of 2% of that land alone would not be enough to give full fillip to the land use programme, but I am sure the Minister of Agriculture will expand on the land use programme in good time.

Of particular interest would be the Scotland District area. That area is important for a number of reasons. That area constitutes 1/7th of Barbados, as I understand it, and its conservation is also an important matter for the nation. It is our view that a land use programme must of necessity have included in it use of the Scotland District area for agriculture but, of course, in keeping with the best forms of husbandry to ensure that environmental considerations are uppermost.

As I mentioned, the restructuring of the farming system particularly focussing on the nature of the productive unit within agriculture, that unit

historically has been the plantation. What we have found is that the average size of units in sugar had proved to be somewhat uneconomical for purposes of efficiency. The trend within sugar agriculture is to amalgamate a number of these units to generate some efficiency.

In terms of non-sugar agriculture, some of the various experiments that have been tried have indicated that there is a minimum size of land under which they should not go and there is certainly a maximum size. In fact, one of the difficulties with the Spring Hall project is that some of the farms were really a bit large for the single individual to control. But, in terms of the productive units and the reform of the farming system, this not only relates to the size of the unit but really relates to the capacity of the farmer to manage effectively and efficiently. What is really needed, are farmers who are willing and able to utilise modern technology and management practices to improve their efficiency. They need to use appropriate irrigation devices, cultivation equipment, post harvest technology, farming practices and they need to be well schooled in the concept of eco-farming where they are able to not only maintain the appropriate ecological balance in terms of the products they use on the farm and the items they produce, but they are able to use the natural self-correcting attributes which exist in nature to improve their efficiency and reduce cost.

I would want in that regard to make quick reference to the eco-farm which was part of the Village of Hope of the Global Conference which was held here in 1994. It is that kind of farmer who will be an important factor in the rural development programme and it is really the responsibility of the Government through the Rural Development Commission and through a revamped extension service in the Ministry of Agriculture to provide farmers with that kind of training, that kind of technical support and information that would help them to reduce their costs, increase their profitability as well as enhance the environment of Barbados.

Sir, the important point that must be made in all of this is that an agricultural based rural development programme recognises that the farm must be considered as a business. We can all get very romantic about agriculture and the process of planting and germination and harvest but, at the end of the day, romance has to be paid for. In fact, Sir, I would want to quote from the Mighty Sparrow whose facility in language was recognised by no less an institution than the University of the West Indies and as a result of his skill with words was awarded an honorary doctorate. The words that I would want to quote from him in this regard is a song in which he says "You can't love without money."

To use Sparrow's words that you can't love without money would suggest that those persons who love the

process of planting, germination and harvest need money in order to support that level of love, and it is for that simple reason that I would want us to recognise that farming must be considered as a business. Along with our emphasis on the agronomic and ecological and scientific and technological emphases, we need to provide our farmers with the necessary tools to make their business units viable and profitable.

In this regard, another important aspect of the rural development programme would be the use of co-operatives. Now co-operatives provide a form of business entity which is that provided by the limited liability corporation or the partnership or the sole proprietorship. Co-operatives also have their own framework within the laws of Barbados which allow them to function more effectively in terms of establishing business entities which would allow for the sharing of resources and therefore their optimum utilisation.

The Department of Co-operatives would therefore be playing an important role in the rural development strategy by assisting the small individual, small farmers particularly, in establishing co-operatives in ensuring their effective and efficient management all to the good of this enterprise.

Sir, on this question of co-operatives we must, within the context of this rural development programme, widen the vision of the farming community with respect to co-operatives.

11.45 a.m.

It perhaps is not widely known but some of the largest entities in farming, particularly in Canada, are really cooperatives. There are also some very large cooperatives, Sir, in Japan and the United States that control billions of dollars in assets. The function of those cooperatives is really no different from any of the smaller cooperatives we have in Barbados. The difference, perhaps is the vision and we intend to make them aware of that vision. I almost said make that vision visible but we intend to make them aware of that vision, Sir, and supply the necessary tools to help them to turn that vision into a reality.

The kind of cooperatives which we envisage being in existence as part of the rural development programme focus on agriculture will include cooperatives which focus on obviously the marketing elements but also equipment owning and leasing, input supply and those sorts of things.

Now, Sir, the sectoral linkages again, an important part of a rural development strategy based on agriculture. In fact the whole execution of this programme will really depend on that whole philosophy of linkages and so on, but the important linkages which we really must continue to strive to develop in this context are those with the tourism sector and to a lesser extent with the manufacturing sector.

These linkages, Sir, must not develop in an *ad hoc* manner. The linkages need to be specifically identified and the programmes put in place to go after the specific outcome. For example, Sir, the whole notion of agro-processing in Barbados has been one that has excited the imagination of several persons almost for several generations. But at the end of the day, Sir, the several efforts that have been tried have usually resulted in difficulties relating to the lack of clear linkages between the sectors involved, either, Sir, a fall down in the marketing, but very often a fall down in the production arrangement where you either have an agricultural entity who knows what his supply is, known as agro-processing but having no strong base of marketing to get the products off his hand, or a manufacturing type entity who knows the technology involved in producing the items but really has not sewn up secure contracts for sourcing material at the appropriate prices. What we really need, Sir, is to identify on the basis of market demand what are those product niches that we can exploit and then work our way backwards to establish what are the production and supply capabilities within this programme in order to ensure that we are proceeding on a sound footing.

The other area in which some of these linkages break down is, for example, understanding the demand characteristics of the various markets, Sir. You have your fresh market, your export market which could also be pretty fresh. You also have your market for the processed foods and your production and supply must reflect that, Sir. The products which are used for processing are not the products which will be used to supply the fresh market. These kinds of linkages must inform any programme for enhanced agricultural production.

In short, Sir, it is important that all of the players in this programme recognise their relative roles and will also recognise that no one aspect of this programme is able to succeed on its own. The linkage and coordination will be the hallmark of any programme which will be successful. That kind of thinking will also inform the whole question of the rationalisation of institutions which I had mentioned somewhat earlier. Those, Sir, are some of the key issues which have informed this rural development strategy which will be executed by the rural development commission.

Now, Sir, the one other area that we would want to make reference to is the whole question of the participation by the beneficiaries in the development and the execution of the programme. It is important in designing programmes such as these to ensure that there is full participation by all involved. That would do a number of things, Sir. One is that it would ensure the commitment of those persons who would be involved in the programme, given that they have been part of it from the very beginning. As a matter of fact, Sir, sometimes good programmes have to be cast asunder because a number of key people were not involved

from the beginning and therefore they automatically and almost instinctively feel a need to criticise the programme because they were not involved, not that there is anything wrong with the programme but that they were not involved. We hope of course, Sir, that this will not be the fate of this Rural Commission Bill that we are debating today.

But, Sir, the second aspect is in terms of the formulation of developing an action plan. Action plans, Sir, have to be formulated on the basis of information received and in developing a programme such as this it was important that we received all relevant information which would help us and in fact, late last year, Sir, we did some preliminary work in this area where a survey was carried out on the current state of rural development in Barbados. This included, Sir, an assessment of road conditions in rural areas, the number and size of agricultural holdings, the use of irrigation facilities out of private wells and the amount of arable land which is not under cultivation and things of that nature.

Also included in that survey which was done throughout the rural communities in Barbados was also an assessment of the level of interest, the level of demand for agricultural land by those persons who might have an interest in agriculture but do not have the wherewithal to get involved.

It also sought, Sir, to acquire other information which would see the development of this programme but throughout this programme as it continues to be developed, Sir, we will have full involvement of the beneficiaries to ensure that their commitment is maintained.

Sir, to some of the specifics of the Bill. The Bill, Sir, creates in effect a statutory corporation for the execution of the activities that I have referred to. The form of the Act is really straightforward, virtually standard form structure which is used for establishment of statutory corporations. The functions of the Commission are clearly outlined and they provide the Commission with a wide scope for execution of required works within the context of a rural development. The structure, Sir, provides for a Chairman, Deputies and several other members. It also provides for the recruitment of staff, Sir, and of course it establishes the locust of the Commission within the Ministry of Agriculture.

11.55 a.m.

Now the Commission is also in a position to execute contracts on its own, Sir. It is able to invite tender, Sir. It is able to do all of those things that statutory corporations in Barbados typically do. The clear issue which I am sure some would want to raise would be whether or not within the context of what I had indicated earlier that a number of rural development programmes had been executed

by this Party and the former administration is whether this structure was indeed the appropriate one. As I adverted to at the beginning of this second reading, we believe that we are now at the stage where because of the wide ranging nature of the work which is involved that this type of structure is necessary to enable the programmes which we have envisaged.

Sir, in concluding, I would want to urge Honourable Senators to give their unreservedly support to this important aspect of our programme for the development of strong, vibrant rural communities in which our people will find it desirable to work and play, Sir.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Laurie.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill because we in the agricultural area have been calling for this for a very long time. There are a couple of concerns that I have in that I believe the consultants' reports referred to by the Leader of the Senate were not available to us. So we really do not know what has come out of this base-line survey. In fact, I think that one of the terms of references was to tell the Government how they should treat rural development. So we have legislation here today which I hope the consultants will come out and say that you should have a Rural Development Commission, because it would be kind of embarrassing that at this stage we pass the Bill into law and then the consultants say well really and truly what you want is not a Rural Development Commission but something else. But I assume that they would have taken the hint and they will go down that line.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The work of the consultants that I referred to or in fact I did not refer to them as consultants really, but the surveys which were done were not for the purpose of determining whether or not we have a Rural Development Commission. It was to provide, as Senator Laurie started out correctly, base-line information which would give the Ministry details of the scope of the work that needed to be done. So there is no question, Mr. President, as to whether or not there will be a Rural Development Commission because no one was engaged to advise on that matter.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Well, that may well be so, Sir, but I know that from the beginning when we heard about this Ministry of Rural Development we approached the Minister and said look, we would very much like to be involved in the planning stage and we were promised a seminar when the consultants seized the results, because I

understand there were two of them. But they were to be made available and then we would discuss this thing and then I thought we would come to this stage. Up to now, we have been unable to get this seminar which is worrying because we would have liked to have been involved at the very base stage.

What I would like to talk about so as to inform Senators here as to what is the actual structure in agriculture in Barbados. To many people agriculture in Barbados is sugar. You look out there and you see these large areas of sugar cane and you say that is agriculture in Barbados. That is export agriculture. Sugar is export agriculture. The agriculture that we are talking about here is production of food for Barbadians by Barbadians and I think the only problem with this is how to get at data for statistical purposes. The Central Bank for instance said that the gross domestic product of agriculture is \$100 million and we know that we are producing in the tune of \$500 million worth of food in Barbados and importing about \$200 million because the consumption is there and it has got to come from somewhere. Yet, when one ask where do these statistics come from, they say from the Statistical Department. The Statistical Department say that they get them from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture says that we get these from the farmer sector. But the formal farmer sector is a very small part of agriculture if one takes sugar out. If one removes sugar from the scene as export agriculture and look at locally produced food, it is a very, very small part.

The only thing that we have is the 1989 census which I presume is a document of the House and to quote from that they have 17 000 farmers of which 15 429 occupy 1 544 hectares or an average of 0.1 hectare each. Of those 15 429 farmers, 96 per cent of them are part-time farmers. Now this is where the food is produced. Food is not produced by big farmers. It is produced by part-time farmers and we must take that into consideration when we start creating these things. When we tried the Springhall Development Project which Senator Farley referred to, that has been a disaster in that they wanted full-time farmers. In fact, I think what they got was a poor selection to start with due to political interference and secondly the guys were all part-time farmers and could not utilize the amount of land allocated to them because that was all they were into. There were very few full-time farmers and that is not the picture out there in the rural areas. The picture out there in the rural areas is part-time farming and we must take this into consideration. These are facts that come out of the census. Even in the case of the larger farmers, only 20 per cent of the farmers owning large areas are full-time farmers. A lot of them are still part-time farmers. So the food production in Barbados is done by them and the rural area is populated by part-time farmers who work in Bridgetown or in industry or do fishing and other activities.

In looking at things like the dairy cattle sector, if one takes the small farmers in that sector, they own 67.2 per cent of the dairy cattle. In the beef cattle sector 68.2 per cent and nearly 81 per cent of the sheep are owned by small farmers. Pigs – 85 per cent are owned by small farmers. These are people with less than a hectare. Broilers – 85.8 per cent and that is a very significant figure because you do not need to have a lot of land to be a broiler farmer and layers 77 per cent. But these are figures that come out of facts from the official agricultural census taken in 1989. 12.05 p.m.

I do not think there has been any dramatic change since 1989, except for an increase in the number of part-time farmers. I do not think people went into full-time farming in any significant way since then.

When we looked at the Bill first it gave me the impression that rural development was going to be roads and lights and then farming. I was very pleased to hear the Leader of the Senate saying that farming is going to be the main thing and that the roads and the lighting and so on would be a support activity for the farming communities. Right now we have 17 000 street lights in Barbados and it costs the taxpayers over \$2 million a year to provide these 17 000 street lights. That is like one street light to every five houses. In fact, I think probably the best thing in the villages would be to put on transparent roofing and then you would not need to have lighting in your house at all, the street light would shine through and you could sit and read. This is the kind of thing we want to make sure, that the emphasis is there on this rural development of farming with the inter-sectoral linkages that Senator Farley talked about.

When we talk about technology, I was very pleased and gratified to hear Senator Farley refer to the eco-farm and to this type of farming, because we have very, very strong reservations about the sustainability of farming as it exists in Barbados today. The small farmer is being taught by the people who sell chemicals that the only way you can produce is to use more and more chemicals, and when they do not work you use something stronger and go on and on, and we keep going down this road. I went to a seminar a few months ago on onions and at the end of the seminar a little old lady got up there and said: "All you know is spray, spray, spray," and this is literally what was being taught by our Ministry of Agriculture. What you have to do to grow onions is to spray them like three times a week with all kinds of different sprays. There is no work being done in the Ministry of Agriculture on eco-farming principles of low external inputs for sustainable agriculture. We have to go to that, and I hope that this rural development would take that opportunity to push that development system.

One of the first things we have to do is to create a training facility for this eco-farming. We put this thing up for the conference and 25 000 children went through. I think the impact was great. The feedback from schools, from people doing essays and so on, in the whole Village of Hope the thing that caught their imagination was the Eco-farm. What we need to do is to create an eco-farm for training. There is an area at the Pine that is abandoned, what was originally the Animal Nutrition Unit, right next door to the Community College, just down the road from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. St. Leonard's School is another school that is extremely interested in this concept, and we need to establish a training facility there which would be run by the three schools, perhaps even in competition with each other, to get this technology over to them, to teach them that agriculture has got to be sustainable, that we have to have integrated agriculture, that we have to use the manure from the livestock to produce organic vegetables and use the excess vegetables, or the inedible parts, for the raising of the livestock, so that the whole thing integrates.

It has been shown that we could reduce our fertiliser imports by something like 80% if we were to utilise the farmyard manure that is presently wasted. On a livestock farm, if you are not getting 20% of your revenue from the sale of manure or the utilisation of that manure, you are wasting a resource. It has been looked at as being a problem, getting rid of manure in areas where in fact with proper composting there is no smell and you can recover all the nutrients. These are the areas we must go.

I would like to see more community organisation, that again we do not go in there with the Rural Development Commission and start to dictate to people what it is they should be doing. I want to see the Commission create community organisations in these rural areas who would say what it is they want to do, and then the Commission tell them how they can help them to do those things.

The creation of markets is probably one of the first things the Commission must emphasise. They must create a marketing system at the community level and then have a system that takes the excess that cannot be sold within the community into Bridgetown for further marketing, and even for export down the line, as Senator Farley said. We have to look at some way of processing on a village scale the surpluses that would be created right there by these community entities. Processing has not got to be big agro-processing, which has failed in Barbados on more than one occasion. Professor Headley at the University of the West Indies has developed solar crop drying equipment, very simple to make, inexpensive and we should be utilising this resource and creating small dryers for processing fruits and vegetables and for further processing of these commodities right there in the communities and then look to market those products outside.

We have to impress on farmers that they need to diversify. If they have a small plot, they should not put the whole plot into one particular vegetable or use it for rearing one particular type of animal, because then they are subject to market fluctuations. One minute they can be making money and the next minute they can lose their shirt, but if they are individually producing a large number of small amounts, then it would be safer for them from an economic point of view. But one then has to put in place - and again I see that as a role of the Commission - the marketing of small quantities. In other words, putting these quantities together into something that is large enough that can be transported and marketed in town.

I think it is essential that we share tourism among the rural communities. It is a well known fact. Dr. Auliana Poon said here that in Barbados we have a unique opportunity for Eco tourism, in that we have eco-tourism that is accessible to a visitor in half an hour. The other places that have eco-tourism, like Guyana, it may take you a day to get to a site and a day to get back. Here you can get on a bus and go straight from any place in Barbados to an eco-tourism site, spend an hour there going through a gully, see the tropics as they would want to see them and it is an instant kind of thing. You develop all sorts of linkages between the community which is sited around this gully or wooded area and they become involved in that type of thing.

Again, the Scotland area has fantastic sites for camping. I think that again should be done, but we have to be very careful that it blends in with the community, that it has the blessing of the community and of course that it does not affect the environment. Chalky Mount area, pottery is an example of where craft has developed, not with any help from any rural commission, these people did it for themselves and they did it many, many years ago and have continued to develop and improve their skills. We need to see other artists and other craft people being involved in these things, and incentives should be created by the Commission to encourage these people in the community into that kind of thing. Hiking and horse back riding, again the Scotland area is a fantastic area for that. Again, local people must be involved. We do not want to see somebody come from outside the rural areas and go in there and create these things, it should be the people who own land in that area who should be first involved in these activities.

12.15 p.m.

One other thing I would like to stress is this praedial larceny problem. If we don't do something, it will destroy the work of the Rural Commission before it gets off the ground, because if we encourage these people to get into production and then they get their stuff stolen, they will be discouraged. We passed an Act in here a couple of years

ago, the new Praedial Larceny Act, but up to now, that Act has not been really implemented. I don't think a single person has been prosecuted under the new Act.

The police have powers to go out there and stop people and search them and the thing about this Act, the real important thing that would scare the praedial larcenists is the fact that the police don't have to prove that the goods they have on them they came about legitimately. The onus of proof is on the thief. If we were to have police stopping people around and checking, "Do you have a certificate to prove that this material belongs to you?" Even if he has it legitimately you give him enough hassle. That is going to start scaring the thieves. They are so...

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The Act is there. The Act gives power. The fact is that praedial larceny has suddenly erupted again within the last 2 or 3 months and we are seeing a lot of small farmers... Right in the area in Salters where I am, only 2 nights ago 2 small farmers got hit for well over \$1 000 each which is really criminal. They took their total crop. In the case of the guy with the carrots they took everything and they just pulled it and what wasn't ready they just left it on the ground, totally destroying his whole crop. They probably only got away with about 200 pounds of carrots but left the rest that were not ripe just scattered all over the field.

We have to deal seriously with this thing and for some reason the lawyers seem to have scared the police into not acting on this Praedial Larceny Act with "they are going to get sued for wrongful arrest and all sorts of funny things like that". But I think we have given the police the power and I think that they must utilise it. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I sat and watched Senator Farley labour to present this Resolution and I can well appreciate why, because he is no more convinced than I am that this rural development plan will work. It will not work for one because it has been premised on a political agenda rather than an economic agenda. There is considerable evidence to show in fact that these may just be similar in nature to the establishment of youth commissioners clearly designed to consolidate the political position of the Barbados Labour Party without a full understanding of the issues pertaining to the whole question of rural development.

I wish to suggest that it will not work and I will begin to explain why this entire effort is really founded on the wrong premises. First of all, if one looked at population censuses in Barbados for 1946 or so, up until 1990, one would see that in St. John, St. Andrew, St. Joseph there has been a fairly significant reduction in the population in these 3 so-called rural areas.

What one is seeing in fact is the process of urbanisation which is now taking place in such a way that Christ Church... Even St. Philip, St. James, St. George, St. Thomas we are now beginning to see increasing numbers in these areas as a result of greater demand for housing. In that context, one therefore has to ask the question what really is the purpose of this whole exercise.

I would contend in fact that the whole question of rural development should really be seen within the context of land use policy more so than anything else. It is extremely instructive that in constructing this piece of legislation here that one would have thought that first and foremost in your mind, in terms of the function of the Commission, would have emerged the whole question of agriculture. We see only at (c) to provide assistance to small farmers in the areas of agriculture training and investment and then some token mention of agricultural needs at (d) and (e), whereas the first thing that hits you is the whole question of road improvement in a rural development plan. There is now in an attempt to market this whole Act a focus which is being given on agriculture. That is where in fact I wish to suggest that the Government will fall down in its efforts.

The Government will fall down, because if you are to do a proper assessment and analysis of the Barbados economy, you would see that agriculture has declined to some extent as a proportion of the overall GDP. Just let me explain for the sake of Senator Laurie that the reason why you may very well be seeing \$500 million in agricultural sales as a sector but that you are only seeing in Central Bank numbers \$100 million is because the inputs which would inflate the final price of the agricultural product would be taken out and you would only have what we call value added.

What you see in the GDP data is the value added figure and not the final consumption price level. That really explains why you would see that.

There is no assessment and it could not have been done in such a short space of time of where we are really at in the area of agriculture except that you may know how many holdings you have. Again Senator Laurie quoted almost 15 000 small farmers. Of course, I have difficulty with the definition of what a small farmer is, so I don't really support the figure. What is needed is really to understand within the context of the agricultural sector what it is that is being produced by the small farmers and what is being produced by the non-sugar agriculturalists in Barbados.

If we are to look at that, then one cannot boast of a lot of hope for export agriculture in Barbados. It has more to do with a number of factors which will be addressed

later. It is not simply a question of government policy. It is more to do with the realities of life as it relates to the agricultural sector, both domestic and external factors, which impact on the agricultural sector.

There is no great benefit, I must add, to any drive in terms of export agriculture for Barbados. We can have all kinds of heroic expectations about it but, certainly, when we look at the reality, when we do a proper assessment of where we are at and look into the future we are going to be confronted with a whole set of measures which are going to be counter to the agricultural sector even as it relates to our regional policy.

We have already taken measures or steps in the area of the Common External Tariff to reduce the level of protection on regional agriculture. We have a situation where we all know we are going to be configuring our indirect tax system. We are all aware at the regional level as well that there is a limited amount of financial resources to assist us even beyond agriculture in areas such as tourism and the like so that again when we look at the picture, in a very total sense, we should stop this kind of grandstanding which we are seeing in the country because, at the end of the day, when you cannot meet the expectations of the people it is going to result in a very short life, and quite rightly so, for the present Administration. I look forward to taking over in the next four or five years from this administration. It is devoid of ideas. It has not identified any policy for change. There is no evidence at all in the critical areas of any evidence of any change especially in the area where the Prime Minister is supposed to have his strength, in economics. You cannot point to one initiative that has yielded anything positive to this economy since September 6, 1994.

12.25 p.m.

You can point to an initiative in culture. Good idea to go to the East Coast Road. But beyond that there is not much more that you can point to. So when you look at the whole question of agriculture we have to be sure that we understand precisely what it is that we are attempting to assess.

The whole question of linkages which Senator Farley spoke of, there is no way you could have conducted any survey in December and finished by August of 1995 and come to a position as to the kind of linkages which one can see between the agricultural sector and tourism and even manufacturing if we stretch it that far. There is absolutely no evidence.

Certain remarks made by Senator MASCOLL were ordered to be struck from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It can be struck, Sir, but I am merely asking the Government to make

better uses of its resources and I think that is a fairly legitimate claim on my part.

I am suggesting that certain individuals are under utilized and in the context of this rural development effort, especially where we are seeking to have important information on the linkages between the sector, that an input/output analysis would be necessary and that we can ask and invite the Senator to be part of that system.

Sir, in terms of this whole effort I would now try to put this whole issue of rural development into its proper context. First of all it is an issue of land use. It is an issue of how do we decide in Barbados to utilise the very limited land space which we have. In fact if we were to do a scanning of the present legislation in Barbados there are many bits of legislation which, in fact address this whole question of land use. I can think in terms of mining and quarrying while we have the Miners Regulations Act of Cap. 350, the Quarries Act, the Beach Protection Act and the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Cap. 369 as legislation which already exist which will have significant impact on how we utilise land in Barbados.

In the area of agriculture there is the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation Act, Cap. 254, Plant Pests and Disease Eradication, Soil Conservation and the Trees Act. Now I am citing these because I am saying that within the context of what we are seeking to establish that there is a lot of legislation which will have to come into play in relation to how we eventually decide on the best way to utilise the limited land resources in Barbados.

I go further in terms of land use. The whole question of the road network, the Highways Act, the National Conservation Commission Act, the Town and Country Planning Act and Land Acquisition Act, are also other bits of legislation which are going to impact or have only impacted on land use development in Barbados.

Sir, I have difficulty in truly understanding the full import of this exercise as it relates to the establishment of a Rural Development Commission. In fact I would think that what would be most important is that if you wish to look at this issue critically that the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Transport and Works and maybe all other areas of Government would have to play a critical role in the decision making process within the rural development exercise.

As a consequence of that I would think that it would have been far more useful to establish at the very senior level individuals across these Ministries whom one suspects would not be fully employed at this stage and therefore could be made greater use of at this point in time.

To seek to establish a rural commission is at variance with what the Ministries themselves should be doing. As I said, since it is an exercise that is going to be looking at the whole question of rural networks, the whole question of agriculture, the whole question of tourism, or ought to be, then one should see a greater participation on the part of the various Ministries. All I am simply suggesting is that there is need for a coordinating body and there is no real need for any establishment of any Commission. Whom would you appoint to this post? Who will bring the particular skills necessary? They cannot bring the skills necessary and a limited Commission like this, I am not sure of the level of staff, even if it employs 10 people, would be inappropriate for the task at hand. Unless we establish linkages between the respective Ministries and do not in fact go counter to what is happening at the Ministerial level you are going to encounter all kinds of difficulties regardless of how big you make your staff. So it does not appear sensible to me. If you understand the process you are trying to embark on, to now establish a separate commission in the area of research which is going to be extremely critical. Where would the Commission get its resources in order to pursue the whole question of research? Where would the Commission get its resources in order to be able to make a determination as to what piece of land should go to whom at what time? And, on what sort of information will these decisions be made, and by whom? Would this particular Commissioner or whoever not need to go back to the Ministry of Agriculture, not need to go back to the Ministry of Tourism, to the Ministry of Communications and Works etc. and on at that basis get information out of these Ministries in order to be able to make decisions? I cannot see the need to establish a commission at this time.

What bothers me is, there is no way in which you can seek at this stage to separate the rural development from the total development. So, are we going to have a separate rural development plan each year?

SENATOR D. T. GILL: On a point of elucidation, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have not spoken yet, so you cannot elucidate in the matter. You will have an opportunity to speak, Senator.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am saying that these issues are all critical if you understand the process. The whole question of development planning, not only within the region, development planning throughout the developing world has truly failed because I think that we have not made any significant strides since the 1950s and 1960s in the early development planning because we have not come to grips with the more critical issues required in development planning in today's world, and especially when we are bordering on the twenty-first century

it is going to be even more imperative for us to understand the need to have data. It is going to be even more imperative for us to understand what the future holds and these things are all necessary. The whole question of where we go in terms of education, where we go in terms of the university and how we make it accessible to people within Barbados and how that would impact on the resources that we provide within the agricultural sector, how it would impact on the resources that we provide within tourism. It cannot be isolated. You cannot take a decision to advance the cause of the human resource base in Barbados and then make other decisions to give limited opportunity to individuals to be trained at the kind of level. So the thing has to be looked at in a very total sense. You cannot look at it in a limited sense and then get up and boast that you are creating a rural development plan in order to give expression to your electorate or to the people you suspect are supportive of you in these rural districts.

It is well known that historically the Barbados Labour Party does have its support in some of the rural districts and I am very suspicious that that was in fact the basis upon which this decision was taken. You need to try to consolidate political power within the rural areas and not really on the basis of any economic basis for advancing the cause of the people within the rural districts because if you are saying that and if you are arguing that you are looking to rural development the same way in the forties and the fifties that people migrated, and the evidence is here, from the rural districts and moved towards Bridgetown and St. Michael for rural development to be successful, there would obviously be a movement from the Bridgetown area and the St. Michael area out towards the rural areas. If that is so, why then do you try to limit and restrict the amount of schools in the various country districts. Because it does not make sense to suggest that you anticipate a successful rural development strategy but now you are embarking on an exercise that is going to restrict the facilities available in education, health and these other critical areas in the rural areas of Barbados. It is completely at variance to what you are trying to conceptualize at this stage. In fact, you should be hurriedly moving towards the establishment of greater facilities within the rural areas, the establishment of greater facilities within health, education, primary schools and the like and trying to push the population away from the urban areas into the rural areas but that is not established here. You all will have to listen and this is the time to take out your notebooks. It is time for you to become the student and take your notebooks out.
12.35 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: To whom are you speaking, Senator Mascoll?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Senator Barker.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, you may only address the Chair.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is time to do that. So do not come down this line with me. I know, Sir, it is time to look more critically at the whole question of land use in Barbados. There are some critical factors which will affect land use and which have always affected land use and they are environmental factors, demographic factors and what I call external demand for local agriculture, and the latter one where there is external demand there is no evidence at all over the last 20 years or so in Barbados that there has been any great demand for domestically produced agricultural products. In fact, the evidence is there to show that the area of agriculture which has developed is the area of livestock. While in the planting of carrots, beets and the like, we should really be moving towards giving greater expression to the area of chicken, pigs, *etcetera* because we have done extremely well in the area of livestock. Contrary to the view that I do not have to be a farmer, I have studied the stuff. I have published information on agriculture in Barbados with the Institute of Agricultural Development. I have co-authored work in this area so I do not have to be a farmer to know the production cost in agriculture or the production cost in chicken farming. I know of these things because the farmers were pleased enough with me to give me access to that information. So I do not have to be a farmer.

In the whole area of the environment, Sir, a simple thing as it may appear like the lack of rainfall in Barbados is critical to the economic use of the agricultural land. In fact, if you were to look at the rainfall patterns since the forties or so in Barbados, you will see a steady decline and that has its impact on why we have seen the emergence of small farmers because a number of plantations were sold out, a number of plantations got out of the whole exercise because it happened as a result of people retreating from the sugar and therefore people finding opportunity to get involved with small things. That was really an economic decision that was taken based on the profitability of agriculture and not on any administration in Barbados introducing any change in the Tenancies Act. It had to do with economic factors that caused people to come out of sugar and as a result made available small plots for farmers to get involved.

The whole question of soil types we have within the St. John valley versus the St. Philip plain all begin to explain why it is in fact that such land use patterns had emerged in Barbados. The whole question of the development of tourism as to why you are seeing the emergence of Christ Church and St. James of highly populated parishes. If you check the historical evidence, there is no evidence to show that these parishes were so in the first place but that we have seen pattern changes over time.

So to suggest that you know where the rural district is in Barbados and that St. James is not a rural district, who knows? Where on earth in today's Barbados? It is in your manifesto. It is in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party that the rural district is bounded by St. James up to the north on page 29 and I quote, Sir: "These rural communities stretch from St. Philip in the east across the agricultural heart land of St. George and St. John into the Scotland District and through St. James and St. Peter into St. Lucy in the north."

Now if you would do a proper assessment of Barbados, St. James cannot now be deemed as any rural district. I am speaking here in terms of proportions. If you have got one or two other farms, that is okay. St. George is quickly emerging as a middle class area with patches of other people and the other Senator on this side will deal at length with that. All I am seeking to suggest, Sir, is that there is no clear distinction here in Barbados and we all know it between rural and urban. But what is more important now is that there is the urbanization that is taking place. There is urbanization within St. Philip because urbanization has to do with the proportion of people living in built up areas. St. George – there is urbanization within St. George. There is urbanization within St. James and all I am saying is that you cannot now divide Barbados into rural and urban on the basis of location because urbanization has not just to do with location or proximity to the City of Bridgetown. It has to do with the character of the parish. There is no such distinction being made so I do not understand the whole attempt to describe Barbados on the basis of proximity to Bridgetown as urban versus rural when urban has more to do with the characteristic of the place.

The whole question, Sir, of the demographics and if you look at the whole question of population size in Barbados, I have said before that we have had decreases in the population affected by outward migration and the like but we have had to provide even greater social services for the population as we have grown. We all understand the reason why these areas have been able to develop because of a very good road network system in Barbados which has now gone out towards these areas. The whole creation of the ABC Highway...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I do not care whose it is. The thing about it is that it is part of Barbados and it was so designed, I was informed, as a means of expanding those areas. So when you decide to construct a network that offers such easy access and the like, do you expect those areas to remain rural in character? It is madness. So if you are talking about rural development, are you saying then that on the basis of some sort of discrimination which is taking place between rural and urban areas that you are

now seeking to address the imbalance? Is that what you are saying? So you are therefore seeking to establish a rural area. Is it not your desire, Sir, to have Barbados become a totally urban area if it means development? If it means that you are having transformation from rural to urban, are you therefore suggesting that you are seeking to consolidate the rural areas? On that basis, you are suggesting to me that you would like the people of St. George, St. John, St. Joseph and St. Andrew to remain rural. Is that what you are suggesting, Sir? Is that what you are suggesting, Sir? I am just asking the question, because I am uncertain as to what is the true purpose of this bit of legislation before me. 12.45 p.m.

Sir, in terms of the structure of the population, there is evidence that there has been increasing demand, and significantly so, for housing in Barbados based on a number of reasons, increased development and the like. But there is also another trend which is taking place – and this is what you call research, I do not come in here unless I do research – what you are seeing in Barbados really is a declining family size and, more importantly, the establishment of greater households headed by females. That in itself is also going to have a significant impact on land use. This is something that has started to happen, I am not inventing this. There is evidence there to show that the increased demand would obvious occur, not only because of increases in population, but if you are going to have smaller households over time you would expect an increased demand for housing, and that has taken place in Barbados.

Another area which we need to look at – there is nothing at all wrong with having that sort of trend. The only thing that may be wrong with it is that we may see less and less marriages in Barbados as a consequence of that, so therefore we may not have the typical family environment which we would like to see.

Sir, on the issue of the external demand for agricultural produce in Barbados. I have just said that I think when we look to the future we cannot see agriculture developing as a consequence of any increased external demand for our produce. This is based largely on a number of reasons. One, I do not think we have the kind of land space necessary to get the economies of scale out of agricultural production in Barbados. We have not been able, in fact, even to supply our own domestic needs. Even with sugar we are struggling to supply the domestic area and therefore one is saying that when we look across non-sugar agriculture there is not substantial evidence there to show that we are going to do extremely well there. If we cannot supply our domestic needs, how are you telling me we are going to be looking towards the export market in areas of beet and carrot production and the like. Even that area is not an area that we can see a lot of development from.

The other thing is that Barbados, if it remains where it is in terms of its development, its wage structure, costs and everything, is going to also find difficulty in being competitive in the area of price, and rightly so. We should not be seeking to make ourselves competitive only on the basis of adjusting exchange rates. I must confess, however, that I have a deep fear of the lack of activity I am seeing in the economy and therefore the kind of pressure that may be brought to bear on us in 1996. There is evidence to show in fact that we may be under some pressure if we do not have a good winter season of 1996.

I do not know how well versed the other side is on the whole question of the GATT arrangement and what has been considered in the GATT arrangement, but so far there has been some protection for all agriculture, regardless of where you are in terms of developing and developed countries. Therefore, we seem to have, for the time being, maybe a 10 to 15 year period of grace in terms of protection being offered and given to the agricultural sector our produce within all developing and developed countries, but that if we are again considering the rural development strategy and that this rural development strategy is going to be as slow in its movement as we have seen in other areas of the economy, we can well anticipate that we will not see any progress, and I do not anticipate any progress anyhow in this area in any five or ten years. I see this really, as I said earlier, as an exercise merely designed to consolidate political power.

On the other score, if we are going to have a situation where the policy makers in the world may reconsider the present arrangement under the GATT, we may have an even greater pressure being put on our agriculture base, not only in Barbados but throughout the region. In that context one can see some difficulty up ahead. I know I may be too futuristic for some on the other side, but one can see some difficulty up ahead in terms of an understanding of where we can go in the area of the agriculture sector.

The other thing which I have not touched on or addressed significantly is the whole question of finance and the financing within agriculture. It is well known, Sir, that agriculture is a rather high risk area and that financial institutions are not as prepared as they are to lend in the area of agriculture as they are in other more secure areas. Therefore one sees an obvious threat in terms of the utilisation of financial resources in Barbados in the area of agriculture. Who can deny that? The evidence is there to show again when you look through the Central Bank Reports that we cannot be very proud of our record in terms of the financial resources which we have given to the area of agriculture. They go for the safer bet. We have seen in Barbados only this year a rush to import all kinds of cars as a result of a false belief that car prices would be

trending downwards from the time the decision was made until the next Budget, but immediately after we saw that there was this four-week period and then car prices got higher, but there was an opportunity taken by the dealers to import a very high level of cars in the first six months of 1995, which has made the Central Bank of Barbados quite uncomfortable.

I make the point to say, Sir, that the demand for cars could only have come about as a result of the desire on the part of the financial institutions to lend in that area. I am saying that in the area of agriculture there is no such willingness to lend to agriculturalists and that that is an area that has to be looked at if we are thinking about developing agriculture. Indeed I would have been far more satisfied if the present administration had taken a decision to look at the area of agriculture in a more concrete way. I would have been more satisfied, but to try to mask the whole political agenda under a Rural Development Commission...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It really does hurt. It is somewhat similar, as I said earlier, to the whole establishment of a Youth Commission, a whole set of Youth Commissioners who do not really have an agenda. It is a worrying thing, Sir. I must confess, Mr. President, I am very worried as to the kind of measures you are seeing put in place which are apparent in the political agenda but not apparent in the economic worth, and that is a frightening thing which I think all political parties will have to look at. It may be clever on the part of the Government, it may be very short-lived though in terms of what it yields, and therefore I may be very satisfied not too far from now to be assuming power as a result of the inability of the Government to provide what they initially set out to provide, that is, to provide jobs. I am certainly not seeing that kind of thing. I am not seeing the kind of efforts I should be seeing.

Sir, I now need to look at what a development plan should really constitute, and again I invite the others to take some notes. It is important that they take some notes. First of all, there should have been a proper assessment. I do not mean any small attempt to go around and find out who is a farmer, on what basis you categorise a farmer, or hire two consultants just to merely decide who is a farmer and who is not a farmer. What I mean, Sir, is a proper assessment of the economic benefits that we derive from agriculture. It would have taken a long time, it would have required a lot of time to be spent within the Statistical Service in order to assist the Statistical Service to develop input/output analysis.

12.55 p.m.

It is only on that basis that you can begin to assess what the linkages within tourism would be and where we think we should be emphasising certain forms of production, either in carrots or in beets or milk or whatever. You need that sort of information to be able to make firm decisions as to where we are going.

The other thing that is obvious is that if Barbados maintains its present structure in terms of its exchange rate there will obviously be need to give some sort of subsidy in the area of agriculture. There is no way that the agricultural sector can sustain itself on the basis of the kinds of prices it gets in relation to the kind of cost it has to incur in Barbados. So there would certainly be a need for us to be able to analyse fully and assess the agricultural sector in order to be able to give some kind of subsidy in those areas to sustain the agricultural sector, make them profitable and make the whole attempt at a so-called rural development strategy a positive thing.

What we are seeing in recent times is an attempt to increase the level of fees being charged to farmers in the area of fertilisers, in irrigation – there have been increases in these costs – and the only thing that has kept back the whole exercise is that one found out only recently that the Minister did not have power to raise funds by that method. What we are in fact seeing or what we should be seeing in this attempt is an attempt to establish co-operatives in such a way that the small farmers of Barbados can be given these kinds of services free of cost and not in fact an attempt to increase the cost of these kinds of services.

At Clause 10 of this piece of legislation the Commission may in accordance with regulations made under this Act charge such fees as the Minister may by order prescribe for any service performed by it.

If you are not considering these now or you are not contemplating them in the future there is no need for this clause. So you can strike it out. The Rural Development Plan should not in any way seek to raise any fees from anyone, at any stage in the process, because life is not going to get easier within the agricultural sector. In fact, we can anticipate even greater difficulty as a consequence of regional positions taken and international positions taken in the area of agriculture. Therefore, we should not see any provisions at all within the Rural Development Commission at clause 10 for any fee charges.

There should not be any at all in this area. It is inconsistent with the attempts by the Government to develop the agricultural sector. It is inconsistent with an understanding of the measures which are going to come into play in the next 5 years or so which are going to be counter to the agricultural sector. Government should be

seeking to facilitate this sector, not putting provisions in place to be able to charge fees. That should not be the case.

I can rattle off all the measures that will be taken very soon that will have negative impact on the agricultural sector. I have already rattled them off so there is no need for me to reiterate. All I am saying is that you should not be considering this in your legislation, because there should not be any contemplation at all as to any fee charge on the agricultural sector.

In the area of public policy we have just had Estimates presented in the Senate and at no point did I see any clear provision being made except for the rural development but that is outside the Rural Development Commission. I am talking now about government policy because the Rural Development Commission certainly cannot be asked to provide certain capital works programmes as a means of assisting with this process. The Government itself must be facilitating certain exercises within the rural areas but I have not seen...

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: There is a clause here that says that the Commission can provide housing and ancillary services, including the installation of sanitary facilities in rural areas, but it does not say anything about capital works programmes. I don't expect this Commission to be able to do that and I am therefore saying that a development plan should be accompanied by a detailed plan on the part of Government by way of its capital projects to show where there is a synergy between Government's policy and the rural development policy. But I have not yet seen within Government's development strategy any attempts or any money put aside to assist in this process.

In the area of the private sector, I have already been informed in the Senate this morning that there was not sufficient participation in this process by the private sector and again that is really a surprise for a government which says that it is into management by... Consensus? The issue was that the Government of the day is supposed to embrace the private sector and one would think that in such a critical exercise an initiative which in fact is supposed to separate this Administration from the Democratic Labour Party there would have been every effort to incorporate the Barbados Agricultural Society and other such bodies into this effort. No attempt whatsoever has been made to do so and I am saying again that a proper development plan would have to consider the needs and the intentions of the private sector in the area of agricultural development. It cannot proceed unless those things were gathered. You cannot plan a sector or an economy in isolation from the private sector.

The whole question of policy co-ordination as alluded to constitutes a critical component of any development strategy. Any development plan must be able to state where you are at, look to the future and decide where you intend to go and having established aims and objectives then set about to ensure that there is a proper coordination of the policies required to take us forward.

I must confess that I am not at all surprised by the attempt of this Administration to see this piece of legislation as heroic. It is really just an exercise in cold soup being warmed over. It is not at all an exercise in creative thinking. It is an exercise as I said earlier to attempt to consolidate political power within the so-called country districts. It will not work. It is an exercise to try to separate Barbados between rural and urban without understanding the whole process of urbanisation has already occurred in St. Philip, in St. James, in St. George. Those parishes like St. John, St. Joseph and St. Andrew can still be considered very rural in their characteristics. You cannot do the same for St. Philip, St. George, St. James, St. Thomas and the like.

I do not wish to do the research that the other side should be doing in terms of understanding what the rural development strategy should be. As I said earlier, this thing should have been predicated on an understanding of land use patterns in Barbados.
1.10 p.m.

It should understand that the whole question of environmental factors which has emerged is a critical factor, and is particularly significant in understanding any attempt to develop the rural parishes.

Having expressed in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party that the Scotland District would be treated as a park to be preserved, the Government of the day has taken a decision to plant a landfill in this area. Again that demonstrates a certain degree of confusion on the part of the Government in relation to where it is going by way of its policies.

It is confusion because one is saying that you cannot see your rural development plan as a big issue in your strategy for the future of Barbados and yet not respect and understand the critical importance of the environment. The environment has taken on such serious proportions now that international financial institutions are now putting the whole issue of the environment ahead of economic factors in terms of decision making on loans.

We should not be guided by the external factor, we should be guided by the understanding that the continued sustainable development of Barbados is going to be based on how well we treat the environment and that the whole

question of land use strategy has to take into consideration that factor.

Let me just not try to be a prophet but there is evidence there to show that we are in a period of very uncertain rainfall in Barbados. There is also evidence, if we check the information, to show that rainfall patterns have been rather erratic over the last couple of years. I am saying, Sir, that if this pattern continues, then the economic use of the land of Barbados will be diminished. If that is so then there may be even greater temptation to move away from agriculture to other areas of economic endeavour.

Sir, it may seem to be a very simple point but it is a point that has to be taken into consideration because it very well explains why. In fact we have seen a substantial reduction in the sugar sector in Barbados, a substantial reduction in non sugar in Barbados and the evidence is there to show by way of research.

The other area which I emphasised was the whole question of the demographics, the whole question of population size and population structure in Barbados and what it has done to affect land use patterns. I am saying again and I made this statement earlier somewhere else, I have very limited hope in the ability of tourism to take us where we expect to go in the twenty-first century.

I am saying that because the kinds of investment required to take us into the twenty-first century to create the kinds of jobs necessary cannot be done by way of local resources and we must seek at this point to attract as best we can, higher levels of foreign investment in those areas. It cannot happen. We just do not have the resources. We do not have it here. We do not have it within the rest of the region. The question is, how do we make the balance between developing our coastal areas versus developing our rural areas and how critically do we do it?

In fact I had maybe the biggest joke so far of this administration in terms of the identification of 4 areas for special development, that is in St. Lawrence Gap, in Bay Street, Speightstown which obviously was included because of its location within the bowels of the Prime Minister's constituency and then Greenland which is heroic.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Member is seeking to cast aspersions on a Member from the other place in terms of the decision making criteria which we use in a particular matter. I would ask that that reference be struck from the record, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have a difficulty. I think that it is the Senator's interpretation of a decision. I am not sure it is a reflection in a particular context of any disparaging action of any Member. Proceed, Senator.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Nowhere was Greenland mentioned as a special development area.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I could withdraw Greenland. It is the Scotland District. I make that point because the decision taken was taken on the basis of location. That is, four areas were earmarked. I am saying, Sir, that decisions to invest are not going to be made simply on the basis of location and it would have made greater sense to identify particular sectors for encouraging these kinds of investment. It is the same way in which I see the rural development strategy. There is no sense in which a person is merely going to go and locate in St. Joseph or St. John because some Government has stated that you may get a little benefit as a result of doing so. The decision has to be an economic decision. The particular individual investor must be sure that his rate of return is something that is worthwhile. These kinds of willy-nilly decisions are not going to get us very far but it does give a certain kind of consistency to the thinking of the present administration that it can identify on the basis of some willy-nilly set of criteria, measures in order to encourage or advance the cause of some individual or set of individuals.

Sir, I have great difficulty in understanding why it is that we are seeing that kind of strategising on the part of the Government. I think it is really strategising. It is strategising because there is not an attempt to truly understand the economic issues in these exercises by the Government. These exercises are designed purely for political reasons and on that basis and that basis alone they will fail.

Sir, I am very uncomfortable with this particular piece of legislation which does not seek to do anything very meaningful to advancing the cause of the agricultural sector. I will end on this note, Sir, by saying that I think that the piece of legislation should revisit the functions of the Commission and it should re-prioritise the functions.

I would also wish to say that the decision to allocate lands in Barbados, there is already a Land Acquisition Act Cap. 228. At Clause (e) it says that the Commission has to allocate land under the control of Government to persons desirous of farming. I have difficulty with understanding why a Commission of this nature which certainly must be lesser in its image and its functioning than a Ministry, why a Commission of this nature would have such great powers to allocate land to farmers. Again, I see this as another attempt to try to target particular individuals on the basis of maybe their political persuasion in order to give these particular individuals some kind of benefit.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Member is

imputing improper motives to the Government. As I understand it he is suggesting premeditated nepotism in the establishment of this commission and in the decision relating to its activities. I really think that needs to be withdrawn from the record.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I will ask that you withdraw the remark.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I can withdraw.
1.15 p.m.

I find it difficult why a political party which is seeking to capture votes will not set as its agenda something purely designed to do such. It is really inconsistent with the whole objectives of a political party. So I am merely imputing a particular motive to the party on the basis of my understanding of what a party constitutes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: My understanding is that you were not speaking about the party as such. You were speaking of the Government or the decision makers. That was the interpretation.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Well, there is a technical division. Anyhow, the issue is this, Sir, that the Government which happens to be under the ruling of the Barbados Labour Party seems determined to my mind to use the Commission to exercise some greater power over the control of lands. This is in Part D to allocate land under the control of Government to persons desirous of farming. The difficulty which I have here as well is understanding the kind of criteria that we will have to set to determine who is desirous of farming. So in the plans of the Commission we would wish to see some expansion of these kinds of issues in very great detail because this does not constitute a development plan. This is an attempt to establish a commission which I am saying will fail. I am saying it will fail because the premise upon which it was formed was a false premise. Although one can get a false premise and apply it to conclusion, I do not expect the outcome to be a very truthful one on the part of the Government.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I hope the Honourable Senator is not trying to mislead the Senate because we are here to discuss the Rural Development Commission Bill and the Rural Development Commission Bill is not the Rural Development Plan. So to suggest that the Bill is not a plan to me is to suggest that the Bill is deficient when in truth and in fact the purpose of the Bill is not to outline the Plan. The Plan is a separate issue and I hope he is not using that method to attempt to mislead the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, you have about 2 minutes to conclude your speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the thing about it is that this is a legal exercise establishing a commission, but I am not interested in that aspect of it. I am interested, Sir, in what is the purpose and function of the Commission. I am saying that you can construct any commission which you want. Ultimately, the usefulness of the commission would be determined by its functioning and what it is that it has to do. I therefore cannot be confined, Sir, to a discussion which merely tells me that we are going to do this to facilitate that and to facilitate this. If so, there would be no need for a Senate. If I have to be confined just merely to discuss a, b, c or d without understanding the wider picture of the purpose of this Commission I would have failed and there would be no need for me anyhow in this Honourable Chamber. I do not understand why it is that I cannot go further and dig the root in understanding where this Commission intends to take us.

I close by saying, Sir, that it has not been constructed for the right reasons. The evidence is there to show that although there is emphasis now on the agricultural side, but when you look at the functions the agricultural side it is at "C" and not at "A" and therefore one would have thought that if indeed the focus of the Commission was agriculture that should have come out at you in the first reading but it does not. So I do not expect very much to come out of this exercise. I thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.20 p.m. today, Sir.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.20 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.22 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I want to rise to give wholehearted support for this Bill to establish a Rural Development Commission and to once again congratulate this Government in fulfilling yet another of its Manifesto pledges.

Sir, this Bill seeks to prevent what is happening in Barbados, from deteriorating any further, that is, the division of Barbados into two Barbadoses, one urban and one rural. It is instructive that the Democratic Labour Party, through its spokesman who just sat down, stated that

their aim was to urbanise Barbados, to make Barbados one urban community. That statement speaks volumes for the philosophy and the thinking of the Democratic Labour Party. It is a statement which is deep-rooted in ignorance. They do not understand the full implication of the urbanisation of Barbados. They do not understand that what is happening in the parishes of St. Michael, Christ Church and St. James is not necessarily to the benefit of Barbados, because the traditional Barbadian, especially those who had their roots in the rural parishes, made their livelihood by supplementing income from other sources by income from farming. I know, because I was raised in the rural part of St. Michael and had it not been for agricultural activity, had it not been for my father having some land behind the house and growing carrots and so on I do not know how we would have been educated, so the traditional Barbadian has always supplemented his income by agricultural activity.

What has happened is that by forcing him into these almost urban ghettos, where he is not allowed even to raise a chicken, you are forcing the man into a situation where on a meagre salary – because salaries in Barbados are not terribly high in spite of what people might say – you are asking the man to raise his family. A lot of us in here know what it is to get up and milk a goat before going to school. The Honourable Member would not understand these things, since he did not have the exposure of living in a rural setting. It is his misfortune.

His statement goes further than that. We must take it in the light of statements by the Democratic Labour Party, especially the leader, who categorised country folk as barefoot and with patches, two slip slops on their feet and that kind of thing. That is how they characterised them and they are the ones that characterised places like Black Bess as behind God's back. They were the ones who made a pledge that they did not want to see a cane blade in Barbados and, Sir, if it were not for the election in 1994 they might have made good their threat to fully destroy the agricultural sector in Barbados, so the statement by the Honourable Senator is in keeping with the philosophy of the party which he represents. They showed utter contempt for rural folk, and by seeking to urbanise all of Barbados they are creating special psychological and other problems for Barbados, because of the over concentration of people in the urban areas. That is something that we have to redress as quickly as possible, because the sociological and psychological effects are there for all to see. We have children coming up who hardly know that eggs come from chickens or milk from a cow.

The Democratic Labour Party, true to its form and in destroying agriculture, under their regime we had diseases and pests that we never heard about. I am told that the white fly was a special import. That is their contempt for agriculture, that they seek to destroy by any

means whatsoever. But we in this party believe that we have to improve the standard of life in rural Barbados. I was checking the 1990 census figures and I recommend that the Honourable Senator Mascoll also read those, because he showed total ignorance of what is going on in Barbados. When we look at things like the quality of life and indicators as the type of sanitary facilities in the house, you will find that about two-thirds of the households in Barbados have water borne toilet systems, but when we look around the country we see that in St. Andrew there is only 44%, just over half in St. Joseph, about 55% in St. John, way below the national average. In Christ Church three-quarters of the households have water borne systems, and in St. James you find a far lesser figure in rural Barbados. That is an indicator, in my view, of the standard of life, the type of sanitary facility you have in your household.

There is a disparity in the standard of life between rural and urban Barbados. Not only that, Sir, look at the roads. There are lots of districts in rural Barbados where the people have to wear two and three pairs of shoes, because they have to walk through mud and water, if any rain falls, in order to get to the main road to get a bus. I am saying that in 1995 we cannot afford to have these pockets of poverty and hopelessness in our society, so that while one part of the country is growing at a decent and reasonable rate other sections are still living in conditions which are less than desirable. Not only that, when we look at the proportion of wall or concrete houses in the rural areas, we find that in St. Andrew 13% of the houses are of wall structure; in St. Joseph 15%. When we move to St. James, 58% of the structures are of solid wall. All I am saying is that at present there is a big disparity between some sections in the urban community and the rural community.

Sir, this Commission has to find ways of addressing this problem. What has happened in the past is that we have had a lot of migration from the rural districts to St. Michael, St. James and Christ Church. What has been the result of this migration? There is serious overcrowding, in my view, in the urban sectors where in some constituencies there is no place for playing facilities, and to get playing facilities you have to move a lot of houses at a horrendous cost. A lot of areas are like that. I can think of St. Michael Central, that constituency which I know pretty well, where it is going to be difficult to get facilities for the people because the density of population is so great. Not only that, Sir, in the rural districts, as a result of the migration, we have less agricultural activity.

It has always been my contention that part of the problems with the land slippage in St. Joseph and St. Andrew is because there is little or no agricultural activity in those areas. In the past crops were grown to help stabilise the soil, now we get it overgrown with vegetation

and so on which does not have the requisite structure to keep the soil together. In addition, Sir, when there was agricultural activity going on in these areas, a lot of water courses were kept clear, the springs were cleaned, so that when the rain fell there was a more natural flow of water from these areas to the sea. As a result of the lack of activity the springs are not kept clear, the water courses are not kept clear and when the rain falls you get these slippages and this will contribute to the degradation of the environment in these areas. I am saying that one way to stop this is to try to encourage people to remain in these areas and carry out the agricultural activities which hopefully will tend to at least stop the acceleration of the process of further economic degradation.

It is very important, in my view, Sir, that we find ways of encouraging people not only to remain in the rural areas, but if it may go so far, we have to encourage them to remigrate to rural areas. I drive through places like Arthur Seat, which is barely in rural Barbados, and when I see the amount of open land there where in years gone by this land was under agricultural production, because the older generation would have died out or are now unable to carry on the activity, and the children because of the lack of services in the rural areas have gone for the bright lights. We have now to improve the standard of life in these areas, make sure that the roads are of a proper standard, make sure that street lighting is of a proper standard, given the fact that we are not as secure as we were when I was a boy, the level of crime and so on, so we have to make sure that what happens in St. Andrew and St. Joseph stops, because every year, in rainy season or not, the people of St. Andrew have serious problems with water. This year was not as bad, since we have a new Government, but last year for months people in White Hill, St. Andrew... So how can you expect people to want to live in those communities when basic necessities were denied them? The last Administration, the Democratic Labour Party, had nothing but contempt for rural folk. I am clear on this. How can you expect people to want to live in 1995 under those conditions?

2.35 p.m.

What we are trying to do now is to improve life in these communities and I want to go further and say that the consequence of abolition of local government is with us today. We have tended to centralise all of our activities. Road repairs and rebuilding is centralised, street lighting is centralised, everything is centralised and what has happened is that the bulk of the population lives in 3 parishes. Therefore, if you are going by the concept of the greatest good to the greatest numbers, then you tend to concentrate your resources where the people live.

Where in the past you had local councils which would ensure that St. Andrew got piece of the action, St. Joseph piece, everything is centralised. When in 1965, in order to get rid of the then Mayor of Bridgetown, you burned down the coop, proverbially speaking, when that action was made to avoid local government, just because the Premier at that time wanted to get rid of one of his opponents, we are paying for it today. When we centralise, because there are very few people living in St. Andrew or St. Joseph, they will not get a proportionate amount of resources.

When you build a road in St. Michael where the people come together 100 metres of road serve 10 people or more but, in the rural districts, you have to build a wider road to service the same number of people. So the result is that when the funding agencies are doing their counts in order to assist Government in paying for a road, the road at St. Joseph would get little or no attention because they do not receive the volume of traffic that roads on the urban centres would have.

So by centralising all of these services, as what happened when the late Errol Barrow abolished local government, it meant that life in the rural setting had deteriorated. Street lighting was the preserve of local government.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I know they will think I am talking foolishness, because anytime you criticise a certain party they want to make sure that they see something in that attempt. The point is anybody who has studied the history of Barbados knows this to be true that in Barbados, given the differences between parishes you need to have bodies with special responsibility for certain agencies. That is what we lacked in the last 30 years or so in our development.

Sir, what we are attempting to do is to establish a commission to investigate the conditions under which rural folk live and put in place measures for the amelioration of the conditions that exist in these areas. We are not only going to set up a commission but we are going to ensure that the Commission is adequately funded. Sir, I remember when I first came into the Senate in 1991 one of the first Acts that we passed was the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) (Amendment) Act. I made the point that we have all these amendments, but without the resources and without the will, all of this legislation would just go by the wayside.

The Minister of Agriculture was complaining that he did not have the legislative power to do certain things. He was given the power, and what happened when he was given the power? Absolutely nothing was done in spite of

the fact that he had the legal and constitutional power. This is not going to be with this Commission.

In the 11 months that we have been in power, we have demonstrated not only the ability to rationalise, to initiate, not only do we conceptualise, but we also execute. I heard the Honourable Member talking about jobs. He has not read the last unemployment statistics because he would not want to read them. But the point remains that when it comes to jobs we want to create jobs in the areas where people live. That is part of the job of the rural commission.

There is no sense having a lot of activity going on, especially agricultural activity in the rural areas, without now going to the second stage where we are going to make sure that industries grow up in the urban areas as well as agricultural activity. In other words, Sir, not only are we going to ask them to grow fruit, but we are going to make sure that a plant is put there in the rural areas that will turn their fruits into jellies and jams. That, Sir, is our aim so that the farmer will not have to leave Gall Hill, St. Andrew to go to Newton, Christ Church. He can now use the funds in the Rural Enterprise Fund, set up an industry where when the people grow their crops they are processed right where they are grown. So you are creating employment within the rural communities.

That, Sir, is far reaching. That is the sort of thinking that the Democratic Labour Party and their apologists are not accustomed to. They are accustomed to destroy, because a former DLP Prime Minister said that in order to build you must destroy.

We are seeing the destruction of the rural communities as a result of their activities. We are seeing the result in that last year we had to import \$227 million in food, the highest ever. When I hear the Honourable Member talking about demand for agricultural activity, he doesn't read the figures because when we are importing \$227 million in food it shows there is scope for at least import substitution. If we could knock down that bill by \$30 million that is \$30 million that remains within the community. What will happen is that \$20 million or \$30 million would be providing sustainable jobs.

The Democratic Labour Party feels that Barbados must only be a tourism centre; so their ambitions for us is to be bellboys and bellhops but we have shown in the latter months that we are seeking to expand in areas like computer software where we can use the intellect of our people in a more meaningful and imaginative way.
2.45 p.m.

Not only that, Sir, by seeking to improve agricultural activity we at least go a further step towards feeding ourselves. Sir, I strongly believe that a nation that can feed itself is really a nation. When we look at a nation

like the United States of America and we fail to realise that their wealth is based on agricultural activity. But we, in Barbados, have destroyed our agricultural activity and want to base

Sir, from the time the Democratic Labour Party came in 1951 they had this policy of destroying agriculture. Check the records. The records are there. And, Sir, as the biblical saying goes, by their fruits you shall know them. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has been the destruction of agriculture.

In 1986 we produced over 111 000 tonnes of sugar. How much did we produce in 1995, 38 000 tonnes? Sir, in case anybody wants to refer us back to 1981, they should know that in 1981 the rains came in April two months before schedule and tractors cannot operate in those conditions and the canes had to be left in the fields. I do not understand, Sir, how they are reading history.

In 1981, Sir, the crop had to be left in the field because the fields were too wet. In 1981 the rains came in April and anybody who was living then should know that. But they are trying to score cheap political points without checking their facts. The point is, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party will go down in infamy as the party that created severe damage to the agricultural sector in Barbados.

I believe, Sir, that rural people must be empowered and I would want to commend this statement to the commissioners where it says that so-called leaders do encourage much talking to the peasants. No one ever wants to listen to them and I feel that the Commission in seeking to improve the life of the rural folk must be listeners. They must try to understand why it is that people are dissatisfied with life in rural Barbados because, Sir, I believe that they are dissatisfied.

Sir, they must try to listen to people to find out exactly what their complaints are. Sir, they must try to understand why their children are seeking to leave the rural districts for the so-called heights. That is why, Sir, that we in our time in office made sure that we put things like social centres, community centres. Sir, many of the community centres in Barbados today were put there by the Barbados Labour Party between 1976 and 1986 because we believe that we must carry these things to the people.

Sir, things like the polyclinic services, we made sure that St. George had a service. I remember, Sir, that the Democratic Labour Party hastily, without any thought, without looking at the demographics, in order to fool people, went and started a centre in St. John. Sir, the Member of Parliament for St. John, he was there since 1987, started it and left it half-way and for three or four

years after no work was done on it. That is how they treat the rural folk. You want something, I will give you a little tokenism. He went and started something and then when it was half-way for three or four years left it there in an unfinished state and as soon as they were kicked out unceremoniously he now comes here talking about the clinic in St. John.

For the first time he knows that there are roads in St. John. He was the Minister of Finance for some time and he did not remember St. John but as soon as he is kicked out of office he remembers there is a parish called St. John. It is nothing but contempt that they are showing for the rural folk.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you are almost out of time. Would you please wind up?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I subscribe to what is called the basic needs philosophy as a way of development. Sir, by that I mean that we should pay attention to the basic services in the rural areas, things like making sure that facilities are there to encourage people to improve their lives. Sir, it is a known fact that building in the rural community, especially in St. Andrew and St. Joseph, building a house there is much more expensive than building anywhere else, because in St. Michael, after you have gone down 18 inches you are through top soil and you are down to rock on which you can build. In these areas you have to go a lot further and in some cases you do not find the rock on which to build so, Sir, the actual cost of building is substantially more. All of this has to be taken into account, Sir.

Sir, the answer is not to move out of town, you have to make sure that you have the support services that would encourage persons to improve their status, taking into account the fact that they are building on more difficult terrain.

Sir, on the last point I want to make a plea for improved transport services in the rural communities. That is very important because I remember the days when I was a boy we used to laugh at the rural folk when they went to 4:30 at the cinema. In those days there were two shows 4:30 and 8:30, when they went to a 4:30 show and it started late the fellows had to leave before the picture finished in order to get the last bus. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has destroyed the Transport Board to the extent that we are almost back to those days now. So, Sir, we have to make sure that all of these services are back to the desired level to encourage people to remain and to work in the rural communities. Thank you.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, in addressing this matter of the rural development

commission debate I would wish at the very outset to indicate that I would wish to call for some further machinery for the consideration of this matter, further machinery to ensure that we do not get lost between the wish to satisfy our Manifesto commitments and the demand that there is for us to give the most effective and efficient service to the people of Barbados that we can, using the mechanism of the House of Parliament, at the level of the House of Assembly and at the level of this Senate.

2.55 p.m.

I would think that much of what the previous Senator who spoke has said has been said in such a way as to convince me that the position which I am adopting is pertinent. Much of what I have heard is suggestive of a position steeped only in partisan politics and not enough in a position of mature consideration which this Honourable Chamber has to bring to legislation which is passed by the House of Assembly. Whatever our political persuasion, Mr. President, my understanding of the Senate is that we must be able notwithstanding what happens in the Other Place to bring to bear a new dimension of thought and a new dimension of consideration to the thinking in such a way as to ensure that the positions which we take, while attempting to further advance the cause of the political party that we may espouse, at the same time represent the interest which has been given to us either by a political party or by Her Excellency in our selection for this Honourable Chamber.

I think, Sir, that one of the things we would have heard indicates the concern which there is for the rural folk and I have my language, Mr. President. I would never refer to my brothers and sisters in that area as the rural folk. But all that we are hearing is that the rural folk have got to be listened to. Now I do not understand that there is a position where the persons who live in the rural areas and on whose behalf we want to make certain decisions understand and have been involved in the decision or that they understand the full implications of what we are trying to do. I certainly do not understand and I would wish to be able to speak to the issue on the behalf of those several thousands of constituents that I have, whichever trade union you wish to associate me with, where membership is in the rural sector. I would want to be in a position to explain to them whether we are concerning ourselves with discontinuing a position of Central Government and introducing instead a new position for Local Government, and if so, what are the pros and cons associated with establishing Local Government? If we are not establishing Local Government but we are establishing a Rural Development Commission, what aspects of Local Government and/or Central Government are involved in that particular decision and what are the implications for the person who lives within the rural area for advancing his or her interest or his or her family's interest in the event that there is a problem?

I want to step through this slowly and I want to do it without suggesting that there is politics tied up in "a" or "b". Unfortunately, far too many things in this country are relegated to partisan politics and the result is that people take positions supporting a party, and not enough take positions supporting the better consideration of the people.

Aside.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: I do not say that, Sir, regarding anybody in this Honourable Chamber because I cannot attribute any improper motives, Mr. President, and I wish you to understand that right away. I say that before anyone seeks to challenge me. I will endeavour to be here next time to hear him, but I was unfortunately delayed by other pressing national issues. What I am saying, Mr. President, is this: That in the institution of Central Government we currently have certain Ministries that take certain responsibilities for the daily running of this country. We are a small country of 166 square miles and possibly less since the last flood and within that small land area we have a very sophisticated framework for parliamentary democracy and decision making and we have a Civil Service which I believe is the envy of most others.

I am not suggesting at all, Mr. President, that there cannot be improvement. Nor am I suggesting that having an institution that deals with the issues in rural areas is necessarily a bad thing and I do not understand anybody to so understand me. I cannot say I do not want the Press because we do not see or hear the Press. But I am merely saying that I do not want to be misunderstood as saying that having a rural institution for advancing the cause of people who live in the rural areas, and I am a country boy from Bathsheba, is a bad thing. I am saying therefore that I understand the concerns of rural people and I have no difficulty in understanding that there must be some machinery for dealing with problems within the areas, nor do I have difficulty in accepting that people living in rural areas have been disadvantaged over time and have not had sufficient consideration of their needs.

So the problem I have and I dare say other persons may have is not a problem associated with intent. I have no difficulty with understanding that the current Government or that any Government might wish to concern itself with the people living in the rural areas. If one looks at certain results over time politically, one would understand that there has to be that kind of commitment. So I have no problem with that, Mr. President. I have a problem with the way that this thing sets itself out at the moment and with being able to relate to it in such a way that I could assist as a Member of this Chamber in the exercise in trying to ensure that what decisions are made parliamentarily are

Sir, I am saying that I do not know that the rural people, my brothers and sisters there, have been part of this nor do I understand if they are going to be in a position to speak to the issue if they are called upon to speak to it. I do not know the extent to which I know, or they know, or anybody else knows except the decision makers, what particularly will be the parameters within which this Commission will function. Perhaps it is in the name "commission" that the first order of problems may lie. Commissioners are supposedly very strong, illustrious and powerful people and it may give the impression that there is a certain kind of power overriding the power of individual Ministries. So the question would arise: Where does the Commission stand in relation to the Ministry of Public Transport? Where would the Commission stand in relation to the Ministry of Agriculture? Where is the Commission going to stand in relation to the Ministry of Trade? Because I have been hearing just now that people who live in those areas will not have to go from Bawdens and go to Newton. Am I understanding that we are going to put industrial plants in Bawdens and that we are going to remove the cane blades from down in St. George or St. Joseph and put industrial estates there now? Is that what the purpose is, if we are to judge from the previous speaker?

The point that I am being very careful to make, Mr. President, is that we have a number of Ministries at the moment which are responsible for the governance of our country, and we have at the same time a wish to establish a commission and that commission, it seems to me, will span those particular different areas in a way that I am not sure about and where it is possible that the planners have not given sufficient consideration. If they have not, even though the idea may be good, it may be necessary for us to give further consideration particularly in an institution where the Government is committed to consultation and to dialogue with the social partners that are involved. I heard, for example, Sir, that there will be the creation of additional jobs and that that would relate to the work of this Commission, and if there is going to be the creation of jobs I would want to know about it. My colleague at my immediate right is related to trade unions and he would want to know about it. My colleague on my immediate left is also a trade union leader and she would want to know about it. We would want to be involved in making reasonable recommendations and suggestions which would assist us in more swiftly helping in the functioning of this institution.

3.05 p.m.

I see nothing wrong with making those kinds of recommendations. Nor do I seek to trivialise the argument, Mr. President, in saying that I have heard where one Honourable Senator speaks to having persons leave Bawdens to go to Newton, because when I spoke to that I was speaking to a situation where people were leaving the sugar industry and seeking jobs outside of the sugar

industry, or leaving agriculture and choosing jobs outside of agriculture, and I am therefore seeking to understand whether within the concept of this Rural Development Commission there is going to be the establishment of new town centres.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of elucidation, Mr. President. On page 3 of the Bill the functions of the Commission include –

"(e) to give assistance in the establishment and development of cottage industries in rural areas;"

I was not talking about industrial parks, I was talking about industries and I particularly mentioned in relation to agricultural production. I mentioned jams and jellies, those sorts of industries. I am quite clear on that and, Sir, I wish the Honourable Member to understand the point I was making and not to put his own interpretation. I particularly mentioned agricultural activity.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: As I was saying, Mr. President, I would wish to be in a position to understand when a person leaves Bawdens and goes to work in Newton, as given in the example, whether I am to understand that we are talking about localising employment rather than having employment having to transfer itself across two bus routes into a new area. If the Honourable Member in his point of order does not understand the simple logistics of that kind of arrangement, I would apologise to him. If people go to Newton from Bawdens, they do not go to work in cottage industries and so one has to be able to understand the point we are making. Yes, of course, Mr. President, there are people who are cottage workers who remain in their areas, but at the same time we have developed, or did have, a thriving industry which operated for some time.

It is, as my understanding further goes, the intention of the Government to recreate that climate with the result that we will also have large numbers of additional people working in industries, maybe different industries, and what I am saying is not picking at the nit that was what the contribution of the other person was, what in fact I am trying to do. . . .

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: What I am hoping, Mr. President, we would understand is that we have different hopes for the development of our country and that those hopes which we have for the development, exemplified in the efforts being made by our various Ministers who are involved in development of jobs,

have to be efforts which are recognised not only as they stand by themselves but furthermore as they stand within any new initiatives which the Government might endeavour to bring about. And so, Sir, I would wish to have it clearly understood that we are not really anxious – certainly I am not anxious – to make a decision or to be part of any decision if that decision in being made does not clearly set out what are the overriding objectives which this country has set for itself.

I said at the outset, and I know that honourable speakers might refer to it, that the Barbados Labour Party did make a commitment to deal with rural issues and that there is a section within the Manifesto, which I have apparently read better than the previous speaker, which addresses this whole matter of rural development.

Aside.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: No personal things, my friend. I did not go to NCC people and tell them the Government is going to send home some of them, as you did two days ago.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman, please address the Chair.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: I confess, Sir, that I did allow that one to make me respond with the truth. I will address the Chair.

I do know, Mr. President, that the party has given itself over to working within the rural areas and I support the initiatives the Government wants to take in addressing the rural areas. There is no question about it. I am very anxious though that in its efforts to deal with this it deals with it in such a way that it does not fail to achieve its objective because it has taken a road that turns off before it should have turned off. I agree with a former speaker in one thing, Sir, and that is where we have spoken to rural development and to the problems which arise from lack of adequate transport. I would wish to indicate that it might be an appropriate time for efforts to be made by the Government to address this problem, since in fact while we are waiting for the Commission to be completed and for the efforts that are being made in that area, we should recognise that whatever attempts were made previously, and whatever the transport system was that addressed the rural areas, there had been some difficulties arising from lack of adequate units and from the fact that there is no adequate streamlining at the moment between the private sector transport and the public sector transport. In that regard therefore it is necessary to have urgent discussions with a view to establishing an adequate system to bring greater ease to those colleagues.

In conclusion I would wish to say, Mr. President, that I am very anxious to co-operate with the Leader of the Senate and with yourself, Sir, and I would wish to have that co-operation extended even to the extent where I would want to be in a position to support the legislation, but I do not believe that we are at this stage in this Honourable Chamber where we have a sufficient body of information to guide us in that direction, and therefore I would plead that a Committee be established, or some other machinery, where discussions may be held to satisfy all sides not only as to the desirability of the legislation but as to its appropriateness and the comprehensiveness that might be necessary, all other things being considered.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I hope that in rising I am able to allay some of the fears, particularly of the last speaker. I am afraid that he seems to have been sidetracked by issues which I do not think are evident in the Bill.
3.15 p.m.

The last Honourable Senator seems not to understand fully, in a nutshell, what the Commission is about. If he turns to page 3 of the Bill, it sets out clearly 7 categories of activities. If I might, without tending to bore those Senators who might have read it, read out some of those. It says:

The functions of the Commission are:

- (a) to facilitate road improvement and the lighting of streets in the rural districts of the island;
- (b) to provide housing and ancillary services including the installation of sanitary facilities in rural areas;
- (c) to provide assistance to small farmers in areas of (i) agricultural training and investment (ii) equipment and machinery (iii) production and marketing of agricultural produce;
- (d) to allocate land under the control of government to persons desirous of farming;
- (e) to give assistance in the establishment and development of cottage industries in the rural areas;
- (f) to establish a rural enterprise fund which will finance the objectives of the Rural Commission; and
- (g) to do such things as are necessary to effectively carry out the purposes of this Act.

It seems as though some other Senators, from the informal discussion that we had at lunch, are not quite clear as to why there should be a commission.

This Commission is no more alarming than the National Conservation Commission. It is no more alarming than the BIDC which is established to carry out specialist functions which would not be advisable or efficient for a Ministry to carry out in its every day activities. All this is doing is allocating certain activities to a commission.

I would understand why the Democratic Labour Party and Senator Mascoll when he spoke did not quite grasp the concept of the Commission for the rural areas. My Honourable colleague, Senator Barker, alluded to some of the basic philosophy that has informed the thinking of the DLP over the past 36 years about rural areas, probably summarised in the phrase by one of their honourable leaders that "Boscobelle is behind God's back and Black Bess is off the map". If that informs your thinking, you can only see rural development in terms of street lights and stand pipes and tar roads.

Sir, this goes far beyond that. It goes to wider and higher dimensions as is clearly indicated on page 29 of our manifesto which in summary says:

"We will build strong vibrant rural communities in which our people will find it desirable to reside, work and play."

That encapsulates all the aspects of human activity and human life. There is nothing tremendously surprising about that. The more I sit in this Chamber, I keep hoping that someday I will see demonstrated from the mouths and the attitudes of those representing the Democratic Labour Party, a sense of shame rather than brazenness and effrontery and boldfacedness and barefacedness.

Senator Mascoll spent more than an hour attacking tangentially, more often than not, a rural development commission. I thumbed their glorious document for 1994 more than once. There is not a single mention of rural development. There is no rural development. It mentions disparate roads, disparate land use and people but there is no cohesive framework. There is conceptually no attempt to bring them together into a philosophy that could in any way be summarised as rural development. So I understand why they would have difficulty dealing with it. It loses you completely.

It is the historic lot again of this party to resume the work that it started when it first took office. If I may remind some of the younger members among the DLP, misguided as they are, it was this Party which initiated rural development in the 50s and 60s by setting up the health centres which were later replaced by a later BLP

Administration by polyclinics – community centres, libraries, fire services. All we are doing is picking up the baton once again and carrying it a step further. That is all we are doing.

Barbados has now become more complex and more sophisticated and therefore one cannot treat those aspects of life in the same way when life was much more simple and less complex. We, in the BLP, have always seen rural development in wider dimensions than that when we built those projects I spoke about. We started them and we finished them.

When they talked about rural development as to reflect it in a mythical St. John Development Plan they started a polyclinic and never finished it. They started a school in St. Thomas and never finished it. That is their approach, because it was based on *ad hocism*, it was based on political expediency and it was not rooted in any particular philosophical framework. We have a clear and explicit comprehension and idea of what rural development is all about.

I would not want to read in any detail, but anybody who can turn to page 29 of the BLP Manifesto would see some of the areas that are covered. I can understand the DLP's predicament. They never thought of it and they are not magnanimous enough to accept the role that is advocated by the Honourable Senator Trotman who said that we must rise above partisan carpings and treat matters at a rational level.

Senator Mascoll, and I suspect others of his ilk, rather than saying this is a good measure though they might not like exactly how we are going about it; they find every attempt to take cheap pot shots at it, hoping that that will kill it. Sir, it will not kill the idea, the high ideals and the informed policy on which this approach is based.

Rural development is not just about tar roads and street lights. It is not even just about agriculture. For while agriculture is the primary source of economic activity up to now in rural Barbados, it is not the sole means. It is part of the whole framework on which rural areas are founded but it is not crucial and, as is said in social science, "sufficient and necessary". Agriculture is not sufficient and necessary to rural development.

The Rural Development Commission is not going to be just an *ad hoc* body which is going to sit down in some vacuum and seek to implement a policy. While this Bill seeks to establish a legal framework for the commission, the composition of the commission has not yet been determined. There is ample scope and opportunity for various interests to be represented and I am sure that the Government, in keeping with the participatory democracy to which Senator Trotman referred, will seek to

maintain its position as involving as many people as possible in populating the commission to inform its activities.

Apart from that, this Commission is also going to be working in tandem with a unit in the Ministry of Agriculture called the Rural Development Unit, staff of which is now being selected. A Director has already been selected and among the staff it will include Field Assistants whose job it will be to go out into the community, inform them, advise them, communicate with them. So, therefore, there is going to be an interlocking relationship between the Commission and the Field Assistants and the other people who are operating within the rural development unit that will help to service the Commission.

Sir, I hope that these explanations will in some small way help to allay some of the anxieties that members might have, because we have to see rural development, as both Senator Trotman and Senator Barker alluded to, for different reasons and from different angles, that there is, for example, a definite urban drift in Barbados. While it might not be as strong or as discernible as obtains in larger countries, there is a large movement every day of people from the rural districts of Barbados into the urban centres putting great pressures on the various facilities, including transport.

We are hoping that by seeking to upgrade the quality of life that people will have all reasons, ecological, political, social or whatever, to stay in their rural locations and that they themselves would in this way help to maintain the traditional life in Barbados. While it might not get back to the idyllic days of villages and neighbourhoods as we knew them because of the ravages of modernisation, I have no doubt, Sir, that with greater facilities and better means of living brought to people in the rural areas, this will in some ways help to maintain the community spirit that we all deplore as declining. And we hope they will maintain all the virtues and the values that have been the bedrock of Barbadian society in more ways than one.
3.25 p.m.

I also, Sir, look to see rural development as we are perceiving it ourselves. We have defined it coming about and being realised if only, Sir, to develop what I like to describe as local tourism. By local tourism I mean, Sir, that when we have the Oistins Fish Festival, when we have the Holetown Festival, when we have, as we had recently the St. Peter week or the St. Peter Festival and as we had at the East Coast Road a few Sundays ago, that magnificently successful Pic-o-de-crop semi-finals and the Party Monarch Finals, that in itself represents local tourism in the sense that it brought people from other parts of Barbados for only a few hours or for a few days into a community and that helps to bring that area into the mainstream of economic and social life of Barbados.

It also creates economic activity because if somebody from Bawdens, for example, went down to the East Coast Road and set up a stall and sold their food and they made money, then some of that money is directly ploughed back into the community. People then understand what it means, tourism is our business, because they have done business and made money out of tourism.

So, Sir, with better facilities we are saying that there will be a wider spread of local tourism whereby people will grow. Right now local tourism consists mainly of somebody driving through Chalky Mount and seeing the pottery and stopping there to buy a pot *et cetera*. We want for there to be many more Chalky Mounts, doing various things around the place so that when people go there they have a reason to spend money to interrelate with people, to generate social activity, to generate social cohesion, because there is no doubt that when people meet and mix, particularly over a drink, that they become different human beings. I am sure that when Senator Trotman and Senator Barker meet over a drink later on they will be different people. Any perceived animosity, I am sure not real, will dissipate considerably. And so, I am asking Honourable Senators to give their wholehearted support to this measure and I endorse it with all my spirit and being. I thank you.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I would like to make a contribution to the debate on this Rural Development Commission Bill.

My goodly friend, the last speaker, said that rural development is not only tar roads and agriculture but in my view he has not said what it is. It is necessary for us not to know what it is not but what it is.

I believe, Sir, that rural development is achieved when the dwellers of a community are empowered by legislation ...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of clarification. I quoted a section of page 29 of the B.L.P. Manifesto which I said summarised what we perceived to be rural development, namely we would build strong vibrant and rural communities which our people would find it desirable to reside, work and play. That is a summary. That is what I said was rural development.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President I have not come to all that the Senator has said yet.

As I was saying, Mr. President, I believe that rural development is achieved when the dwellers of the community are empowered by legislation and opportunity to develop that community; not only the physical amenities but more so the people of the community; to give personal ability and empowerment to the people of the community; to know that they have self-esteem, self-worth,

self-determination; that they can develop their abilities, their talents; they can develop the physical resources around them and develop their academic and other resources. In other words, rural development will bring a total development and a total quality life in the realm of economics and in the realm of personal human development.

When we turn to the Manifesto at Page 29, the Leader of Government Business, my goodly friend, in his opening remarks underscored what I had underscored in the Manifesto, namely that we will rebuild strong vibrant rural communities. But rural communities are not roads. Rural communities do not end in agriculture. Rural communities are firstly and foremost people. When we turn to the Bill before us I see that the Bill is conspicuously absent in its relation to people.

I would have been glad to see, Mr. President, in this Bill, some provision or reference to development of the youth of the community who are the future of the community and the future of the nation. I would have been glad to see some reference to development and care of our senior citizens. I believe that having reached a certain age I am more thoughtful of that at this time.

What I want to say, Mr. President, is that in spite of what is in the Manifesto or any Manifesto, or in spite of what is in the heart of any Government or of any people, it is only what is written in the legislation that we can take notice of in this Chamber. When we come to Section 4 of the Bill it says: "The functions of the Commission are: to facilitate road improvement and the lighting of streets in rural districts of the island". In other words what Senator Murray was saying rural development is not they are claiming it to be in the Act.

Asides.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: I am coming down. You said they were seven. I am going to read all of them.

Asides.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Because we can have street lights and still be in darkness:

- (b) to provide housing and ancillary services, including the installation of sanitary facilities in rural areas;
- (c) to provide assistance to small farmers in the areas of agricultural training and investment.

The point I want to make, Mr. President, is that these functions which are earmarked in Section 4 of the Bill, in

my opinion are already falling under the ambit of various Ministries of Government and my note, when I first started to study the Bill was, these are overlapping functions. Therefore I think we need some proper explanation, not just explanation, but proper explanation as to how this Commission is going to work in conjunction with or against the various Ministries which have already been established and are in being for carrying out those very functions. Therefore that leads to the question which needs to be answered, is the Commission necessary? Is the Commission relevant in the circumstances of our Parliamentary democracy and the way Government functions? Therefore my interpretation, Sir, is that as the Bill stands the intended Commission is no more than a facilitator. Is it necessary for us to have a Commission to facilitate what is already being done through civil service and through the Ministries? That is a question I believe we in this Senate are entitled to have a proper answer to so that we can vote properly on this Bill.

When we come to look at legislation it is not just a matter of intent. It is a matter of content and whether the content of the Bill makes us contented. So I will move on, Mr. President to another aspect of the Bill that gives me some concern.

Clause 5 of the Bill ... The Commission seems to be empowered to delegate its functions to a committee or to any officer or servant of the Commission as it thinks fit. I am presuming that the intention there was to give the Commission authority so that "as it thinks fit" should relate to the function rather than to the delegated. I have grave concern where a commission or a committee or any body which has been given certain functions has in itself that authority to delegate those functions to other persons who are not accountable. The whole question of accountability needs to be taken into account here. Who will be accountable? Will it be the person or that officer or servant who is given the function to carry out or will the Commission be accountable? We have to have these things streamlined so that we can properly put the blame where the blame should lie and profitably give the kudos where kudos is relevant. I think, Mr. President, that section of the delegation of functions needs to be looked at.
3.35 p.m.

I would like to turn, Mr. President, to Section 16 of the Bill. This Section 16 seems to give overwhelming protection to the intended Commission...

"16 (1) No action, prosecution or other proceedings shall be brought or instituted against the Commission or any member thereof in respect of any act done *bona fide* in pursuance or execution or intended execution of this Act."

Things may be done *bona fide*, but they may be done negligently and I think that people who do things negligently should be accountable. Subsection 2 goes on further to say:

"No act done or proceedings taken under this Act shall be questioned on the grounds of contravention, *et cetera*..."

I believe, Mr. President, that there should be the ability to question. I believe what they want to say is "shall not be nullified" and if there is a contravention by a member of certain things set out in the Schedule to the Bill, then those acts which are done should not be nullified but not that they are above question. I fail to see why it is that the Crown can be sued and the Crown is also to give account, and a Commission which is established by this law should be more highly protected from the recourse of members of the public. The Government has said very much in this Senate earlier in this session concerning the question of accountability and I think that we need to ensure that all persons are accountable for their actions.

Section 20, Mr. President, states that the Act comes into operation by a date to be fixed by proclamation. The Bill also makes provision for regulations to be made under the Act. I would like to be assured that if this Bill is passed and becomes law that it is not proclaimed until regulations are put in force, because the regulations determine the manner in which the Commission should function and how members of the public should understand the manner in which the Commission is functioning. All too often laws are passed and proclaimed and the regulations are not made and it causes controversy and difficulty in dealing with those laws by way of interpretation and by seeing who can carry out functions and the manner in which those functions are to be carried out.

When we come to the Schedule, Mr. President, under Clause 5 of the Schedule, I see that the Chairman may at any time resign his office by instrument in writing addressed to the Minister and upon the date of the receipt by the Minister of such instrument ceases to be Chairman and member. I think that we need to remember that the Chairman of the Commission holds two offices. He holds an office by virtue of being a member and he holds an office of Chairman and I think that an occasion may arise where a Chairman may want to resign from the chairmanship but not necessarily from the membership. As this now stands, the moment the Chairman resigns he automatically ceases to be a member. I think that that is an anomaly which needs to be looked at.

Further, Mr. President, under Clause 14 (2) of the Schedule the question of notice where there is a conflict of interest. I believe that the whole question of giving notice of a conflict of interest is to allow members sitting at that

particular session to be constantly aware of the fact that an individual who has given notice has an interest in the matter before the meeting. I can readily understand if, for argument sake, an individual is in construction as a construction company and is a member of the Commission and the Commission has constantly to deal with tenders in favour of that construction company; it may be more convenient to give that notice today and say it is good six months down the road. But six months down the road the composition of the Commission may change and its members may not be aware of the conflict of interest. I feel, Mr. President, that ought to be looked at so as to create a position where at every given instance of an interest, the interested party should give notice to that particular meeting of his or her interest.

Because of these questions which I have raised; because of the uncertainty, I would like to urge the Government to give further consideration to this Bill. I believe, Sir, that the vision conceptualized is slightly narrow and needs to be widened and we need to spend a little time to look at the broad parameters and all that this Commission can and should embrace before we pass this legislation to enable this Commission to be set up. I would urge Government to give every consideration to the postponement of the passing of this Bill at this time so that proper consideration can be given to the Bill and to the Commission and to all that the Commission ought to be achieving for the people of this country.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it was not my intention to speak on this Bill, but I believe a lot of people have read the Bill literally and have not brought to their minds the concept of what the Bill is about and what the Bill envisages. I would like to remind Honourable Senators that statutory corporations came into existence when the British Parliament and Ministers discovered that there were lots of things which had to be done expeditiously which could not be tackled by the Ministries themselves, and the statutory board is a concept which falls between the Minister and the civil servant to get work done. I see this Bill as a wide ranging instrument which was travelled to various Ministries to pull together things which are absolutely necessary and desirable to be done to bring rural Barbados into the 21st century. I say this purely from experience.
3.45 p.m.

Now let me go back to 1985-86. I was representative for the constituency of St. Joseph. The Democratic Labour Party had a candidate, whose name I would not call, who came to canvass in St. Joseph and one of the things that lady canvassed

on was that she was going to make sure that buses run from St. Joseph to Bridgetown every hour on the hour. The young people in St. Joseph grabbed at that.
3.45 p.m.

I go back to 1971 when I went to St. Joseph and I take St. Joseph and the constituency of St. John and lump the two of them together, because those people voted for representatives because they idolised those persons. When I went to St. Joseph the Democratic Labour Party was in power and I know places like Blackmans and Horse Hill where people walked with two pairs of shoes and a bottle of water every time they had to go to town, because there were all mud roads and they had to come out in one pair of shoes, wash their feet, put on the next pair, go to town and come back, change again and put back on the other pair of shoes.

I challenged the late Errol Barrow in the Other Place about St. John. He told me the people would vote for him whether he gave them something or not, and up to today they have got nothing. I say openly rural Barbados develops according to the particular Minister in the particular Ministry. If you have a Minister who comes from St. Michael or the urban area, he is not going into the country and putting in roads. I told the party long ago it is absolutely necessary that we have a form of mechanism which will remove the partisan approach, or the favouritism approach, to constituencies and that money be allocated through rural Barbados so that every constituency in the country areas would get a bit of what is going. I have said it for a long time and I believe it.

I remember when one particular Minister of the DLP decided he was going to do the whole of Halls Road, all of that constituency. He even went so far as to paint yellow lines on the side of the road all up Two Mile Hill, right around across the Pine and come back down. That is the only place in Barbados you will see that the pavements were painted with the yellow lines, and then when he won he said: "Imagine, they have not given me any more than a pack of cigarettes in votes after all I have done." We must get away from that.

This Bill is a far-reaching Bill. I go further. The Barbados Labour Party looked at rural Barbados a long time ago. When we brought in the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Bill, it was a revolutionary Bill. The Democratic Labour Party said they were going to vote against it because it was unconstitutional. The late leader of the Democratic Labour Party called Colonel Drax and rode through St. George on horseback with Colonel Drax and said he was going to prosecute anybody who took away Colonel Drax's tenancies. It opened up the desires of people who had lived in rural Barbados on tenancies to improve their status. One of the objections that came from the Civil Service was that we had to counter Town and Country Planning. Town and Country Planning told us we

could not do it, and if you look at the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act you will see we had to write in a clause overriding Town and Country Planning to get it through.

This Bill is necessary for this reason, because Town and Country Planning, which I have said openly has no moral right to tell anybody in Barbados anything, has favourite rules for favourite people. How many times do you drive through the country and see people with half finished houses, who will tell you that Town and Country Planning put a stop on them and they cannot go any further? The reason our rural parishes are like they are is because nobody gives adequate consideration to what is happening in rural Barbados. You need a Bill like this. This Bill, as I see it, is the instrument to link the Ministry of Agriculture, the Town and Country Planning Department, the Ministry of Transport and Works and all these necessary Ministries together so that people do not have to run from one end to the next.

If you put an application in to Town Planning today, particularly if you come from St. Andrew, St. Thomas or St. Joseph – and I know those areas well – when you call six months later you will hear the file is out, but out where? They cannot tell you where it is. If you know somebody and you ask, they will tell you to try the Ministry of Transport and Works. When you call, you hear it is not there, it is at the Ministry of Health. It is out. That is all you hear.

When it comes to roads, I sat as a Minister of Transport and Works. We went into St. Peter to do roads and got a note the next morning saying that the Minister of Transport and Works could not carry out roadworks in St. Peter unless they had the approval of Town and Country Planning. When I started to do work in Bathsheba, I got a call early one morning from a resident who said he had spoken to the Town Planner, who was coming the next morning to stop the work. This is the country, but on the other hand you find people will carry out works all around Bridgetown and in St. Michael and you will hear nothing. So the country people must suffer while everybody else progresses.

I go further. I see the Honourable Senator has risen.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: On a point of elucidation, Mr. President. It is this type of information that we need to have before the Senate, but I wonder if the Senator will be able to tell us how this Bill as it stands gives the authority to the Commission to be able to straddle the Ministries.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That, I am afraid, Senator Workman, is not a point of elucidation, it is really a question, which is out of order.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I will get to that in due course. What I am saying, Mr. President, is that the Bill sets out in Clause 4 the functions of the Commission. Clause 4(f) says:

"(f) to do such other things as are necessary to effectively carry out the purposes of this Act."

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President. If that is so, they can only relate to the functions that are set out here in the Bill. Those "any other matters" can only relate to the functions as are given by the Bill.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, this is not a law court and I am not being paid adequately to argue this point. If I were paid substantially I am sure that I would bring the necessary law to show what the Interpretation Act says. We all have to look at the Interpretation Act to see what it is, but since the Government has not been so kind as to provide me with a set of laws, I do not see why I should bring mine in here to explain that. Senator Workman speaks about people. Now the Act is very clear. Nobody can ever expect to write every minute detail in an Act. Otherwise, we would have more paper and more writing than doing.

3.55 p.m.

The Act says quite clearly – I would not even deal with (a) and (b):

"to provide assistance to small farmers in the area of agricultural training and investment."

I belong to an organisation in the United States of America and I get agricultural documents every month. I got in that organisation because I went to New York State University to do 2 or 3 agricultural courses during the summer holidays. You go in to do 1 course and as a result you meet people. As a result, those people come together in various bodies and there are several spin-offs that take place eventually among people as a result of meeting.

In this Act, it says to provide assistance to small farmers in the area of agricultural training and investment. Whenever you start agricultural training you have to bring young people together. Out of that, whether young or old, grow several different organisations and you give people the foundation, the basics of coming together and helping themselves.

Production and marketing of agricultural produce. I have said for a long time that what has to happen is that the Government must produce a proper marketing facility. Now I heard Senator Laurie here this morning and I was

taken aback by the questions Senator Laurie asked because Senator Laurie, I believe, is President of the Barbados Agricultural Society, and I do recall when we had the BAS and another agricultural organisation in Barbados, BAS, in my regime, petitioned to Government that they represent all the people in agriculture if you give them a subvention. They should have the records. They should not be talking about a census, how many farmers etc.

Do you know why they haven't got the records? I planned long ago to tell the public this. In 1976, when I became Minister of Agriculture, I wrote to the BAS and I said "I want to set up a situation where the Government would know what we are planting, when we are planting, when we are going to reap and how much we expect to reap so that we can develop a thriving agricultural base and remove imports."

At that time, they had a woman called Ms. Glenora Slimmons who was a consultant from Canada attached to the BAS and between the BAS and Ms. Glenora Slimmons they wrote back to say they couldn't give me that information and to say that farmers rule governments and should not cooperate with governments. So up to today, BAS does not know how many farmers we have in Barbados but you draw up a subvention and ask for more but don't do the job.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: You get it. If you get a penny, you get it. You asked for it and you got it.

That's why it is falling apart now.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I would just like to make a point of order that that is absolutely not true. The BAS is a far more viable organisation than it has ever been in its whole life.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I go further, Mr. President, when I was in the Ministry we had a French economist, and I set out to try to plot every agricultural plot in Barbados to provide data for this country. At that time I picked up the Springhall Land Lease Project which was put into existence by the Democratic Labour Party and I said it could not work because the Democratic Labour Party's idea of agriculture was to sell the house spots to the farmer and lease the agricultural land. I said no young man is going to buy a house spot and lease land, because Bajans do not believe in leasehold. Bajans want to own. That is why Heywoods was never a success because that is another of the Democratic

Labour Party's projects whereby you build a lot of units to be leased to Bajans to work in tandem as a hotel. We said it would not work and it did not work.

The Springhall project is not an example for anybody to talk about because it was wrongly conceptualised from the very inception. I go further and say Barbados has a unique position of being in a climatic area that it can grow crops 12 months a year. When people talk about not having an export market they do not know agriculture in this country. I know. I went to Britain and I went to the markets in Britain and people are willing to buy egg plants, cucumbers and what is called exotic crops from all over the world and we can market them if we can carry them. But we have never had the initiative or we have never had the support in getting these crops growing.

I have been to Taiwan. The average farmer in Taiwan owns no more than 2 acres, but yet Taiwan has been flooding the United States with exotic crops to such an extent that the United States has had to put barriers on agricultural produce coming in from Taiwan. How big is Taiwan? I have gone to Nova Scotia in Canada where farming lots are the same size as in Barbados and they have been able to produce. The first thing that this Commission should seek to do is to make sure that financing is available for rural agriculture. That is the first thing and secondly that that financing is put out on a basis of not being repaid the next month. That is one of the fundamental problems of agriculture in this country. Whoever lends money in agriculture asks you to start repaying the next month and there are concepts and aspects of agriculture where you do not get returns under 2 years or 2 and one-half years. That is what we have to look at.

There has been a drift of people from the rural areas to the urban areas simply because people need work and we saw that in the 70s and that is why we maintained throughout the 70s and 80s that we will not have a two-tier bus fare system because it would be unfair to ask a man from St. Lucy to catch a bus from St. Lucy to Speightstown, Speightstown to Bridgetown to look for a job when we were locating all of the industries, all of the development, tourism, in the southern part and south-eastern part of the country.

If you go to the eastern part of Barbados, if you go to the northern part, if you go to the interior, there is absolutely nothing other than sugar cane for jobs. When you have new masters who want to cut the wages of sugar workers you are going to be presented with more problems. We have to look at that.

This Bill, in my view, seeks to bring a commission together and if the commission functions as the intent of the law you should be able to see in a very short time some sort of progress in rural Barbados.

Mr. President, let's look at some of the points raised by Senator Workman. Senator Workman speaks about paragraph 5 of the Bill:

"The Commission may appoint a Committee for the purpose of carrying out any of the functions of the Commission which in the opinion of the Commission would be better regulated or managed by means of a Committee and may delegate its functions."

My friend knows very well that there is a Latin phrase which says *delegatus non [potest] delegare*. You cannot delegate if something is delegated to you unless you have legal authority to delegate.

4.05 p.m.

What the Bill is saying, in my opinion, is that the Commission can appoint individual small committees or persons to do some of its work and give that person the power. But that person has to account to his master from where he got his source of power. So, in the end it still comes back to the Commission. I see nothing wrong with that at all.

When we come to the other sections which my friend is worried about, Section 16, Section 16 relates to the action of the members of the Commission and we must accept in Barbados that there are a lot of people who are involved in business who do not get involved in direct politics. Also, if you need those person's ability to pull things together you have to give them certain protection and that is what the Bill seeks to do. It does not say that if somebody does something *mali fides* that they are not liable, it is if they did it *bona fides* in pursuance of execution or intended execution of the act, so it does not protect any person who, in my view, attempts to mislead or does something in a fraudulent manner, from being prosecuted.

When you turn to the Schedule of the Bill in which my friend is also worried you have to read Section 14 in its entirety. You cannot take one section out without the other. Section 14 deals with a person who must make a disclosure and I think that Section 14 (4) corrects any evil which could have occurred. Section 14 (4) says: "A member shall not vote in respect of any contract or agreement in which he is interested and, if he does so, his vote shall not be counted nor shall he be counted in the quorum present on the consideration of any such contract or arrangement".

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President, I did not suggest in any way to the Senate that the person with the interest would be able to vote. I think that the reason why the interest is to be disclosed is to allow the Members of the Commission or the Committee to know that I have an interest and that they need

not be influenced because I have an interest. I did not raise the question about a person being interested being able to vote or not being able to vote.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, Section 14 deals with a person who has an interest in a company or concern with which the Commission proposes to make a contract or otherwise transact business. It says he shall disclose to the Commission the particulars of that interest and details of the disclosure shall be recorded in the Minutes taken at the meeting at which the disclosure is made. As I know Government, Minutes are circulated to all members of the Committee after the meeting so persons would become aware that "X" is interested in cement, "Y" is interested in salt and "Z" is interested in something else.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Yes, if "A" is interested in Kola Syrup. Therefore if you are dealing with kola syrup and "A" is present "A" will not be counted in a quorum which means that the meeting might be aborted or if "A"...

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President, like my goodly friend supports the view I am giving because the clause to which I made reference was 14(2) where the general notice is given and when the general notice is given it is given once and for all. Therefore it does not come repeatedly in the Minutes. That is my interpretation.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I do not want to respond to that because, as I said before, I am paid to argue a legal case but as far as I am concerned I would say, in my view the sections 14 and 16 of the Act tie in with the Schedule and I would say that I am quite happy with what is there. I do not see any question of any foul play taking place if the minutes are recorded. I go further to say that I am happy to see that the Bill provides for reports to be sent to the Minister within 3 months of the end of a financial year and if the Commission is functioning according to the Act then anything which may be below the standard required will be brought to light very quickly.

I have no problems in supporting the Bill. As I said, it is a necessary Bill and I hope that once this comes into operation we will no longer see a Minister of Transport and Works being able to shift all the money for roads to his constituency or another good friend of his and somebody else out there crying out. I hope to see that this Bill will look at housing in particular in rural districts because I know in St. Andrew, St. Joseph, parts of St. Thomas there are people who have complained to me in my legal office.

They have made applications time and time again for development of the spots they hold. It is quite clear if you look at the East Coast Road, there has been a development approved in the East Coast Road for donkey years and every time the owners attempt to put a house on it Town Planning stops them. If they do not pass the buck from Town Planning they put it to the Soil Conservation Commission, now they send you to the Coastal Commission so you go around and around in circles and these only affect rural Barbados. I am saying that I am happy to see this Bill because whoever are the Commissioners under this Bill must be able to use their authority to cut across the red tape and let rural Barbados be developed like any other portion of Barbados. If we do not have a Bill of this nature we cannot stop the drift from rural Barbados into urban Barbados. What we discovered before and what you will find is that you will recreate the Nelson Streets and the Suttle Streets and the Ghettos. Even now you can think about it. If you go into the Belle, those people who do not know what is called the Belle and I will go to bet that 90% in this Chamber do not know what is called the Belle Housing, you do not go around the main road you go through Odessa McClean road or either one of them and when you go down in there you see shanties and that is what we have to avoid. People are going to stream into the St. Michael/Christ Church area. You are going to leave rural Barbados empty and you are going to create problems as there are in Bridgetown and the surrounding areas.

The Bill is absolutely necessary and I hope, as I said, that it is operated on under the spirit in which it is brought into existence and rural Barbados will begin to see that they have a place in this society and that the Government cares for them as it cares for anybody else. We took the first step with the Tenancies Freehold Act and it pleases me to go into tenancies in the country and see some wall houses just as big as any in Tino Terrace. I can carry you in several areas and show you houses as big as those in Tino Terrace built in tenancies which would never have happened had it not been for the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. That is what I want to see. I thank you.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to make a contribution the Rural Development Commission Bill. Now as far as I am concerned, any development be it urban or rural is a fundamental step in the development of Barbados. We would really like to support your efforts but before one can support your efforts we need to understand exactly what it is and I support my colleague by asking that maybe you can delay

the passage of this Bill and let it go to a Committee and have some more dialogue.

I am well aware that there are numbers here to pass it, but I feel that in the interest of such important development in this country we need to have a bit more dialogue and we can have it. Now tell me, when there were casinos to be set up everybody knew. There was dialogue and you mobilized all your resources and went from pillar to post and everybody were talking whether or not there were to be casinos. I think that if we are taking such a step in development which must come, mark you, Mr. President, but the only problem is the how. I think we need to have much more discussion and dialogue not only with the social partners and the trade unions but the communities themselves that you are trying to develop. You need community involvement and you have the wherewithal to do this. I am going to bring an example, Mr. President. What is happening here is like the failure to educate us about what you are doing, as like in the National Cultural Foundation did not educate the old people like us, that calypsos had changed and we find that we have a Monarch that is singing something that we do not recognize to be calypso. You need to educate your public. You cannot go ahead and do things like...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: No, it is the same thing. You are trying to have a Rural Development Commission and we are saying okay it is taking over the responsibilities of the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Agriculture. In all of these areas, you have a Chief Medical Officer, you have a Chief Agricultural Officer, *et cetera*. How is it going to work? We need a bit more explanation. We need a bit more dialogue about how all of this is going to work. There is a Department of Community Development who can assist in mobilizing people to discuss your objectives.

Mr. President, without further ado, I would ask you to reconsider the passing of this Bill today and let us have a little more dialogue so that we can help you mobilize all of the resources that are necessary for the smooth development and implementation of this Bill. Thank you.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, there seems to be some fear coming from particularly the Opposition Senator and Senator Trotman. Now, Sir, it reminds me of the poachers now turned the gamekeepers. When you are canvassing and campaigning...

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President. I think that the Honourable Senator is misleading this Chamber to place my name against poachers.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, Sir, their hands are now washed clean.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: On a point of order, Mr. President. I have asked that the goodly Member be made to realize that he cannot do that and wish him to withdraw the statement this second because he is adding injury to insult.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I thought you had taken the point. I ask that your reference be withdrawn.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Sir, we have now turned from bowling...

Mr. PRESIDENT: That comment has to be withdrawn.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Very well, Sir. I withdraw, Sir. Before this debate started, Sir, I had anticipated certain statements coming from the goodly Opposition Senator. I did not anticipate them coming from the Independent Senator nonetheless they did, so I will be able to handle two with one. Sir, I do not like quoting because it sort of waters down your speech in my opinion. But I have no other alternative, Sir, than to quote from at least three persons: Sir, one who has worked with the United Nations and is qualified in the area of land development policy, one who is familiar with the Caribbean as well as the English Law, and one who to this day the Honourable Malcolm Rifkin, I think when I did a check, is the Foreign Minister but at that time, Sir, he was the Secretary of State to Scotland. I think this will clarify or elucidate what Senator Mascoll seemed a bit confused about earlier on in the debate and which he tried to dippy doodle in a very quick fashion and move on. Sir, this is what...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not sure exactly what you mean, but it would seem to me to be unparliamentary and ask you to rephrase that.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Senator Mascoll spoke rather quickly and not so clearly and moved on. Sir, this is what Malcolm Rifkin said pertaining to the sharing of land. Senator Mascoll was referring to the GATT Agreement. I think what he should have been speaking about was the World Trade Organisation, the Uruguay Round long concluded. This is what Mr. Rifkin said: "The problem is not going to become any easier", talking about land reform and land use policy, "because inevitably whatever planning rules we have and however these issues develop over the years pressure for a higher quality of life is going to make the responsibilities of those in planning more onerous and serious." He goes on to say: "If we do it right, there will be an even greater source of commitment and pride, something which will justify the appreciation of future generations."

Sir, this is another quotation and it is coming from the President of the European Council for The Village and Small Town and he was speaking on no topic less than...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Perhaps you can help us by telling us exactly where these speeches were made and what are the appropriate references.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. Rifkin was at that point in time, Sir, making a statement in Scotland and he was speaking about land reform and land use policy.
4.25 p.m.

The other one to which I have just alluded, Sir, has come from a document "Taking up the challenge of designing indigenous planning laws". It was in 1994 held between CIDA, UWI and McGill and referring to the Caribbean Planning Law Workshop Proceedings, Kingston, Jamaica.

Aside.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: It is not done in pages, but it comes under Appendix I and that section which pertains to planning law in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The other one to which I shall refer is a Michael Dor, who is President of the European Council for the Village and Small Towns, and he said: "We should strive always to think globally," and he is referring to that rural setting.

"Think globally but act locally to link together different purposes and arms of Government; to consult and actively involve local populations to bring together what the great botanist and co-founder of British Planning, Patrick Geddes, called folk, work and place."

Sir, Senator Mascoll, Senator Rickinson and Senator Trotman conveyed to me – and I am sure I am not the only one – that this Rural Development Commission is some sort of creature, a monster which will let loose and will supersede the individual Government Ministries. Whether we can see it as a continuation of the Unfinished Symphony in the eighties, and that was the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, we heard it could not work. When we spoke of improving the Glebe, it was referred to as a tale of two cities...

Aside.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Oistins as well. When we took what became the first polyclinic at Warrens, which was destined for a crematorium, we heard it could not work. From there we spread out to the Maurice Byer, the Edgar Cochrane, the Randal Phillips, all of those in rural Barbados. That is why I would have much preferred the word "enhancement" because "development" had been

started by the Labour Party and brought to a close by the Dems, so it seems as if the people of rural Barbados have been oscillating between an amplitude of development at one end and despair at the other end. Sir, it is development with a Barbados Labour Party Government in power and it is despair with a Democratic Labour Party Government in power.

This is a national issue. It is not only a national issue, it is a worldwide issue, because as Senator Mascoll started to speak about trade, any time commodities are under pressure, be it coffee, sugar, wheat, that is not another commodity or product, any time these agricultural commodities are under pressure, it is reflected in the national policy.

We can see this Commission working in tandem with a land use policy. As a matter of fact, out of this I can see a positive land use policy burgeoning. It is outlined in the Bill. The Rural Development Commission Bill makes mention of housing. Community Development and Vocational Training will come when you speak in terms of training the farmer in agriculture.

Now, Sir, there is a long and antiquated belief that when it comes to evening classes they should only be in cake icing, basket making and stuffed toys. Those days are long gone, and if we are supposed to feed our people, as Senator Bolden quite rightly said and as I heard Senator Laurie say when I was in the ante-room, we have to educate our young people – and here, Senator Workman, this is where the spinoff would go to the young people, and not only young people but people in general – the interpretation of climatic cycles and patterns, the meaning of gluts and how you handle gluts, how you plan for gluts, seasonality, economies of scale, ecological importance of sugar cane, exotic vegetables, where you can grow exotic vegetables. The hotels are at times of the year struggling to get certain exotic vegetables, eggplant, *et cetera*, and because of poor planning and not making full use of the modern technologies, hydroponics *et cetera*, new scientific and technological applications, appreciation for genetics and blood lines, organic farming *vis-a-vis* inorganic farming. Too many nitrates have been used in recent times in agricultural farming. Diversification within a niche. Although you may be in milk production, what else can you do if there is a glut? This is the sort of thing that this Commission will be addressing.

Assistance to farmers in times of need. We had a drought last year and we know that the farmers who suffered as a result of the drought were not given an ear by the former administration. The meaning of small co-ops, division of labour. Let the young people's brains wonder along with the new technologies. Over production and environmentalism. Green house. All of these, Sir, if you bring the right people in the right place at the right time they will find their own niche in the agricultural sector.

Sir, we speak about rural villages. Although not a rural boy, very much a town boy, we had to go to rural Barbados every Tuesday, which was my father's off day. We knew all the sugar factories, particularly in the area to which Senator Bolden referred, St. John, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. Philip. We still have an appreciation for things rural. For too long we have seen these people from rural Barbados as only the contributors. In our working parlance, it is now pay back time. They have worked and from their sweatened brows we know the infrastructure and we boast of it, what we have been able to get through sugar agriculture and non-sugar agriculture. If the time has come now that we are going to put a Commission in place which is going to act as the centrepiece, and which will direct and draw down and extrapolate what sort of facilities people in urban Barbados are supposed to enjoy, then I have absolutely no problem with that. The time has come, and this is not only happening in Barbados, this is happening worldwide. You only have to look at the leaps and bounds, the personal esteem in which in recent times people of rural Barbados have held themselves.

I am going to move now, Sir, to sports, because if you develop certain facilities in rural Barbados this could only impact on the improvement of social and sporting organisations. Everyone today speaks about St. Catherine's, which is set in one of the most idyllic areas of Barbados, right in a cane setting. St. Catherine is a team to be reckoned with in First Division. If you switch to basketball you have Thunderbirds, if you switch to the other end of Barbados, diametrically opposed, you have Baseliners.
4.35 p.m.

If you switch to the other end of Barbados, you have Baseliners and, as somebody said in *sotto voce*, football. Yes, Sir, you have in St. Peter in rural Barbados at the community level the Cognickey Braves, nothing to do with Nascimiento and all this is now history. Nascimiento has come of age to the extent that they actually challenged the Barbados Football Association in court.

So we want to see improvement such as the one at Content in St. Thomas, Holy Innocents, Ellerton, Haynesville, Thorpes. All the planning and working of the Barbados Labour Party. If this is a sore point in the sides of some of the senators on the other side, then say so. If they are going to contest it strictly as Senator Workman did in interpretation, then do so. If you do not have that modicum of intelligence to contest it at that level, then refrain from it. The lawyers have been taught how to read into the laws, the "mays" and "thereafter" and "hereinafter". You leave that for people who are trained so to do.

Sir, in winding up I would like to make, much against my likes another quotation. This is a professor of laws. He lectures at the London School of Economics. Again you are into land economy. This is not money economy and he

refers to it as the newer state of the art approach to planning. He is referring to...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Perhaps, Senator Gill, you will give us the reference on that.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Again, Sir, "Taking up the Challenge of Designing Indigenous Planning Laws".

In so doing he said "planning is not just..." [I have heard a Senator today say that he does his research and he laid his document and failed to quote from the document] "lines on maps or land use zoning ideas ... but land use issues such as transport..." [which Senator Barker referred to and Senator Murray] "... issues crossing the boundaries of land use, social policy, such as housing and social infrastructure and the new approaches to land use embraced in the ideas behind environmental and ecological factors. Plans are now about policies and principles to guide actions and decisions, all of which make much more explicit the allocative and value-laden functioning of planning and result in plans about strategies and proposals or for integrated urban development but not many lines..."

In the U.K. the day of the authoritative officer and deferential lay person is over. The legitimacy of the planning system is derived not from the input of professional expertise but from the political and electoral support it can gather.

Sir, with that I have absolutely no reservation whatsoever in supporting a Bill that will act to uplift rural Barbados and take some of the pressure off urban Barbados. I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and to clarify a few points that have been raised. I will say there has been some concern voiced about this Bill and I think some of that concern is valid and reasoned. However, I think you will recognise that we are entering into a new environment of systems and of structures of management and those who have been very familiar and comfortable with the old hierarchical structure of government and the almost ossified procedures within ministries will have to recognise that in a more complex world, as pointed out by Senator Gill, very ably, I might add, that we have to address the way in which we find solutions in a new way.

We have to harmonise the activities of different Ministries and/or other organisations within the community and we are going to have to evolve new structures and develop new systems. This is one such example.

The other example is the way in which the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Ministry of International Business and Trade and the Ministry of Industry and Business

Development and now the Ministry of Tourism are all working together in a very harmonised informal networking environment to solve the problems that we are confronted with today and to try to move Barbados forward.

I am not going to say that we have the perfect solution because this is an age where structures are going to be continually changing and we are going to have to experiment and do the best we can and we are not going to come upon the perfect solution up front. We are entering into a new era, what people want to call the information age, and we are leaving the industrial age behind. The industrial age structures are no longer going to suit the management and the structures of the future.

So this is part of that process. I understand the need for dialogue, but there is also a significant need for action, because the developmental process is very much one of a function of time and in the inimitable way of government we seem to find many ways in which to postpone action. That does not serve the best interest of people.

I would like to make some comment also about land use policy. I cannot leave that alone because in the past I have written on it from time to time in rather caustic fashion and the lack of land use policy in this country and what it has wreaked on the economy of this country. There are some who have learned their land use policy at the feet of certain land surveying people and insurance companies who would like to transform Barbados into a concrete jungle without any feeling for the society, without any feeling for the balance that we must have within the community.

There has been an inordinate demonstration of greed for many decades in the ruthless transformation of land from agriculture to housing quite often by people who have made considerable capital gains. Those capital gains have not necessarily gone back into the productive sectors.

I am constantly amazed at the economic forecasting of Senator Mascoll. His economic forecasting reminds me somewhat of the weather forecast that we had on television last night. The weather forecast last night was based on the happenings of Thursday, week before last, and not upon the available information that was before the presenter on television. As I looked at the screen I could see that there was a large yellow area on the chart and absolutely no red and I recall seeing that intense red ball to the east of Barbados Wednesday night week before last. I suspect that a parallel can be drawn here that the economic forecasting being done now is as a result of the experience of 1989-1994 and what happened then. But, the environment has changed and things are different and the economic forecasting has to take on a little bit more reality. So I hope that in future we will learn to forecast with current

data, current reality and current situations, recognising that there has been a sea change on the 6th September 1994. 4.45 p.m.

With that comment, Mr. President, I am trying to explain the new systems of management that we are trying to evolve. I hope that independent Senators would recognise that this is an effort so to bring together entities that do not normally harmonise with each other, do not normally work with each other, and to try and free things up a little bit.

There is one last issue that was raised and that was on the conflict of interest issue. I might point out, Mr. President, that at each and every instance when an issue is raised and there is a conflict of interest present, the conflict of interest should be declared at that point. So there is no declaration at the beginning of a Board Meeting session that may last 3 years but that declaration should happen each and every time an issue is raised. Certainly that is how the Cabinet operates and that is how it operates within Government at the present time. So that there will be no chance that anyone can forget that an individual's arguments, contributions, may be coloured by his connections and/or economic interest.

With that, Mr. President, I commend this Bill for the consideration of the Senate. Thank you.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of this Resolution and I am sure if there is one thing we would agree in here today is that there has been a shift from rural Barbados to urban Barbados and into the Heights and Terraces over the last 10 years or 20 years.

My research has shown me that perhaps the biggest contributing factor to this shift has been the fall off of the importance of sugar agriculture in rural Barbados and the need to provide the jobs that used to be provided in sugar agriculture for people who live in rural Barbados.

There has also been an attempt by some people to be lured towards the industrial estates because of the perhaps more lucrative salaries that industry provided perhaps 10 or 20 years ago. My concern here is that if we really examine rural Barbados we would find that there are sufficient natural resources in rural Barbados that if they are developed on site could provide a considerable amount of employment and development. If we examine these resources, we have a situation in Barbados where we are surrounded by reasonably rich fishing banks most of which are around the rural areas. We have clay as a resource in St. Andrew and those areas which to me has tremendous potential for development. We have what I refer to as wild cane and some people refer to it as wild lily.

We have resources in St. Philip like Three Houses Swamp. We even have a situation at Halton in St. Philip where the initiative has been taken where varieties of banana have been yielding yields that are in excess of what the traditional banana growers in the Caribbean have been able to achieve. I want to examine these resources in relation to rural development.

If we take for instance the banana that I last spoke about we have a situation where at Halton they have gone into modern techniques of agriculture, trickle irrigation, good varieties, modern methods of fertilization and they have been able to get away from the tradition of just growing banana to be sold as a food crop ready to eat and into the processing of things like banana chips.

This is what I think the Commission on Rural Development is trying to achieve, to develop the resources, particularly the agricultural resources of rural Barbados for the benefit, firstly of the people in rural Barbados and for the island as a whole.

If you go through St. John and St. Joseph you can see acres and acres of bananas growing but what are we doing with them? Have we set in stream the sort of technology and processing that would allow these people to take full advantage of a resource which they have. I am saying we have not done that and that is why I part company with my friend Senator Mascoll when he argues that the potential for agricultural development and export and further processing is really a meaningless area of activity in rural Barbados.

We can examine the situation in St. Andrew to do with claytone products where we have a natural resource that for years sat there and we never took the opportunity to develop this real resource in a way that could benefit people there. If you look at these areas you can see where the focus of the Commission lies in using the natural resources of rural Barbados to provide jobs, provide a source of foreign exchange earnings and to provide the necessary infrastructure that must come for the development of these resources for the betterment of these people.

We have been talking a lot about the link between tourism and agriculture. I remember not too long ago we used to see the plant called the wild cane and you would see mats made of the wild cane, you would see hats made of the wild cane, you would see waste paper baskets made of wild cane. What I am saying is that we have an opportunity again to re-examine what can be done with this product in relation to souvenir items for the tourist industry. I will repeat myself in saying that this is what the focus of the Commission will be, using natural resources in the area for the benefit of the people who live there.

I want to speak particularly about fishing because this is an area close to my heart. This is an area where I think we have tremendous potential for the export market and for carrying along some of our other locally grown agricultural products like the herbs, the thyme, the seasoning and whatever else we are able to grow here.

We have had a situation where we have developed to some extent some further processing in the areas of fish, not because Government provides the resources, as Senator Mascoll suggested, to get into agro processing, but because the private sector saw the opportunity of a situation where the development of iceboats and not only the development of iceboats but the fact that they were capable of staying out for longer periods of time on the fishing banks and coming in with a considerably increased amount of catches that there was virtually a glut of fresh fish in the market and the private sector took the opportunity to further process these. We can go into the supermarket any time and get packages of fish already cleaned and almost ready for the kitchen but I want to make the point that we need to go further than this and this is where I see the rural agricultural commission can provide the impetus to get us there.

4.55 p.m.

What is wrong with taking those same fish and seasoning them, deep frying them or microwaving them and packing them in packages so that when the tourists come to Barbados and the locals too who come home for Crop-Over can take back a local almost fully prepared food with good export potential that can provide the sort of export development in these areas where we have natural advantages.

I had the privilege to be in a hotel in one of the neighbouring islands a couple of months ago and was served fish fingers and I was really surprised that they were prepared right there at the hotel from dolphin. What is stopping us from developing our potential in fisheries that we cannot reach this stage?

We have fortunately in Barbados the opportunity where we attract perhaps 450 thousand tourists here a year and we must expose them to our local foodstuffs. There is nothing wrong with private enterprise in rural Barbados working out an arrangement with a hotel and co-sponsor a Bajan night buffet. When they come to the hotel serve some of our flying fish done Barbadian style and expose the tourists to it and give them an opportunity to acquire a taste for it and to move on from there where they would naturally demand when they are leaving the opportunity to take probably 200 or so fully prepared fish, ready for the microwave to wherever they are returning. This to me is where I think the focus of the Rural Development Commission should be.

I want to respond to a concern raised earlier by Senator Murray where he was saying what the Rural Development Commission was not. I see the role of the Rural Development Commission as facilitating the development of profitable self-sustaining units in rural Barbados which are provided with adequate social amenities like urban Barbados and alongside which community development and other aspects of our lives could be developed at the community base. I have absolutely no problem with a Government setting up a commission to try to achieve these things. They started already and a lot of people referred to the Tenancies Freehold Act. I remember the tremendous amount of irrigation equipment that was put down in Gibbons and St. Patricks that spurred vegetable production back in the late seventies to an extent that Barbados became self-sufficient. This is all part of what rural development is all about and until we get to realize that we have the potential to go back to rural Barbados and put the necessary infrastructure there that has been lacking and that would create jobs and send people right back to where they came from so that they can ease the burden of the desire to live in a more urbanized Barbados.

We have also to look at the persons from rural Barbados who have a completely different attitude to housing than people in urban Barbados. Most people in rural Barbados believe that you should own your own house. They are not people who are particularly interested in lease arrangements or renting. They want to own their own land and their own houses and the Commission's focus would be to seek out in rural Barbados areas for sites and services that are in close proximity to existing communities which already have infrastructure in place to piggy-back on these resources and to create sites and services where people in rural Barbados can get the opportunity, some through the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act to own their own plot of land and to build houses at their own pace as they can afford to enhance the quality of life in that part of Barbados.

I have absolutely no problem taking these things into consideration in giving this Bill my wholehearted support. I commend this to fellow Senators and urge them to support this important piece of legislation which will go a far way in continuing the work that was started by a previous Barbados Labour Party Administration in uplifting rural Barbados to the type of communities of which we all can be very proud.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I sat and I listened all afternoon and I still do not feel that I am clear in my mind what the Rural Development Commission is intending to do. There is a lot of overlapping here and I hear that it is supposed to bring linkages between different Government Departments and all of that. But I see that you are setting up a statutory body

which means that we are looking at incurring some expense. We have been complaining for sometime about Government's Budget and what we can and cannot afford and we heard that we are going to be getting very astute management of the affairs of Barbados. I do not want to think that we are going to put a structure into place with salaried people and then try to find out what it has to do.

I would, therefore, like to find out what data or mechanism was used which informed the Government that we need a statutory body to do these things. I have a concern about that because I know that statutory bodies appoint people all over the place, political affiliation and all of that. Despite all of the talk about the general concern for rural Barbados, someone is yet to prove to me that St. John, for example, will get all the attention which it needs and we know that St. John has been represented by the Democratic Labour Party. We are saying that this Commission is intended to remove all biases and to cater to the needs of rural Barbados in general. I used St. John as an example because it is a rural constituency in the context of our discussion and I would like to know how we will deal with a constituency like St. John.

I also want to find out: Are we accepting then that we have failed in the Ministries of Agriculture, Housing, Public Works and all of these Ministries which at present perform these functions and which have large numbers of staff in these Government Departments? I heard talk about modernization and all of that and putting different structures into place. But I believe that we are reasonably staffed. What we need to do is to look at the Public Service within these departments and see how best we can utilize the resources we have there already. We have a whole lot of young people who did Agricultural Science who are in the Ministry of Agriculture and I find that they are not extremely busy at all.

5.05 p.m.

I have a very large clientele in that Ministry and I believe that we should put these people together – they are already Government workers – to do some of this work in the area of agriculture. I still need to find out what it is that has prompted us to form a new statutory body, Mr. President. I am really concerned about that.

They talk about rural Barbados, but I think we need to really know the needs of rural Barbados. We talk about agriculture, housing and all of these things. We are saying that people are moving away from rural Barbados on the one hand, yet we have accepted that St. George, St. Thomas and St. Philip are rural Barbados and large numbers of persons within the last ten years or so have moved to these parishes. What is it really? Are people moving away? Or are they selecting certain rural parts of Barbados that they want to go to? And why have they chosen these rural aspects? I do not think that we

can just look at rural development or rural Barbados through one aspect at all, I think we need to look at what is peculiar to the different rural parishes in Barbados and work from that and come forward. I do not think we need a Rural Development Commission to do that.

I believe we need to solicit the views of the people who live in rural Barbados to find out what they need. For example, in St. George I know that the majority of the people of St. George North do not want to remain in agriculture. I know, from my interviews, especially with the young people in that part of St. George, that they prefer to get into skills. They do not mind working at home, but I know they do not want to work on the agricultural land. They do not mind if they can from at home create a number of things – craft, whatever – in a cottage industry setting and then take these things to the business places to be sold. That is why I conceptualised a St. George North Development Council and that is why during the last election campaign special emphasis was placed on Gun Hill and the residents who live around that area of St. George, because I recognise that the people in that constituency should be able, in addition to catering to the tourist market, to make a living from within their surroundings and not have to put pressure on the transportation system to leave home and go to town.

Gun Hill is a tourist attraction in Barbados and there is not a visitor to Barbados who takes away a memento from Gun Hill of Gun Hill that is made in Barbados. That is a serious problem I have with us here. Almost all of our souvenirs of places of interest in Barbados are made in other countries and brought to Barbados and sold as souvenirs. I believe that in that area of St. George we can create quite some employment for our unemployed young people. They can go to that particular area at Gun Hill and sell their ware, so to me that is rural development. That is something I am going to pass on at this time to the Government. I know the Government is very aware of our plan for that area. Senator Farley can attest to that. I know some interest has been shown in that plan because it is not about craft stalls only, it is about a place of recreation. It is a very beautiful site, it is a place where we can take old people who come here on holiday to relax and enjoy the fresh breeze blowing all across St. George. I think rural development should take all these things into account.

When I heard Senator Farley say that emphasis was going to be on agriculture or farming, I was a little surprised, because the Bill started off with the improvement of social amenities.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. What I did say was that any rural development strategy has to be anchored in agriculture being the main economic activity in the rural area. This is

not in conflict with the objects and reasons stated in the Bill.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, a lot of talk has been made about whether the Democratic Labour Party cared or cares about rural people. I do not believe that in order to prove that the Democratic Labour Party cares about rural people we need to have a Rural Development Commission set up in the way this Government is doing it. I believe that any political organisation should have its own strategy and approach to how it wants to manage the affairs of the country, and in the Development Plan 1993 – 2000 on page 185 in its agricultural policy, the Government set out there at the time what it intended to do:

"The Government's Agricultural policy will seek to utilize the available land, water and labour resources to maximize national benefits and to ensure that all persons involved in agriculture, and associated activities, receive a fair return for their effort."

Then it went on to state it will set out

"to increase the output of agricultural commodities, especially for the export market;

to restructure and modernize the agricultural sector to achieve optimum levels of productivity;"

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Sir. I did not hear exactly where the Honourable Member is quoting from.

Mr. PRESIDENT: She did in fact say where she is quoting from, but I think Senator Barker you were probably distracted by conversations on your side of the Table. Please proceed.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. The Development Plan for Barbados 1993 – 2000.

"to ensure that persons dependent on agriculture for their livelihood can enjoy a reasonable quality of life and realize maximum levels of income;

to promote the adoption of farming systems which are environmentally friendly;"

and these all relate to rural areas in Barbados.

"to ensure that adequate supplies of arable agricultural land are preserved for use by present and future generations."

And on the Land Use Strategy –

"A total of 45,000 acres of arable land will be identified and reserved for use in agriculture. Appropriate legislation will therefore be enacted to give effect to this policy measure."

Then there is a breakdown on how that 45 000 acres would be utilised, for cotton, cut flowers, fruits, vegetables and pasture land. So I believe we can say that the Democratic Labour Party Government understood what the needs of rural Barbados were, but without setting out a particular rural development plan it stated its objectives and it went on further to state:

"Land ownership continues to be highly skewed, with less than 1% of the farming population still controlling over 80% of arable land. Over 24% of all agricultural holders are categorized as 'landless'. It is therefore imperative that initiatives be taken to provide persons interested in farming with easier access to arable land. Accordingly, Government will formulate and implement programmes designed to make land available to persons with an interest in commercial farming."

5.15 p.m.

"... and accordingly, Government will formulate and implement programmes designed to make land available to persons with an interest in commercial farming."

You know, it is good at times when one wants to make a lot of fancy political talk; but we must check our information. I do not expect the Members of the other side to want to credit the Democratic Labour Party for doing anything, but my position is that I have to defend the policies of the Democratic Labour Party and there is a document here to that effect.

Mr. President, I am very concerned as a rural person about the development in rural areas, especially in some areas where you have a village and a part of that village has been developed. At present, there is no relationship whatsoever, social or otherwise, between the persons who live in the established villages and those who are now the residents of that area. I think any rural development programme must try to devise some system that could help to marry in some way this relationship. It makes those people in the villages feel that they are aliens in what has been their homeland. What happens is some form of resistance and even envy which is put in the hearts of these people and then they start to lash out in whatever form of attack they find necessary.

I do not expect a government to be able to pass laws to deal with this, but I think that a rural development council cannot provide that emphasis. I believe we need very active community councils at work with people from

these neighbourhoods, in these rural areas, to feed back directly to Government. I think we really need to do that.

Now there is a duplication and a triplication and as we go along I know there will be other things coming and we are going to see then, since you are not allowed to speak ahead on things, where maybe we are a bit premature at this time in having this rural development council. I agree that it is something that we need to put on hold.

We have accepted that St. Philip and St. George and these areas have changed, but have we identified what it is that has contributed to this change in the face of these rural constituencies? I want to say that it is a national development plan on education implemented by the Democratic Labour Party Government in 1962.

What that education plan did was to take a number of ordinary rural people and it exposed them to very high levels of education. They are able to get into positions of importance and influence and high income earning positions. Then they wanted to acquire a certain type of lifestyle hence they bought into these areas. They built certain types of houses. They are now in pursuit to get mortgages and all kinds of things and that is why the face of St. George, St. Philip and St. Thomas changed. It did not have anything to do with tenancies legislation or anything like that.

People now have the purchasing power, the earning capacity, and they want to change their lifestyle, their status, and I think we have to give credit to the administration of the Democratic Labour Party in the implementation of an educational policy which was so forward looking that it could bring about that major change in the face of rural Barbados.

All that a rural development plan would seek to do now is to build on that foundation which has already been laid. So I do not think it is anything heroic or earthshaking about it. I believe that it is premature. Yes, there are needs in rural Barbados which have to be addressed. I would like the Government to go to the people, parish by parish, to find out what the needs of these people are, then it can put whatever mechanism it has to put in place in order to respond to these needs. I do not want us to set up a commission with salaried people to sit and wait for work to do. I think when we put the Commission in place they should know what they are going to work to do immediately.

I, therefore, at this stage, cannot, Mr. President, support this structure in this form and I would like to suggest that further consideration be given to this matter.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I am going to speak very briefly. I had not intended to speak but I think I have been provoked into speaking.

A Barbados Labour Party Government does not make decisions lightly or wantonly, only after great care and planning and yes, deliberation and consultation. This Commission is not premature. In fact, it is timely. There has been some apprehension expressed about what we might call redundancy and that a Commission is not needed because of various government ministries but I believe that the same thing might have been said some years ago when the National Cultural Foundation was established and it was vigorously opposed by the Democratic Labour Party. I think everybody would concede now that it has been an enormous success.

There has been collaboration between that and other Ministries and the same thing will happen with this Commission that there will be and there must be collaboration, but that does not mean that it cannot succeed and its objectives are not only very worthy but very necessary.

I remember as a child and even after as a young teacher when country boys and girls used to be teased by city and town children. They had never been to a matinee, never been outside a dance hall and town people used to think that they were smarter. Of course, they were very wrong because mature, intelligent people, as all Honourable Senators are here, realised that the country people have been the backbone of this island.

Village life has forged strong bonds between people which have helped to build vibrant communities and although conditions have been declining one of the objectives is to see that those strong links are refashioned. Many solid and very distinguished citizens have come from these rural areas. Their parents have valued education very highly...

Aside.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Definitely, like Senator Trotman. Children had to travel far to get to school.

I remember with the Commission on the Status of Women when we were having public hearings, travelling over the country. I used to spend time in the country as a girl and one thing I always admired was their strength and ambition and sincerity and their ability to speak out and make their points. Moreover, today where there has been an increase in crime it is necessary for such things as street lights to be given great attention.

I think all of us here used to marvel at the way country people could walk at all hours unafraid and unassailed without street lighting. Today that is no longer so and that is one of the things that will need attention. My fellow Senators have said much of what I could have spoken on and I only want to say that I shall be supporting the Bill and I shall be doing so without any hesitation or reluctance. Thank you, Mr. President.
5.25 p.m.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, I never intended to talk either. But I too, like Senator Symmonds, have been provoked. Everybody has had a little piece and I will have a little swipe.

What is definitely coming out here today, not for this afternoon as one Senator said, but for the entire day is that there is a consensus among all the Independents and the Opposition that there is a need for more dialogue and it is unfortunate that the numbers on the Government side are more than we have on the Independent and Opposition side.

It is democracy in a sense but in the past this Honourable Chamber has been accused of being a rubber stamp and being part of it I would hate to think that I come in here and see that things come before this Honourable Chamber and every Independent and the two Opposition Members opposing it. It seems as though the rubber stamp is in effect.

I think the time will come in due course when the Constitution may have to change where the Opposition may be increased to 4 in number and the Independents a little more so that the Government of the day, not necessarily this Government, but the Government of the day will then have to be convincing enough to at least have a couple of Members on the Independent side agreeing with them in order for them to have what we have termed proper democracy. That is what I would like to see.

This Bill bothers me a little bit in that seeing it is going to be a statutory board that is going to be set up, I am a little concerned that it does not become a political football particularly near election time when you are going to see the Rural Development Commission spending "X" and "Y" amount of dollars to put in lighting here and lighting there prior to elections and what have you.

We are coming into a time when we have to look at politics a little more seriously and a little more maturely. I would like to recommend that the Government has one person from both political opposition parties and perhaps a member from the Barbados Workers' Union or any other such body that they may see fit to have some sort of non-partisan balance on the board so that you

would not have this political football fever moving through this particular statutory board.

Sir, having said that and having said my little piece, I thank you very much and I would ask one more time that we have a little more dialogue. I join with all of the people on this side to say that we should meet and discuss this a little further and not have it approved immediately. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and resolved in the affirmative, the Senate dividing as follows:

DIVISION

Ayes: Senator the Hon. R. R. FARLEY, Senator the Hon. P. C. GODDARD, Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, Senator T. E. BARKER, Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, Senator D. T. GILL, Senator N. P. WELCH, Senator Miss J. C. ODLE, His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN – 9.

Noes: Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN, Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, Senator C. K. LAURIE, Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN, Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS, Senator J. A. WORKMAN, Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON, Senator C. A. MASCOLL – 8.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The result of the Division is as follows:

9 Honourable Senators voted aye and 8 Honourable Senators voted no.

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.

Clauses 1 to 12 inclusive were called and passed.
5.35 p.m.

Clauses 13 to 15 were called and passed.

Clause 16 was called.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a concern about Clause 16 (1) – "No action, prosecution or proceedings shall be brought or instituted against the Commission or any member thereof in respect of any act done *bona fide* in pursuance or execution or intended execution of this Act". I do have a concern about this wording in this particular piece of legislation. I would hate to think that this would become law and I wonder if I can be given the assurance that something will be done about this particular area of this bit of legislation here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Unless the Honourable Member wants to move an amendment to that section, that matter would have been dealt with in the second reading and this is not the appropriate time to voice concerns over the section itself in respect of what it is intended to be. You can change the wording at this stage, but you cannot voice your concerns about the effect of this section at this stage. It would have had to be raised in the second reading.

The question that Clause 16 stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clauses 17 to 20 were called and passed.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the Schedule of the Bill be the Schedule.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Can I move an amendment to the Schedule?

On No. 1 of the Schedule, I think that I would like to offer an amendment according to what Senator Bernstein was saying which I totally agree is that the Minister will not be appointing. In other words, added to this here would be: "by instrument in writing and including one representative from the Opposition, one representative from the trade unions, one representative from the Agricultural Society".

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It has been moved that Clause 1 of the Schedule be amended and seconded by Senator Bernstein. Is there any other amendment?

The question that Clause 1, as amended, of the Schedule stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to with a division as follows:

Noes: Senator the Hon. R. R. FARLEY, Senator the Hon. P. C. GODDARD, Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, Senator T. E. BARKER, Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, Senator D. T. GILL, Senator N. P. WELCH and Senator Miss J. C. ODLE – 9.

Ayes: Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN, Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, Senator C. K. LAURIE, Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN, Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS, Senator J. A. WORKMAN, Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON and Senator C. A. MASCOLL – 8.

Mr. CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the casting vote.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No.

The question that this be the Schedule of the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I see that Senator Workman is about to speak.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: I had raised in the second reading the question about the anomaly of the resignation of the Chairman and I see that we should make an amendment to make it clear so that the Chairman may be able to resign as Chairman and still remain a member. I would like to propose that we insert in the first line immediately after the word "office" the words "Chairman or as a member". In other words, the Chairman may at any time resign his office as Chairman or as a member and in the penultimate line the fifth line and the fifth word from the end the word "and" could be replaced by the word "or" in the third line of Clause 5 and then after the word "Commission" in the last line we can assert "as the case may be".

So that the Clause will read: "The Chairman may at anytime resign his office as Chairman or as member by instrument in writing addressed to the Minister and upon the date of the receipt by the Minister of such instrument ceases to be Chairman or a member of the Commission as the case may be." As it stands now, when the Chairman sends in his resignation he automatically ceases to be a member.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would wish to support Senator Workman but I think that at the same time that I am rising to second his amendment to allow for the debate, I believe that we should recognize that a certain difficulty with that that would be placed before the Minister.
5.45 p.m.

The Minister will be given a particular responsibility under the Constitution to make an appointment and the Minister in his or her discretion may decide that a particular person is required to be the Chairperson. If that person has lost confidence in the Minister or does not any longer wish to serve as Chairperson, it is quite possible that that is the only level at which the Minister may wish to have that person to serve. I therefore believe that even though we are saying this, and I am throwing it forward for

debate purposes, it may impose a level of difficulty which, if I were Chief Executive – meaning the Minister in the circumstances – I would not want to be faced with for having made a political appointment – it is usually a political appointment – you do not wish then to divide the political unity by having to make a decision whether you want the person to serve at the level of just a member. I would wonder whether we could not leave it within the body of the Schedule so stated that where a Minister wishes to ask a person to continue to serve as a member the Minister may have that discretion. I am wondering, therefore, if Senator Workman could advise whether there is anything in the current Schedule that would prevent the Minister from asking a person who resigns as Chairperson from continuing to act as an ordinary member. What I am saying in essence is, could not that be satisfied by the current Schedule without there being the point for the amendment which may in fact confuse the issue.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: I have checked on Clause 6 but I do not see a provision to cover that. If there were a confrontation between the Minister and the Chairman, and the Chairman felt he or she wanted to resign from the chairmanship, then the Minister has the authority to revoke the appointment as Chairman and as member, but there may be circumstances where the Chairman may want to step down and the relationships between the Chairman and the Minister and the rest of the Commission are all cordial and for very good reasons he may only be able to serve, because of pressure of work or something like that, as a member. It would stop him if the wording is as originally put, because the moment he sends in a resignation it says here he ceases to be both Chairman and member. That is the anomaly I was seeking to correct.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Just in case, Mr. Chairman, there may be somebody who wonders that I can speak again, the Standing Orders do allow me to make another intervention, provided I do not go beyond 15 minutes.

I merely want to make the point here that, coming back to the original point I was making, the Minister has only a certain level of discretion, and particularly if the convention is followed and the Minister follows current convention and current reasoning and elects people from various interest areas, whether they voted or did not vote for the particular legislation, then he or she is only going to have three or four persons who will be within his or her discretion as a Minister. Supposing one of the persons is a Permanent Secretary, you cannot move that person, so he or she as Minister has perhaps only Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other. The Chairman decides to demit office as Chairman, what is the Minister going to do? You cannot suddenly make for a bigger Board and therefore you have to leave a certain discretion for the Minister to exercise that discretion. If the person

cannot serve at that level, I think that the person might be used on another occasion. I am sure Government is always looking. All Governments are always looking for capable and ready and willing people and there will be another occasion for service, but we do not need to saddle the Minister.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Just to further support the points Senator Trotman is making and to answer Senator Workman's query about whether a person would be able, in the event that the relationship is good but because of pressures of work he wants to stand down as Chairman but still continue as member. In that eventuality I am sure that the Minister will be well placed to reappoint that person as a member, but the legislation must be structured to take care of that situation, which would be a worse situation where there is disagreement on a point of principle, for example, and clearly the two cannot work together but yet there is nothing other than direct revocation which would take care of the issue.

I hope that those two points have been able to answer your concerns.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman, with the permission of the seconder and with those explanations I will withdraw the amendment.

The question that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I beg to report that it should be recorded in the record that I voted in favour of the Bill as it was so as to continue debate on this Bill.

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.

ORDER NO. 2 – THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTS BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of this Bill, the International Trusts Bill, 1995. This Bill has had a long genesis that started during the last administration and has passed through into this one as part of the Offshore Financial Business and Services legislation.

It has been recognised that we have needed a new trust legislation for the offshore business. Laws on Trusts in Barbados is the English Common Law as modified by

a variety of domestic statutes such as the Trustee Act, certain provisions of the Property Act and Offshore Banking Act, the Succession Act in relation to property devolving on death and the Charities Act.
5.55 p.m.

Mr. Marshall Langer in his 1991 report to the Barbados Government recommended that Barbados should make a fresh start by enacting an entirely new international trust act that would provide for offshore trusts and, in the same way as IBCs do, for the offshore companies. As a result of this, the draft legislation, the current Bill before us, was drafted. It has been through many revisions. It has been the subject of discussion not only by the International Business and Financial Services Advisory Committee both in the last Administration and of this Administration but we have taken advice from international lawyers, international accounting firms as well as the legal profession, the Bar Association, and it has been the subject of an exhaustive review.

The purpose of this Act is to provide the international community with the mechanisms to conduct international trusts and the protection of assets, the provision for spouses and defendants, minimisation of estate inheritance tax, income tax and capital gains tax, preservation of family wealth and continuation of family businesses, efficient and timely distribution of assets upon death and the creating and making provision for charities. It also has significant application in the areas of Latin American countries where the provisions for forced heirship can be avoided under which forced heirship conditions are extremely rigid in some Latin American countries and by using the international trusts legislation here in Barbados people can more easily dispose of their wealth upon death.

The Draft International Trusts Bill has been certified by the Attorney General and it has been through the Lower House. This is all part and parcel of adding to the quality of our total offshore business. This, along with the impending Funds legislation, will round out the sweep of offshore legislation which is going to develop and push the offshore business in Barbados to a significant degree.

I have had independent analysis of the Trusts Bill from experts who say that it has taken the lead in the offshore business community, that already people in the Caymans and the Bahamas and Bermuda are studying this bit of legislation. I know that you will find that we may have to modify this in the future just as those people will probably modify their legislation in light of what we are doing.

This is a highly competitive area. It is something that is constantly moving. It is not static and I commend this piece of legislation to the Senate. I might add that the international business and financial services growth has been relatively robust and I think this will add

considerably to the amount of work, both in the legal and accounting professions and of course the development of ancillary staff to support these activities.

I think you will find that the growth of employment as a direct result of the growth of the offshore business is going to be considerable. It is not just limited to the professionals. It encompasses many of the support staff who include computer specialists, software specialists, hardware people and then you also have the fact that many more people will be visiting Barbados to do business. It will also expand the number of people coming to the country and widen the consciousness of people around the globe of Barbados not only as a holiday destination but as a business destination.

This whole thing of expanding the offshore business adds to the total value of the business we are doing with the international community. This legislation is world class before us and I commend it to the Senate. I move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, while I stand to support the Bill recognising how important the international element of the financial services sector is to our national economy, I hope we are learning a lesson when we pass this kind of legislation in Barbados. Whenever we discuss international legislation we tend not to focus on what it is that people in the more developed countries are doing that we have not yet started to address in Barbados.

This Bill seeks to assist people in more developed countries in conserving wealth and that has been an agenda item in this country for some time. I think that is what we call economic empowerment or enfranchisement. We have been discussing this in a very broad sense, I should almost say in a vacuum, because I don't think we have looked yet at mechanisms which we can use in order properly to enfranchise people economically.

Here is something that we need to learn from. This is what people who have large amounts of wealth in more developed countries do in order to ensure that this money is not subject to the most heavy taxation in their countries. They search all over the world for countries which can offer them facilities to shelter them from the burden of taxes at home. This is what the trust document does for them.

I believe in our little Barbados we have people who have accrued some wealth and it is time to bring the trust on the front burner as economic enfranchisement in this country. I don't want us to keep using Barbados as a service station for international people only. I want us to learn lessons from this kind of forward looking legislation

and try to see how best we can adjust what we are doing at home.

We have created a new middle class in this country and the major concerns of people in this group seem to be, from my discussions, as to why should they build some mansion or create an amount of wealth for their offspring to squander. I don't think they are aware that there is something called a trust where they can actually rule from the grave. So I do not want this occasion to pass without placing on record that I would like a national debate going in Barbados on how we can utilise the trust in this setting at home.

I know we need to look at tax reform because most investors when they are looking at utilising the trust look to see what incentives are there for them because they are actually setting aside assets which they are actively using and you would want to think that you have some tax incentives in place. I do not believe that I am out of place at all if I ask that we try to get a proper debate going on local trusts and the benefits to Barbadians for the conservation and transfer of wealth in Barbados.
6.05 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to add my voice to this debate on the International Trusts Bill, 1995. I want, Sir, in my contribution to set this Bill within the context of the Offshore Financial Industry worldwide, as well as within the offshore trust industry which is a very active component within that industry.

In making my remarks within that international context I would want to refer, Sir, to the Offshore Finance Yearbook 1994/95 which is published by Euro Money, one of their regular publications and this focus, Sir, on the Offshore Financial Services Industry during the 1994/95 period in terms of what has been happening and so on.

I am using this reference, Sir, to indicate the kind of competition that Barbados has, not only in Offshore Trusts but in the wider area and the fact that whether or not we choose to seize the opportunities that are available there are several other takers who recognise the need to be dynamic to ensure that there is an appropriate legislative framework.

I would also make reference to the kind of issues which address the minds of international financial consultants in seeking to determine which of these various offshore domiciles they would want to use and the extent to which Barbados is able to stand up to that scrutiny.

In terms of trusts, Sir, the indication is that over the last 10 years there has been an expedient in that particular area. It has really been fuelled by a number of things which I will get to later. But some of

the main countries which come to mind when one thinks of international offshore trusts include the United Kingdom and European region, Jersey, Guernsey, Channel Islands, Luxembourg, and the like. Of course in the Atlantic Caribbean we have the Caymans, Bermuda, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and now, Sir, we are pleased to add Barbados, as far as International Trusts are concerned although we did have some provisions previously which were attached to the Offshore Banking Act. But as Marshall Langor in his 1991 report noted because they were physically located towards the end of that Act they did not have the kind of prominence which one would need to have for a consultant who was exploring the possibility of looking at Barbados and there were some other difficulties.

Of course in the Asian Pacific region there is Hong Kong, Cook Islands and some others, Singapore and the like and Mauritius as my colleague is reminding me. So, Sir, right across the world there are several countries which are seeking to recognise the practical reality that the owners of capital on an international level seek to rationalise their business transactions in whatever domicile that might be required, to give them the particular advantages.

With respect to Trusts, Sir, let us look at one of the reasons why there has been this expedient growth over the past 10 years in the Offshore Trusts industry. Look at the United States, Sir. The United States, Sir, has become a society in which, if you happen to accumulate over \$2 million in assets you are at risk.

You may wonder, Sir, why would anyone with \$2 million in assets be at risk, Sir. You are more likely to find yourselves at the wrong end of one piece of litigation or another.

The report, Sir, examined a number of probable causes for litigation within the United States. They say, Sir, that in the United States a law suit is filed every 30 seconds. They say, Sir, that one in three American professionals gets sued for one thing or another and they say, Sir, that 94% of all of the world's law suits are filed in the United States. But on the probable causes, Sir, just to pick one or two that stand out, Sir, there are of course the usual things, vehicle accidents, equipment malfunctions, but then there are recreational accidents and of course there is professional malpractice. Then, Sir, there is entertaining family or acquaintances at home and one of the guests has an accident after consuming alcohol, as if you were to force it down their throats, Sir. Then there are the potential problems relating to the defendants' home, wet sidewalks, having your glass doors or glass windows so spotlessly clean that someone is able to walk through them. The fact of the matter, Sir, is that in the context of United States, and it is the United States we are talking about and not

Barbados, people who have accumulated some wealth could be in a position of losing that through the ill-defined framework for tort in the United States law. Those individuals seek to protect some of their assets by use of Trusts and like I said, Sir, several other domiciles around the world are offering the opportunity for that level of protection which persons in the United States deem to be necessary to prevent themselves from financial ruin as a result of one of these various causes, including one that I did not mention, accidents caused by the defendant's children for example. Many things can happen over there.

So, Sir, this International Trusts Bill has therefore a ready market particularly, Sir, among professionals who one in three get sued for example. The Doctors and the Lawyers, Sir, who need to carve off some part of their estate to ensure that their children will have a sizeable inheritance will find this useful.

Given, Sir, that we are in the Offshore Financial Services arena, there are several other areas, offshore banking, international business companies and the like, it stands to reason, Sir, that given that there are persons out there in the international marketplace who are shopping for international trusts as one of the mechanisms within their management portfolio, Sir, it stands to reason that if we are offering some of these devices then we should add international trusts to that portfolio.

Now, Sir, in seeking to add Trusts and as a matter of fact, several other bits and pieces of legislation we are constantly aware of the factors which are most often considered by the decision makers in the international financial services area of the factors which are most often considered by the decision makers in the international financial services area in seeking to identify which of these many countries of which I have mentioned should be the location for their investment.

6.15 p.m.

Sir, the report as I said earlier of the Offshore Financial Business Report of 1994-95 carried an article by one Ryan Ellis who is the Managing Director of Westpack Banking Corporation in Jersey. He is one of these consultants who advises people and where they should go and he sought to identify what are these factors. Among the factors he mentioned, for example, are political stability to the clients if they are planning to run for elections in those countries and they may not even be planning to live there. But certainly, Sir, they would be concerned on two levels, one being that political instability should not interfere with any business activity which is necessary in order to move their funds in, out or across and also, Sir, particularly in terms of the kinds of clients that Barbados would want to attract. That is, those clients who are very much above board who have legitimate international

business to transact. Many of them would not want to have their corporate image tarnished by having it linked with countries which have an extremely bad record as far as political activities are concerned. So that is one factor that is considered, Sir.

Another factor, Sir, is the financial centre be either a low tax or no tax regime. Certainly, Sir, most of these clients coming from the IBC countries already pay substantial taxation in their countries of origin and clearly, Sir, if there is to be any incentive for them to move funds around, then therefore there will be no incentive to encounter the same level of taxation and fees associated expenses in moving around as you would if you had remained at home.

Our experience is, Sir, that clients do not mind being in a low tax regime. They do not necessarily need a no tax regime and Barbados is a low tax regime. These international clients have no difficulty in being in a low tax regime. Having a no tax regime is not absolutely essential particularly, Sir, if you are dealing with the type of clients who have no difficulty in having confidentiality rules as opposed to secrecy rules. In Barbados, Sir, we go with the confidentiality rule rather than the secrecy rule and I am sure you are fully aware of that.

The other factor that is considered, Sir, is the question of exchange controls. Now you must recognize, Sir, that again these clients coming from OECD countries no longer are familiar with such things as exchange control. They have dispensed with that some years ago. So that this is one of the reasons why the Offshore relating legislation that we have here usually embodies factors relating to exemption of exchange controls, because this is one of the factors that is considered. Certainly, these companies largely operate outside of the framework of the usual international payment systems that would effect our activities here.

Sir, but the other thing, of course, is that the overall level of economic stability is that most clients would from time to time want to visit the location where their business is located. Certainly, they want to be able to come to those countries and feel quite comfortable that they are not being part of a system of deprivation and other negative activity, Sir, and we are happy that Barbados is able to offer them that sense of comfort that they are in a sophisticated destination where things work and where they are able to fit in as part of a vibrant economy.

The other factor which is mentioned, Sir, is the fact that the international clients look for domiciles in which there are modern laws, laws which could be readily understood and which embody the contemporary situations. So that the Barbados Companies Act which is modelled after the Canadian Business Corporations Act and being a

modern company's legislation puts us ahead of some of the countries in the OECS for example who still have Companies Acts going back to 1925 and do not allow for ease and change of directors and so on. The point of this particular section, Sir, is that although legally there is a clear separation between domestic business and offshore international business that in the eyes of the consultants who analyze the domiciles they need to feel comfortable that the domicile has the modern legislative economic infrastructural framework which will really be able to deliver the goods which it plans to be able to deliver for those international clients.

Now, Sir, the overriding factors therefore which I said in framing offshore trust legislation and other offshore financial legislation which we understand that the clients look for and we here certainly strive to maintain, Sir, would be the whole question in summary in terms of geographic location for ease of access, the freedom from taxation, exchange controls, modern laws, political stability and of course a strong local financial infrastructure which relates to the availability of modern and reliable banking, insurance and other services to give support to the sector.

Sir, it is my submission that this International Trusts Bill before us today falls within the framework of activities and legislation which international consultants who have to advise this ready market of international clients out there and it will be widely welcomed and greatly used by those consultants and their clients. I am reminded, Sir, it has long been awaited. In fact, in this same publication on the section about Barbados, mention is made of the fact that it is expected that International Trusts legislation will soon be created so the expectation is clearly there.

Finally, Sir, I would just want to make mention of another important thing that we need to do. We need once we have legislation in place to constantly promote Barbados as a domicile. We need to promote the fact that the legislation is there. We need to promote our attributes which make us one better than the other domiciles that have similar legislation. We need to show that we are on the cutting edge and certainly, Sir, to give an example of that would be that Barbados is represented at a number of the major trade fairs and conferences in several areas. For example, in Exempt Insurance business there is the RIMS and CRIMS with insurance managers Society which is the American body and the Canadian Risk Insurance Managers which is the Canadian body. There is the FDISC Conference and several others which Barbados is at and as a matter of fact, although there is a ready market for clients out there, the market is one that operates almost on the basis of perfect competition in that there is readily available information. Everyone knows who is in the business and so on and if you are missing from

some of these key activities for a year or two people begin to assume that you are no longer in the business.
6.25 p.m.

The market presence is extremely important, and this is not limited to the financial services sector that I mentioned but certainly in the informatics sector as well. The informatics sector uses the IBC as a legal instrument for establishing companies, but there is also the added element of production in Barbados and lower production costs and other benefits. In that regard, Sir, in terms of promotion, in addition to attending some of these various trade fairs and exhibitions overseas, Barbados has also and will also host an exhibition here. I am referring to the Barbados Information Services Conference which will be held here in Barbados February 26 and 27, 1996, and this is one of the means by which companies will be invited to come to Barbados to attend a high level conference where they can learn more about leading edge solutions to information technology problems. They will also be able to – and this is the important one to us – see for themselves what is available in terms of the investment opportunities in Barbados. They will be able to have tours of existing information technology companies in Barbados and to see hands-on Barbadians at work creating software, processing insurance claims and doing all these various information technology functions, and we hope out of that the message will reach them in a stronger way than it would from simply one of the officers who represent Barbados standing in their offices or at a trade show somewhere trying to convince someone who only knows of Barbados as an island in the sun where we drink some rum, but that we are really into this kind of high tech business.

In conclusion, Sir, I express my wholehearted support for this International Trusts Bill and make the point that this is just one part of the broader offshore finance industry in Barbados and that the development of new legislation will be within the framework of our clear understanding of the factors which international clients and consultants use in determining which domicile in which they will invest, and the fact that we need in addition to the enactment of legislation to continue active and vigorous promotion in order to maximise the returns on the investment in the sector.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I am obliged to the Leader of the Senate for the contribution he made which, if you so permit, has allowed the scope of the debate to be widened somewhat and therefore allow me to make some observations which I consider to be pertinent.

At the outset I would say that I support the legislation and I think I see my friend breathe a sigh of relief. I wish to have it clearly understood that it is a matter of facing the reality of our current developmental objectives and being

able to understand that there are several other people who are not standing in line, but rather who are jockeying and jostling one another for the opportunity to wrest this kind of business, the offshore business and the resultant informatics and technological areas for work.

Part of the reason why we might be able to get increasing numbers, I would think, as the Leader of the Senate has said, has to do with our stability and I think the point has to be made and made very firmly that in those circumstances therefore we have a number of things which should be matters which are constantly before us. Stability is not founded alone on our capacity to have good telephone communications with North America or with Europe or wherever else there may be, it has to do with the capacity of our people to maintain a certain level of intellectual integrity when they are dealing in issues of this sort, and we would have to be sure to build on what we now have before us.

It has to do as well with the level of crime that there is in various countries and around us, and that is something which we can take some satisfaction in and at the same time express some concerns about, because I am sure, Mr. President, that we would be concerned to see an improvement in the level of our crimes against the person. At the same time we would be pleased to note but would wish to be assured that those crimes which relate to money and the handling of money, to relate to the kinds of honest brokerage that business persons will find in countries where they go, that that is something which we relate to and for which I think we have a satisfactory reputation at this time.

I would wish to say, though, that our strongest area of stability lies and still lies today in the level of our people and our relationship of people to employers and people to people, and the industrial stability of our country is perhaps one of our strongest selling points, something which we must build on. I think that the nature of our relations today, employers and employees, workers and workers, workers and employers, employers and workers and Government, that quality of relationship is such that we ought to be able better to sell it.

I have in my work as an ambassador of Barbados, though not paid by your Government, Mr. President, been very pleased that people from all over the world – Asia included, North America included, especially small developing countries – have been very pleased at the approach which we have been able to take to development out of crisis, and the fact that in this period we have been able to exercise a level of crisis management, Governments, employers and trade unions, has made us the envy of many others. I would wish that we could build on this and that your officials would build on it, but that they would build on it in such a way that we do not run

the risk of having people make the mistake which I know some time ago was being made.

Some years ago when I served on the IDC, before 1986 when I had to resign that position, we had occasion to tell IDC officials that Barbados must not be marketed as a cheap wage destination. I think that in many areas we have made very fundamental errors and when we spoke to some employers – I do not wish to call names of any of them, because I did not serve notice to you, Sir – when they came here they said that they had been advised (a) that the trade union would not organise the workers for a certain number of years, or (b) that the wage level would not rise beyond a certain point and that this had been given to them by the promoters. We have to take care not to push that kind of message and not to be defensive about it. I believe we can properly argue that Barbados is not a cheap wage destination, but at the same time that people get their money's worth and more when they come to this country, and we can point out the various different things they are able to benefit from when they come to Barbados.

He is too modest to say this, but the Minister responsible for International Business had occasion recently in Denver to be saying to a number of employers who are completely opposed to trade unions or to allowing workers to be free to express an opinion at the work place, that we in the Caribbean, and particularly we in Barbados, do not believe we can do business and do it effectively unless workers have the right to be organised, to be unionised and to speak for their rights. That was something which was surprising to people from certain other parts of this area, the western hemisphere, even though we are entering into relationships with them that are trade and business relationships, and I say that to make the point that he was able, moving beyond that, to say that we are all the better for it, because people have got better wages, but they give better service, they are better educated, they are more skilled and they have a greater capacity to understand the quality of the business and the importance of working hand in hand with the employer.

6.35 p.m.

While I am still on this matter of the level of pay I wish to express a particular concern. I cannot refer to what is in the Press because I know that you, Mr. President, do not see what is in the Press and we should not see it either; but there are concerns that part of the new business coming to the country is business which is predicated on the assumption that although our people must be better educated – 5 "O" Levels – must have some idea and knowledge and skill in the computer industry, that the level of pay is being reduced to the very lofty level of \$100 a week. I think that is what we were talking about in the 1970s and we have to be concerned to make the point that this will not do.

It has come to my desk just yesterday that there were some people who were working for \$460 a week every 2 weeks, basic wage. The employer has taken upon himself to fire all of those people – I do not call their names so I am still within proper procedure – and is offering them a rate where even the best workers can only get that \$460 after 4 weeks of effort. We have to be concerned about this and we have to speak out against this kind of arrangement on all spheres because, in the final analysis, our people is our best commodity and, if our people are the basis by which we are going to promote the development of our country, then our people must not be sold short.

That raises another point, Sir. It is the point of the development of international business and the pleasure we take in seeing that development but the concern we have that because we jockey for this business, and because it is in the nature of things in the world around, that there will be only a very limited number of persons who benefit from this expression of people's confidence in Barbados. The lawyers – forgive me Sir, I am merely talking about a class of person and not any individual who may be in this room – and to a lesser extent, their clerks, and to another and great extent too the accountants.

In fact, if one is to go up Bay Street and get near the Garrison one would be very heavily impressed, overawed by the massive structure which is going up there and other places as a direct offshoot of the kind of business that the person who introduced this debate is speaking about. There is some minimal level of building but even there as you may appreciate Mr. President, there is building going on but with reduced numbers of workers because the machinery is there. What is happening is that we are getting growth and I don't deny that we are getting growth and I am not pessimistic about our future. Agriculture is going to look very good tomorrow as a matter of fact, but the growth is growth without people.

We need to find a way and this is the point I wish to make where that significant amount of business that is coming to our country can be channelled by negotiations into some effort – I said negotiations; I don't mean expropriating – for finding avenues for additional jobs. It cannot be something which I would be able to suggest to you today because clearly people who put their money into trusts are putting that money into trusts because they want their money secured, protected and they don't want to be confused or annoyed by anybody, but I am saying that in our negotiations, it might be possible for us to enter into the nature of dialogue which could see some kinds of ventures which would allow for the trickle down theory possibly to apply. Otherwise, we are going to have real estate being created in the country. The real estate is going to be for a select group of persons and those of us

who are anxious to see development which involves the total community may in fact not be in a position to benefit from this.

I would like to believe that in further discussions which we might be able to do from the full social partnership committee that we would endeavour to find ways and means to use this infusion of new thinking and new business and, if the Minister responsible would, we could possibly have some discussion outside of this debate which would see that further develop.

I would like to believe that Barbados would not benefit only in terms of the few jobs. I have to come back to the few jobs because I think all of us must be aware that we must limit the amount of demand we make on the money via the route of taxation. That is why I believe that Senator Goddard said there would be minimal taxation. That is the reason they come here and don't go somewhere else. I am not denying therefore that there is a level of benefit to be obtained but I am suggesting that there must be additional efforts which we will expend into increasing the benefits to Barbados coming out of this new venture.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I rise to support this Bill and I also take note of the lack of grandstanding on the part of the Government on this one because indeed...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise on a point of order. I believe it is improper, grossly so, Sir, to accuse the Government of grandstanding on any matter that comes before the Senate, or any Member for that matter. We hold this Senate in highest regard and we would not do that. I would ask that those remarks be withdrawn.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I withdraw my words but I have taken note that I don't seem to have freedom of expression.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to our defence and on a point of order I ask the Honourable Member to withdraw those remarks which I believe reflect very badly on the Chair.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am very sorry, Mr. President. I withdraw those remarks.

On a serious note, I think that this piece of legislation has saved the day for the Ministry in terms of doing something positive near the offshore sector. I say that because I have not seen any new initiatives taking place in the area of the offshore sector and this piece of legislation certainly does provide for enhancing the products that Barbados would offer in this area.

The reason why I am making that an issue is because during the campaign when the Government was in opposition it in fact suggested that in this area of the offshore sector and I know it includes informatics predominantly and not the trustees' bill that it would be seeking to create no less than 10 000 jobs out of this area. It came to my mind out of a quite unfortunate happening where the then Opposition used a very simplistic piece of work by the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank to formulate an entire employment strategy on that. That was unfortunate because I think we all know that in the area of the offshore, predominately informatics that it requires a lot more than that to get the kinds of returns that I think that Senator Trotman was speaking of.

Just let me say that certainly what we need to do at this stage would be to be better placed to understand the full economic impact that this sector has and we continue not to treat it with any respect by way of the Central Bank's reports and the like. The other thing is that we seem uncertain to be able to access the full implications it has for foreign exchange. Those of us who would wish to elevate it suggest that it is now the second foreign exchange earner for Barbados.

As mentioned by Senator Trotman as well, those kinds of individuals can obviously speak in that kind of tone and we are seeing the benefits of the new structure which is taking place close to the Garrison. Only very limited individuals or very few individuals in Barbados are getting the kinds of benefits out of the sector that we wish to see.

It does not say that we cannot go the route. What it says is that we cannot overstate its importance, especially when we are trying to sell this particular sector to the wider Barbadian populace.

Notwithstanding that, we are making strides in this area and we have only recently had an expert in Barbados round about July making some comments as to the kinds of things that Barbados will still need to do in order to, as he said, be quicker on its feet.

The truth is that as we stated, this is a highly competitive area and we cannot rest on our laurels in believing that once we have gotten this piece of legislation through that the Caymans and the other competitors in the region, even the OECS which seems to be way behind, will not be seeking to make considerable strides in this area to catch up with Barbados. We have to be very conscious that we need to continue being creative and innovative.

The sentiments expressed by Mr. Stenson on that occasion are taken and we all know – those of us who understand the sector – that our major benefit is out of the Canadian market in every respect. I think

Senator Goddard is privileged to have a document prepared by some students of Professor Stan Reid which analyses and assesses the offshore sector, maybe in the most detailed form that we have in Barbados where those students did quite a useful assessment of the sector. It does support the fact that this sector is not a sector where we can rely very heavily on the whole question of job creation. I am not speaking of the informatics where we are limited really to just CDS.

6.45 p.m.

Sir, let us not again jump to elevate its importance but let us try to get access to the kinds of information that is necessary for us to be able to say what is the true contribution being made by the offshore sector to the wider economy. It certainly does not make its impact in the area of employment which is very limited, confined to some goodly lawyers and accountants who have been making a whole set of money, encouraged by Government's policy to allow them to have credit of 150% which ends up in some cases with individuals earning in excess of \$300 000, paying less taxes than an individual earning \$100 000 in Barbados. Those kinds of things have been done in order to encourage the development of the offshore sector.

We do have and that is why some of you are so eager to support the sector, we do have individuals indeed earning that kind of bread in Barbados who, because of the encouragement that has been given by Government are not making their contribution even to the tax take. There are a number of them who, although they are within so-called accounting firms, they actually submit their returns as individuals and they do benefit substantially from the kind of measures which we have put in place to encourage the sector.

I think it is time that we ask some of those individuals to make a greater contribution towards the tax take of Barbados. It really is necessary at this point.

In the other area that is associated with the informatics area, I do not think that we have yet demonstrated where we intend to go in that area because we are not yet understanding what is happening out there in the area of investment in such a way that we can attract the kinds of firms such as CDS in order to be able to give some boost to our employment levels.

I must confess that I am extremely concerned about the sector because it is a sector where we are putting a lot of resources in order to build the image of Barbados but that the benefits are indeed going only to a few. There was concern of course within this particular piece of legislation that it offers non-Caribbean investors even greater privilege than it does those within the region and I do not think that any of us who again understand the area can deny that.

We have been so focussed on trying to attract those individuals from outside the region that maybe to some extent we have not put the right instruments in place to be able to give greater privilege to investors from within the region, an area that certainly we will have to address in the near future. The locals as we know are somewhere in between the privileged and the not so privileged. There is no doubt at all that the whole process of economic democracy for Barbados can be advanced if we put even greater emphasis on areas such as trusts where we can develop instruments to encourage that kind of cross generational transfers of income so as to sustain our families after those who have provided initially have passed on. So, even within the domestic economies we can try and find additional ways in order to give greater expression to this whole concept of economic democracy and enfranchisement. We need to have the same kind of instruments maybe developed. Probably we do have a few in Barbados but not to the level that people understand the need to use Trusts in such a way as to guarantee the survival of generations coming.

I know this is fairly late in the day so I intend to move quickly. Definitely in the area of administrative reform that is absolutely necessary to facilitate speedy action in this particular area of the offshore sector, there has been some room in the Registry to computerise the system but we are well aware that only the physical hardware alone would not do the trick and that we need very much so to now start the training to get people accustomed to new work environment, to ensure that they understand how they can best use the technology to facilitate the process of developing the offshore sector in a more speedy way. So, let me just say that I am glad to be able to rise on my feet today to support this piece of legislation. As I said earlier, I think it has been a saviour for the present administration which has not really put forward anything new and it does suggest to some extent that in the absence of this piece of legislation that maybe the offshore services sector would be left wanting. Those who want to challenge me on that issue ...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir, I must take up the offer with the Honourable Senator to challenge him. The Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate because a little earlier in this Session the Society With Restricted Liabilities Act, 1995 was passed and I am not making mention of the other administrative things that were done but right here in the Senate the Society With Restricted Liabilities Act was passed, Sir.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I respect that, but that was not the saviour for the Government. It is this piece of legislation which is far more innovative and creative and which has been admitted is putting Barbados at the

cutting edge within this particular sector of the offshore sector that I am suggesting has been the saviour.

Indeed just to politicise the issue, if you were to look at page 12 of the Manifesto of the BLP you would not see any attempt here at all to truly address this area within the walls of this document. So, I am saying that no such consideration was given and that indeed I must confess now that it is good to see the Government for once accepting that something good has been done by the previous administration. I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, it is clear that the Senate is unanimous it seems like in support of this legislation, but there is some misconception about the offshore business and the value to Barbados and the extent to which the funds that are earned in the offshore business permeates throughout the society.

I can only estimate but I would say that between 15 000 and 20 000 business people visit Barbados every year in relation to the offshore business. This clearly is the high end of the market. They benefit the retail outlets in Barbados. They benefit the hospitality industry, that is, restaurants, hotels and house rentals. They benefit the artistic community in the purchase of art because these individuals are usually affluent, intellectually stimulated by native art.
6.55 p.m.

They benefit the transportation sector through the rental of hired vehicles. These investors in the offshore business are deeply conscious of the environment that they invest in and they engage in philanthropy through giving to the churches, children homes and charities. They are actively engaged in charitable organizations in the country. They have come together to give funds to protect the environment and a special Environmental Fund is being set up and the offshore community is doing this. They even provide medical services. There are technicians and telecommunications people, artisans, landscaping staff, secretarial, managerial and technical people who are employed by the offshore business activities not just accountants and lawyers. As I pointed out before, there is the building trade. There is a continual growth in the number of buildings supporting the offshore industry. It is not necessarily recognized that some of these buildings have gone up to do so, but there are more than 200 people in the Coopers Lybrand building up there at Upper Collymore Rock. There is a building being built at Wildey right now by the private sector to house the offshore industry. What you are finding is that it is just not the IDC driven building operation. The business community of

Barbados is investing in buildings to service the offshore business. There is advertising and there is printing.

Sir, I could go on and on but the money from the offshore business permeates every sector of our society and it creates jobs for those people. When that money is spent, it just does not stop at that point. It circulates as economists should know and therefore it creates more and more jobs in the community.

Finally, there is Government revenue and the Government earns taxes and license fees and that revenue supports Government's spending programme. It creates employment within Government and it creates the wherewithal to do capital projects.

Mr. President, I am saying that you have to really understand that the offshore business while it is highly visible at the high professional end and very dependent on the tremendous pool of indigenous legal and accounting resources that we have in this country which is another factor that differentiates Barbados from every other single location in the Caribbean and which is a very great plus for Barbados reaches down to the bottom end of the society. That money creates jobs right through the chain and therefore Barbadians will come to understand that the offshore business will benefit each and every single Barbadian in the creation of jobs for a friend or relative as the years go on.

Mr. President, I ask that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I ask that this be sent to a full Committee of the Senate.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill and His Honour SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN in the Chair.

COMMITTEE.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Parts 1 to 7 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD, 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. P. C. GODDARD, the Bill was read a third time and passed.
7.05 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move that this sitting be suspended until Friday, August 18, 1995 at 11.00 a.m.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 3 – NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of this Bill to establish the National Council on Substance Abuse which would, *inter alia*, advise the Minister on measures for the eradication or control of substance abuse and manage facilities for the treatment of persons affected by substance abuse and for related matters.

As we are all aware, the problem of drug abuse is a major worldwide phenomenon. The United Nations has indicated that around the world some 40 million persons are involved in drug abuse, and this by extension means that several million other persons, probably by a factor of four, would be affected through family connections, loss of earnings and other problems associated with drug abuse.

The matter of drug abuse internationally has been a long-standing problem. In fact, the first international conference on drug abuse was held in Shanghai back in 1909 and subsequent to that there have been several conventions primarily under the auspices of the United Nations which has sought to make a dent in the problem.

The major focus in the initial years, in fact, up to about 1972, was on the control of the distribution or control of the availability of narcotic substances. This, in my view, was primarily influenced by the fact that drug abusers were seen in that context as persons who either showed bad judgement, were misguided, but at the end of the day to some extent were on the fringes of society, and as long as the mainstream of the society was not affected, Sir, it was figured that the control of the availability of the substances

would be enough. Following the failure of those attempts, it was recognised that in addition to what was being done in terms of controlling the availability, it was very important for an assault to be made on the whole question of demand. The focus on the reduction of demand for illicit drugs is the new paradigm within which all of the various measures introduced internationally have been made.

Now, Sir, at a United Nations General Assembly Conference in 1990 a specific call was made for the establishment of national co-ordinating bodies in the Member Countries of the United Nations to focus on the reduction of demand for illicit drugs. By that time I should add that the focus had shifted away from a narrow look at narcotic drugs but also to other psychotropic substances, and basically the framework was broadened to include any substance which would do harm to the body, so the net was widened to include the whole question of the use of amphetamines, the use of the various depressive and anti-depressive drugs and certain drugs which when used in a medically prescribed manner may be beneficial, but when used outside of that framework can cause some harm to the body. So a number of measures have been introduced to control the international trade not only in the illegal narcotic drugs but also the legal drugs, which are medically approved substances, but which have become quite popular in terms of substance abuse.

The framework within which this measure is being introduced is one of international recognition of the need to focus on the demand factors, as well as the recognition that substance abuse must not narrowly focus on the abuse of the traditional illicit narcotic drugs but on the whole question of substance abuse in its widest possible context.

The international community recognised, quite correctly, that the impact of substance abuse was one that threatened not only individual lives but the family structure, governmental structures, entire societies and in fact, Sir, is one of the greater threats to humanity. We must recognise that there are several aspects to this problem, one being the obvious direct health implications for the individuals involved. We know of course what some of those complications are, and I am sure there are persons better qualified here to speak to those issues of the direct health implications than I can. But we are also aware of the social fall out. Persons involved in substance abuse usually undergo some personality changes which tend to have very traumatic effects on their families, friends and other persons with whom they have social intercourse.

One of the factors which we really need to heavily consider is the economic impact of substance abuse. If we consider that an economy is really an aggregation of the individual units therein, and we consider the vast scale on which substance abuse seems to be occurring, we can appreciate that any loss in productivity through

substance abuse will have an overall impact on the capacity of an economy to be competitive internationally, to provide the goods and services which are necessary for its growth and ultimately its survival.

On the micro-level it is clear that any individual who is operating at a sub-optimal level because of impairment of body, mind or spirit as a result of substance abuse will not be in the best possible condition to make the kind of contribution which as a developing nation Barbados will expect to obtain from each and every one of its citizens. We can look at any example involving an employee, be it in private business, in Government, a self-employed person, and we know already that there are several within the framework of the available time for work, that is, outside of weekends, annual holidays and the like. The whole question of being away from work because of illness impacts negatively on the business and it is felt most markedly in places where there is either a very small staff and the absence of a particular individual can hold the entire operation up, as well as in those places of business where the individuals involved have particular skills which are scarce in the organisation. But wherever example we choose to look at, Sir, I am sure that we will all conclude that the economic implications of substance abuse are very significant within the context of a small developing country like Barbados, particularly with a small population base. In fact, Sir, within the context of Barbados the population census, if we were to examine the change in pattern over the years, let us say over the past three decades, we will notice that there is a shift in the shape of the population pyramid and it will indicate an aging population and a reduction of the base of productive persons, or persons within the age group of productive persons. If that base of productive persons, that is, the persons let us say between 25 and 65, is narrowing whilst at the same time the persons in the age group of retirees is expanding in relative terms, then you obviously are calling on the persons who are in productive employment to bear a larger burden in relation to the care of the elderly and the like. That is a naturally occurring phenomenon. The population pyramid of any society will change from time to time, but, if in the face of a relative reduction in the number of persons within the productive age group you also have the capacity of those individuals to perform being impaired by substance abuse, then you are exacerbating the problem and the result could very well be a difficulty in providing the kind of support which is needed for the aging population.

11.25 a.m.

The magnitude of the situation is difficult. I made reference to the fact that in 1990 the United Nations General Assembly called for the establishment of national councils to coordinate the work of persons who are involved in the whole area of substance abuse. In response to that, Sir, the Government of Barbados, in 1991,

established the National Advisory Council on Drugs which was aimed at promoting a national approach to eliminate the menace of drug abuse. That Council numbered in the region of 33 persons which turned out to be a bit large and unwieldy and the Council did not function too well.

I should add, Sir, that these national advisory councils were established as largely being advisory in nature and to tackle the issues of substance abuse that were outside of those requiring action of law enforcement agencies. So these particular councils as recommended by the United Nations would not be those that are involved in drug interdiction activities.

In 1994, last year, that structure was revamped and became the National Advisory Council on Illegal Narcotic Drugs and was established as a 17-member body in an attempt to streamline its activities and provide some impetus for action. Some of the programmes in which the National Advisory Council are involved, in fact, the majority of the programmes, are sponsored by the United Nations Drug Control Programme, UNDCP. UNDCP is involved in projects in some 165 countries and it has an annual budget of approximately \$82 million and that UNDCP was established to carry out the mandate of the General Assembly with respect to having national approaches to the elimination of the drug menace.

In the case of Barbados, there is a programme agreed between the UNDCP and the Government of Barbados which will focus on 5 areas, one being institutional strengthening, the other research, school prevention, community prevention and treatment and rehabilitation. Funding has been agreed between the UNDCP and the Government of Barbados with respect to this project. Some of the main features of this project are with respect to institutional strengthening, the establishment of the National Drug Resource Centre which was done late last year. The National Drug Resource Centre functions as the executive arm of the National Council.

That, Sir, under this UNDCP/Government of Barbados programme provided a coordinated centre for the anti-narcotics agencies. Other than law enforcement agencies, they are separate. It provided information for groups through exhibitions, lectures, demonstrations and use of the prison and electronic media, which is basically information, bringing together the various groups involved, the NGOs and other groups for the purposes of cooperation and strategic planning with respect to the fight against the drug menace. They also conceptualise and execute various community based programmes in this area of eliminating the drug menace as one aspect of the programme that was agreed.

The other aspect of the programme that was agreed between the UNDCP and the Council as established

was for research to be done, particularly at the secondary and primary school level, on the practices, attitudes and knowledge of those persons with respect to illegal drugs and legal drugs as well, given the broader framework. That research would form the foundation of the ongoing education and development programmes, because the education programmes and the other action programmes obviously cannot proceed in a static mode so that although there have been drug education programmes in Barbados for many years now, clearly one has to be sure that the assumptions on which the programme is based continue to reflect the contemporary situation, so that if in 1960 the level of awareness of drugs was at one level but in the year 2000 the level of awareness is at another, then this would have an impact on the style and the content and the mode of delivery of the education programme. So research would take care of that.

School prevention, Sir, is another aspect of the programme and this would obviously involve more direct activity within the school system in terms of direct educational input and the community prevention programme would have as its target groups those persons who are outside of the school system and who can obviously be accessed within the community but particularly focussing on the links between drugs, crime and the whole question of self-esteem. There have been a number of projects conceptualised in that area of community approach.

The treatment and rehabilitation aspect of the programme, that component, sought to provide for the establishment of halfway houses for recovering addicts as well as to establish a rehabilitation programme within the prison system. Those 2 populations being those which would not be immediately covered by the existing programme at, for example, the Psychiatric Hospital. There is obviously a need of persons who are into treatment in the Psychiatric Hospital for ongoing treatment at one stage in a halfway house situation. At another, the out-patient activity would of course continue.

There has always been concern that persons who were incarcerated in the prison did not have full access to full and proper treatment as far as rehabilitation was concerned and one of the programmes in the UNDCP/Government of Barbados situation related to that.

Now, Sir, in executing that programme, as I have outlined, a number of difficulties were encountered. These difficulties centred around the framework within which the National Council on Illegal Narcotic Drugs as it had been called at that time operated. The difficulty related on the one hand with its capacity to obtain funding for some of the ongoing projects. Funding was agreed on this one but there are other programmes which are proposed and for which funding is being sought from international agencies

both within the U.N. system as well as in the international non-governmental organisations circuit.

Some of these organisations have a particular difficulty in making grant funds available to central governments for payment into a consolidated fund and for subsequent release. In addition, Sir, the nature of some of the programmes, particularly the community based programmes, was such that in a specific example that I will use, a decision was made to refurbish the Deacons Primary School for use as a Community Centre and as a centre for some of the community based activities within the UNDCP Government of Barbados Programme.

11.35 a.m.

Now, Sir, it was decided that, as part of the programme, the youth in the area would be encouraged to be involved in this refurbishment as a project, they would then be part of the operation of the centre which would include the teaching of various skills, and obviously seeking to provide an opportunity for economic advancement to people within that area. But the implementation of the project was in many ways frustrated and delayed by the nature of the financial rules and the general rules relating to administration of finances within the Government. This related, Sir, to things like the payment of a small stipend or honorarium or whatever you may want to choose to persons involved in the programme, the procurement of small items relating to this refurbishment and the like.

Like I said, that problem of disbursement was coupled with the problem of access to certain international funds because the routing under the arrangement is that the funds have to go through the consolidated fund for allocation to the National Council and so on.

The matter was studied by the Attorney General, the Auditor General, the Accountant General and it was agreed that the method of enabling the execution of the programmes, both this current programme and subsequent programmes, would be to recast or restructure the National Council of Illegal Narcotic Drugs as a statutory body. So, in effect what is being done, Sir, is that the existing Council will be put within the framework of a statutory body to allow for the more efficient and effective execution of the programmes relating to the elimination of substance abuse in Barbados.

Now, Sir, funds have already been provided for this matter in the Estimates. Remember as indicated earlier in my presentation that the existing framework is within the National Advisory Council on Illegal Narcotic Drugs whose executing arm is the National Drug Resource Centre which is located in Holders Hill and the Estimates provide, Sir, some funds for the activity and that existing

institutional framework would simply be given a new legal structure within which to operate with the funds which have been voted for that purpose being transferred.

On the establishment of the National Advisory Council on Substance Abuse the funds which have been earmarked by the UNDCP would be allocated directly to that body for the implementation of the programmes in question.

Now, Sir, the form which is used in the Bill for the establishment of this Council is a relatively standard form for the establishment of statutory corporations. The functions of the Council, Sir, are laid out in section 4 which includes advising the Minister on measures to eradicate or control substance abuse, advise on measures to prevent the proliferation of illegal narcotic drugs, devise and undertake and promote programmes and projects aimed at prevention, elimination or control of substance abuse, authorise, conduct and facilitate research or surveys on substance abuse and the list goes on. Cooperate with local, regional and international organisations with interest similar to those of the Council, solicit, receive and manage funds donated by the Government, the private sector, private citizens and international organisations for the functions mentioned in that section and so on.

It is our view, Sir, that the creation of this framework would allow the existing council to more expeditiously implement the programmes which it has already planned. It will create a framework for the receipt of additional funding which has been earmarked by various international bodies to assist in this fight. And, Sir, we believe that this mechanism that has been established will achieve its stated objective and that is of helping to eliminate the scourge of substance abuse in Barbados.

With that, Sir, I would like to move that this National Council on Substance Abuse Bill, 1995 be now read a second time.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I will of course support this Bill which would provide for the establishment of a National Council on Substance Abuse which would, *inter alia*, advise the Minister on the methods for the eradication of substance abuse and manage facilities for the treatment of persons affected by substance abuse and related matters.

I think my contribution to this debate would be to look at the context in which this Bill is presented in terms of the United Nations desire for national councils and to look at the whole question of the problems of the eradication or control of substance abuse. To put this in context we must think about the international drug trade as one which of course transcends national boundaries. This is what is very, very frightening and alarming about the

international drug trade. We know of the transshipments. We know of the problems of drugs moving around the Caribbean from Latin America. We know about the problem of the transshipment of drugs around the Caribbean. We know about the problem of drugs coming from Columbia through Trinidad. We know about the couriers. We know all about this. This is just to talk about the way in which it transcends boundaries. There are no boundaries where this drug trade is concerned.

I remember some time in the eighties when it was discovered that the international drug trade had shot past the arms trade. It was about \$110 billion and there was panic coming from the United States. I remember the programmes of the former President Reagan's wife, Nancy, saying no to drugs. I remember the panic stricken way in which people started thinking in terms of burning the fields in Columbia, Jamaica and Peru. I remember the time and I do not hear too much about it now where airplanes had to be paying fines for drugs moving in. What is interesting about all of this is that billions of dollars in the drug trade, a trade which is supposed to be illegal, do not stay in people's mattresses. These are dollars that are filtered into the banking system. These are dollars that are filtered into the multi-national corporations. These are dollars that are filtered into offshore banking. These are the dollars that go sometimes to support Third World Countries in the elimination of the drug trade.

11.45 a.m.

Now I hope that the Council is going to pay a lot of attention to this kind of research and information for the young people, so that hopefully we will throw up young people who are going to begin to question the link between the U.N.'s desire to have these Councils in nations, the link between the international drug trade, the arms trade, the banks and offshore banking multi-nationals. When you see the power of that, one begins to wonder about these little national councils' ability to eradicate and control substance abuse.

We have to look at the historical introduction of substance abuse into Barbados and I think this is part of the research that must go on and that young people in Barbados must be aware that we have always had with us the sugar cane. We have always had our rum, alcohol and tobacco. Well, we have had marijuana. I do not know whether Barbados had as much say as Jamaica or Trinidad, because I know that these are things that grow in tropical countries. We have always had that. Interestingly enough I was informed that cocaine came into Barbados sometime in the 1970's and I understand that there were entrepreneurs who catered to what in the buzz word of the tourist industry "the up market" who needed to have their fixes and this sort of thing started. There were couriers and other people who saw that they got to the hotels and so on, and so cocaine came into Barbados. What happened

after that of course was that some local people began to get the hang of things and got themselves lured by the quick money and so on and then it moved into the population.

I think young people coming up must understand all of this history and the economics of the drug trade and the international nature of it and we must be realistic in terms of how much one small island nation can do. This is why I believe that the research and the information to young people must not be done just for them to know this but hopefully I think generations to come. They will begin to ask very serious questions about an illegal trade which makes that kind of money and which is going on and which it seems so difficult to arrest. Obviously, the research will show how "crack" came about, the mixture of the cocaine with other substances and the baking and how it is cracked and how it can be sold much more easily at \$20 and so on a fix.

I would also like to recommend to this Council about a friend of mine of blessed memory that wonderful book written by Timothy Callender "The Seductions of The White Lady" and on drug addiction. I would think the Council must do and have as many of those books reprinted and let them go to schools, youth groups to spread this, and let everybody read this wonderful work of a young Barbadian writer. This is all part of the understanding. I do not think that this Council must be put in place unless serious work and research goes into it so that people know exactly what we are talking about when we talk about the eradication and control of substance abuse in the Caribbean.

I remember not too long ago we had a drop of drugs at Mile-And-A-Quarter. Now that obviously did not have anything to do with us in particular, but that is to show the linkages between the Colombians and us the sense that there are no boundaries when we come to this question of the international drug trade. This is why we must let our young people talk about it and discuss it. I sometime wonder if they have to deal with it and think about it in terms of the money whether they might not come up with more moral solutions to the eradication of drug abuse.

We have heard about the Government initiatives and we know of all of those people who have worked voluntarily in their own way to try to stem the tide of drug abuse and drug eradication in Barbados and I would like to mention organizations like Citizens Against Narcotics which Glenroy Straughn was instrumental in setting up. As I say Glenroy Straughn, I must say that we all know that he is in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery. I must also say this and it might seem unrelated, but I must thank Glenroy Straughn for a lot of the information which he has passed on and tried to disseminate about the whole question of drugs in Barbados. As I say that, I must also

say that even in his hospital bed and I know this is in passing, he was very concerned about the inclusion to the Beijing Conference of one young woman Cathy Ifie Harris, who incidentally I am saying this because this is a person who has lived the experience as opposed to those wonderful middle class women who are going to this Beijing Conference. Sometimes I think we need to have the experiences of the grass root women to speak for themselves about issues which affect women and they must not always be spoken for. They must speak for themselves. I say that just in passing but we are concerned about the real genuine problems we know of drug abuse education and eradication.

We should also mention the work of people like Victor Roach. He heads an organization. I do not know what has happened to that. It is called the National Council for The Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Addiction. I know there is something called Caribbean Association of Rehabilitation for Therapists. So all of these will come under this Council and be able to give some support and experience to what they have been through.

Now everybody understands the role of education. CAN for example had run a lot of seminars trying to educate youths who were going to work with addicted people. But the whole problem about this question of drug abuse and the eradication of it is a serious one. It is a bio-psycho social disease. It affects unborn children. It affects youths and it interferes with the whole moral fibre because young and employed Barbadians who see the life-styles of certain people in the drug trade who can afford things that they know they would not normally be able to get and it is attractive to them to get into that. I sometimes wonder if teaching and nursing were paid as much whether people would take on those jobs much more, but it just happens that they are not and there are a lot more attractive ways people think that they can make money. Now the whole question is basically and fundamentally a moral question of international dimension. The U.N. can of course have its councils in every nation of the world. They can ask people to work towards the eradication. We also have the sense in which we are in the Caribbean in this little area where now we see the linkage between the drug drops, transshipment and the sense in which we have to do the work almost of America in trying to prevent the drug from getting into America. It is really hopeless the task that we are put to do in the Caribbean, even with the help of the DEA, even with the help that we are supposed to stem this tide, and every time people move they move from one area to go to the other. It is a horrendous task, this nefarious exercise in human death and degradation, I sometimes wonder if the cynics who were concerned about the sense in which the arms trade was superseded by the drugs trade, if they did not sort of rationalise the whole thing by saying: "Well, the arms trade took millions of human lives, so if the drugs

trade takes a few human lives, so what? The money is going to the banks, the money is going to the multinational corporations, the money is going to the offshore banks, so what? The world is going on quite happily without those souls who succumb to the lure of drugs."

11.55 a.m.

I must also say, and I think we will somehow, and I know we will in the Council have the benefit of the experience of a man like Glenroy Straughn. I say this because I think he has done admirable work in fighting a long time to help people in all ways. I would quote this from him, because I think I have permission to do that, I can say that. Glenroy Straughn says that he would like to see what he calls a "spheroid" approach to this whole question of drugs, and when he says "sphere" he was thinking in terms of a football or so, and he said it must be awareness, prevention, dependency, addiction, treatment, after care – all these things must be done in one circular way. It is not a question of saying one thing and not the other, the work keeps going on all the time. This has to continue, the work has to keep going on. The work goes on in Barbados through its Councils, through whatever money is given. To me it goes on in the context of this larger, vaster, almost immoral, hypocritical notion that somehow we in these little councils in the world would stop a trade that is well grounded in capitalism.

I always remember a very interesting joke. A chap was selling his cocaine outside of Wall Street and somebody asked him if he would sell cocaine outside Wall Street, and he said: "But this is capitalism. I am in the heart of capitalism. What should I do?" He saw the connection between selling his cocaine outside Wall Street and being in the heart of capitalism. So that we have to let our children know and we have to let them understand, and the research we have to do must be honest research into the way in which the international drug trade is organised and the way in which, if we get money filtered down to us, we must accept and try to do the best we can. What we in Barbados must do, in the context of the extent of this crime, is to be very careful about how we treat our victims of drug abuse. As a matter of fact, I think aside from education and work on rehabilitation and after care, there is very little, honestly, we can do about this. We can throw a few people into prisons here, but our main goal has to work on education, rehabilitation, after care and hopefully some sort of moral sense that we must give our young people that their lives are worth a lot more than a few thousand dollars.

You know, it is so interesting. When I hear someone from the courts say that he just has to make one phone call to get at \$300 000 or some sort of money paid for his drug charge, I say: "Well, I might have to think twice about where I get \$300," but this is the sort of thing we are faced with and I think we have to be very serious and very

realistic when we are talking to our youth about the whole problem of drugs and when we get very noble and talk about eradication and so on.

The UN knows better than everyone else. The people in the General Council who want these councils in the world, they know very well that it is almost, I am sorry to say, an exercise in futility, but while there is life there is hope, and we will do whatever we can in this little rock to make sure that our young people who have gone astray, who have been tempted – and this is why I would say again in this House, this Council must reprint the work of Timothy Callender of revered memory of *The Seductions of "The White Lady"* (cocaine). People must discuss this, they must understand it, they must understand the agony and, I suppose, the ecstasy of drug addiction and that we must be honest with them and we must work with them and be compassionate with them. We must always see them in light of the miniscule contribution we could make in terms of eradicating drugs and drug abuse in this world of ours.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union, of which I am a member, has had a position about substance abuse since 1973 and although it may seem a long time ago, its position has not changed because its sentiments are still very valid and they are sentiments which I very much endorse.

It is desirable to have a society free of a non-medical dependence on drugs, and there are four major areas where specific action is needed. There are of course preventive measures, such as are taken by Customs Officers and Police, and there are legislative measures to deal condignly with offenders. This is a very important and perhaps controversial area as to how severe punishment should be. Then there is a comprehensive health education programme and I know my friend, Senator Rickinson, is going to elaborate on that, and there is a comprehensive programme to educate the public of Barbados on all aspects of the non-medical use of drugs. But as an educator I should like to concentrate on its importance to the school community.

We must create in the young children of Barbados an awareness of, and a respect for, their bodies so that they will feel responsible personally for their own physical development and well-being. I would hope that the Council would concentrate a great deal on that aspect. Years ago more children went to Sunday School, more children went to Church, where one of the golden lessons taught – and I know that Senator Workman will correct me if I misquote – "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?"

12.05 p.m.

This was something that children heard, not only in church but from the platforms of schools, in the mornings, at prayers. Therefore my contention is that the emphasis must be on prevention. It means getting to children before drug abuse has become a pattern and a habit.

Yes, there is need for rehabilitation. That is something which will have to be addressed and continued, but we must get to the children in the last years of primary school and continue in the secondary years. The project should include dietary habits, dental health, personal hygiene, and be combined with family life education. There should also be continual and complete use of the media, print, electronic and television.

In my opinion, the advertisements which we see are a bit too mild, especially to this generation brought up to consider violence as a way of life. Advertisements need to be more frequent to begin with, more chilling and terrifying. They also should be cautionary, forceful, imaginative in order to create the utmost impact of what drugs can do and the final outcome.

As our Leader said, Barbados cannot afford to lose its greatest means of development, our human resources, and it is only by safeguarding our youth, by reaching them in time that we will secure the future development and prosperity of our country. I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I think it would be unwise not to support such a venture, but I somehow again suspect that the basis for the formation of this Council was predicated on a false premise. It appears as though the Council was established merely to get around the Government's financial Rules, and in doing so, attempt to expedite matters in this area. Though that may be a reasonable thing to do in light of the seriousness of the problems that we encounter in the area of drugs, I must say that the functions of the Council when I read them through does not strike me that the Council is going to be adequately staffed – I say that; not only in terms of numbers but in terms of expertise – to be able to deal with many of the critical issues in this area of drug abuse.

I am aware of 1 or 2 of the present members of the staff and the Council. I am aware of an individual who has been very privileged to have a brand new car driving all around, a very well known supporter of the Barbados Labour Party, and I am indeed concerned as to whether or not, as I said earlier, the expertise lies in the area of the Council. For that I can explain my position.

I have taken note of the word "advised" in the functions of the Council at Part A, Part B "devise", "authorise", "manage", "coordinate", "cooperate" – a whole range of words which are very nicely sounding but, to my

mind, would require very top-level staff in order to be able to give advice in this very critical area.

Although it says at Part D "authorise, conduct and facilitate research or surveys on substance abuse" you cannot at all attempt to address this issue in the absence of information. The presentation of the Leader of the Senate even not knowing that the facility at Deacons is really the old St. Leonard's Composite School and not the Deacons Primary School is kind of indicative of the lack of knowledge that I am addressing.

Let me say in fact by discussing at length this proposal in the Deacons Farm area. First of all, Sir, the project was started sometime back and it is true to say there has been considerable difficulty in getting access to the financing. However, I am not so sure as I said earlier whether or not the establishment of the Council should have been on that basis alone. I think that is precisely why in fact the functions of the Council are not truly reflective of the difficulties or the kinds of problems that we are going to encounter in the area of drug abuse.

I happen to have had some experience with Pastor Roach, being a founder member of his organisation, to have been able for the first time in the history of Barbados to have organised a full week's activity on drug abuse and to have coordinated the efforts at the National Stadium for the primary and secondary schools and, as a founder member of the organisation, would have participated in a fairly involved way in that particular initial exercise. So while I cannot boast of bringing expertise, I can boast of giving some of my time and attention to the area. In fact, that is going to be a major requirement in this exercise, which I will explain later.

The project at the Deacons Farm is really a massive project. It is not at all a simple council. It takes over a large area which the old school occupied and it is intended that the police outpost would in fact be resited to that project which is being renovated at the school. It is also intended that they are going to be providing classes in the area of computer, cake and pastry, woodworking, tailoring, dressmaking and a whole range of other areas which would hopefully assist in giving the youth of the area something very meaningful and worthwhile to do.

Indeed, I am a product of the area so I know the area intimately. Let me explain in total that I have been part of the community of Deacons Farm, having played first division football only recently for the Deacons Farm team, having played softball and cricket and having organised a whole range of sports within the area, having managed the basketball team and having debated and quite successfully, for the area, and having won all kinds of trophies in the area of debating, I have been very intimately involved at all levels in this project.

On a serious note, let me say that the catchment area for the project in the Farm would include about 14 Enumeration Districts. The districts would comprise 0.25 down to 0.40 and in those districts those EDs which I just mentioned. According to the population census for 1990, the population is of the order of 7 823 persons and approximately 3 176 persons are between the ages of 15 and 35. Now that represents, I think, from my discussions with the persons involved, the kind of individuals that the project is aimed at.

Let me go a little further and say that that population between 15 and 35 in the area, 14 EDs around the area, of that we can safely assume that about 25% of those individuals are unemployed. I think that is a fairly conservative estimate because we are all aware that the level of unemployment among that age grouping is above the national average. To say that it is only 25% unemployment among the youth in the area is really a conservative estimate, but that is not important. What that does really is reduce the catchment to about just under 800 young people between 15 and 35 in the area.

We can then make some assessment as to the kinds of individuals who may be affected and afflicted by drugs from among those 800, but that is not for me to assess. What is more important is that they are unemployed and that the programme should not only be targeting people who are affected by drugs but more importantly targeting those young people who can in fact give some kind of service and some kind of direction and purpose to those who are afflicted by drug abuse.

I must confess that in the area there has been some reduction in drug abuse over the last 2-3 years and it might have happened as a result of an unfortunate incident but an incident which appeared to have been necessary. In fact, those of us who come from the area would recognise that that unfortunate incident was accompanied by the drift away from the area of some who had migrated there and created all kinds of difficulties for the youth by suggesting to them that the drug route was a more lucrative route, that these kinds of ways of educating the youngsters in the area is too long-winded and the remuneration is not adequate enough. So as a result of the incident, which I will not be explicit about, I think that the area has in fact benefited from that incident.

What I need to say more than anything else is that I don't think the council will be equipped to deal with the magnitude of problems in the Deacons Farm area. There is a committee and individuals should be chosen from people within the area, but that creates a problem itself. I am not aware there is the kind of expertise which has to be voluntary, because the project will not have the required funds to pay individuals to give training. That need to have

volunteers makes a problem in terms of the limited pool within the district itself.

One can see the Council may have work to do; but to be effective in addressing the issue of drug abuse within the area, it is going to require a well coordinated effort on the part of those persons in charge. I am also aware that a committee has been established among some individuals in the area, but I can also say that though the intentions are good, I know for a fact, and I have discussed things with the guys, that the resources in the required areas are limited.

You are going to be talking about having to establish for them some structure that can permit the project to be successful. It is not an easy project. It is a project in which you can have no less than 100 people seeking to have the kinds of training in the respective areas which I have talked about. It therefore means that the whole question of the equipment that is required has to be donated. It has to come from somewhere, and where will it come from?

There has been some effort on the part of the guys in the area to approach the U.S. Embassy and the Canadian High Commission to provide some of the equipment, and apparently, some of it has been promised. Even though it is provided, we all know about the maintenance of computers which they intend to have. That requires a special facility in terms of airconditioning. How then do you set up an airconditioned room in order to maintain the computers in the area? So again you are talking about additional expense. So I am saying that I respect and understand why there may be a need to have a Council but the Council in itself is not going to be in a position since the Council has to deal with not only the Farm area but other targeted areas like Haynesville, Pinelands and other areas; that you will have to have proper systems in place in order to be able to make the programme an effective one.

At this stage, what I can do is to ask the Council not to disregard the good work that is being done in the Pinelands area. There is obviously a tendency on the part of people in Barbados to try to segment people into political slotings. The thing about it is that this issue transcends all political parties, all races and all classes and, therefore, one would hope that because the Pinelands area has demonstrated very effectively that they can pursue successfully all kinds of programmes for persons within the area that the Government of the day should not see Mr. Hamilton Lashley as a negative in this case. In fact, it should be ensuring that they draw on the resources available within the Pinelands community and effectively use the resources across the wider similar areas like Haynesville and Deacons Farm and the like.

We have not a simple situation at all being dealt with here and it does not surprise me the kind of

limited knowledge and limited approaches of the other side as being demonstrated by the goodly Senator because he appears to be seeing this issue in strictly parochial terms. This is a very large issue.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I really must rise on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Senate. This matter cannot be seen as parochial, unless he is speaking of Barbados compared with the United States. Certainly, I think the imputation he was making was that the Government has some narrow bias for or against certain areas and I would ask that those statements be withdrawn.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Indeed, I can withdraw.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Have you withdrawn?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I can withdraw.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I know you can.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is not a problem. I will withdraw the comment about the parochial thing. What I am seeking to do here in fact is to use an existing situation which I have very good knowledge of to show that although it is presently in its embryonic stage and more importantly that it is that we can in fact use that particular example to try to get around some of the difficulties that we may see in other areas of Barbados.

What are we seeing, Sir? We are seeing here an attempt to establish a council which is designed to assist in dealing with the whole question of substance abuse in Barbados. It is my contention that the council though well intended does not appear to have the necessary resources to be able to advise, to authorise or to be able to undertake the kinds of programmes which are going to be necessary to address the problems which we all know about within these particular districts.

12.25 p.m.

I am saying to you that we have to first of all get into the district, understand the kind of difficulties that the individuals we are targeting would have, understand that it may be more effective to get councils from within the respective districts, also understand that even though that is an honourable thing to do, that the resources may not be available within the district on the kind of level that you would wish and therefore find some way to try to complement the existing talents within these areas by constructing effective programmes.

I had that difficulty of seeing that this council, as it is presently constructed, is going to be in a position to be

able to do that. What you are saying is that first of all you need to have a proper structure, you need to have a proper research centre within the council and there is again no evidence that that is being done.

Now, notwithstanding ...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Member is misleading the Senate. He has not read section 9(1) and (2) which says that the Council may employ at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as the Minister may approve in writing, such staff as is necessary for the performance of its functions.

In this Bill, Sir, there is provision for any staff that the Council requires for the performance of its functions. So the Honourable Member is misleading the Senate.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Senator Barker continues to disappoint me, I must admit. The question here is what is necessary, and what I have sought to do so far for the morning is to explain what I think, and I have the right to do so, is necessary and to simply say that you are going to read me Clause 9(1) "such staff as is necessary" without understanding the problem at hand is to suggest a level of ignorance that surprises me on the part of the Senator, but I am seeing an increasing tendency towards that. I only hope that the last session of Senate has not disturbed the Senator to such an extent that he does not intend to see the dark side from the clear side.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think that is irrelevant, Senator.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: So, I do not understand the issue. All I am saying, Sir, is that we need to understand the problem in order to see what is necessary so that we put the right systems in place. I have said, I am not convinced that the Council as it is presently structured is going to be able to deal with the kinds of issues which are going to become very critical in the respective areas. Therefore that is all I am saying. We have to understand the problem even before we set about to put all kinds of legislation in place. This is where the problem is at. The problem is that again, and I repeat in closing, this Council, even though it might have been a good idea, has had a false premiss and that it was constructed merely to get around Government's financial rules. In fact that is precisely what is the problem as you look through the legislation that if you had sat down to think through the issues which are going to be critical in this drugs substance abuse problem which we are trying to address, that even the functions of the Council could have been better constructed so as to reflect an understanding of the issues which we had to confront.

Again, what we are seeing is an attempt to construct another piece of bureaucracy by misunderstanding the issues that are really involved and this is where the problem is at. This is precisely why, I think I can speak for the Independents on the last issue, that they have no difficulty in principle with what is being done but how we have gone about the issue because we are saying the drug issue is not the major problem. What we need to do is to try and find a structure so that we can go around Government's financial rules in order to be able to facilitate the exercise.

I am saying, Sir, that again an idea which could have been an excellent idea is now being destroyed because the premiss upon which the legislation was based was a false premiss. We will see, Sir, in time that the issues which I have just raised in relation to the Deacons Farm Community, the issues in relation to understanding the catchment area and the issues in relation ...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President, the Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate. He is indicating that the main purpose of this Bill is not focussed on the drug menace when in truth and in fact, Sir, the objects and reasons of the Bill clearly indicate the functions of the Bill to advise the Minister on means of eradicating the drug menace in Barbados.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think that Senator Mascoll is giving his opinion. His opinion may not necessarily square with what is in the Bill, but that is his opinion nevertheless. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Thank you, Sir. I would simply end by saying, it is not whether or not the Council as being outlined in the legislation is right, what I am saying is that the functions so described in the legislation have not been structured as a result of a thorough understanding of the issues and I do not think that I am wrong in saying that. I am saying that even the Minister who is responsible for Home Affairs did in fact indicate that part of the reason for constructing the Council was to get around the financial rules because the whole passage was being delayed as a result of not being able to get access from the international organisations, the kind of funding that was promised, in order to carry out the exercise. He spoke to that explicitly. I do not see how anyone here can now decide that I am wrong when it was stated by the Minister responsible for the area that we are so constructed, we had been frustrated in our efforts to get the kind of funding necessary because the entity needs to be an entity separate from Government so that you do not have to come through the Consolidated Fund. He has stated that and I am saying that is precisely the reason why sufficient consideration might not have been given in the

legislation to the whole question of the issues which we are attempting to address.

I must, Sir, of course finish my contribution by saying that that reason and that reason alone may very well explain the difficulties which I have in this piece of legislation. I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I would like to start out by saying that I am going to make contributions to the urgent need for the control, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of the abuse of substances.

What I would like to make very clear, Mr. President, is that like with the Rural Development Bill, I am in favour of rural development and I am in favour of the control of substance abuse. However, I have grave difficulty with the methods that seem necessary to implement the measures. I feel that we should not have to set up statutory corporations to deal with rural development or to deal with the control of substance abuse and I will tell you why, Mr. Minister. In the early days as Health Education Officer in the Ministry of Health, I did quite a lot of the ground work in the area of the control of substance abuse. I would like to make this a document of the House if necessary and it is called "Drugs - Facts You Must Know To Enjoy Better Health", a Ministry of Health publication, prepared by Peggie Rickinson, December 1985, Barbados, West Indies. 12.35 p.m.

I am now referring to page one of this document. I carried out quite a lot of research that this Corporation is intended to carry out on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of school children as was said, but I carried out the research in a broader area on the reasons of drug abuse and I would like to list them for the benefit of this House. The most common reasons people gave for abusing drugs or substances were: To have a good time, to get high, to feel happy, to experiment, to get energy, to feel sexy, to be at ease with others, to relax, to go to sleep, to talk easily in a group, to relieve boredom, to be one of the group, to cope with difficulties, to be different and to stimulate creativity.

Drug abusers simply want these short-term affects and they tend to feel that if substance abuse becomes a problem they can stop it. Therefore, one has to mount massive health education programmes and it is very unfortunate that the Health Education Unit in the Ministry of Health could not be re-established to assist in the control of substance abuse.

However, I would also like to refer to the White Paper on Education Reform which is a document of this House to say that some of those reasons for drug abuse will be dealt with if this White Paper, at least part of it, is implemented. For example, on page 45 of the

curriculum it is planned not only to have the 3 hours but each child leaving primary school should be able to reason and solve problems while thinking critically and creatively, develop skills in conflict resolution and that is one of the more important parts in order to prevent substance abuse, and develop a very high level of self-esteem. So it seems that the Ministry of Education is well on the way in the schools to try to tackle this problem. But I must say that it must be extended to the pre-school area. That is what the Advisory Committee which I will speak about later had recommended.

Mr. President, I would also like for the benefit of this House to refer to research done on the reasons for saying no to the drugs and I refer to this booklet on drugs that was mentioned before, and the most common reasons people gave against the use of drugs or substance were: Health risk, because it is illegal, because of the psychological effects, safety risks, it is a waste of money, it can have a bad effect on school or your career, it can become an emotional crutch, it may upset or alienate friends or the family. Of the long-term effects: It is not necessary, it can cause strange behaviour and it may affect the memory. Now these are some of the things that we try to use in the areas of Community Development to try to instill in the young some of the reasons why they should not abuse substances.

Again, Mr. President, while I am talking about Community Development, I was one of the persons that asked for more dialogue on the Rural Development. I can see, for example, in the dialogue that we can factor in substance abuse with the area of sanitary control into the Rural Development Project. These are the areas that we really need to discuss.

Mr. President, in order to give a better overview of the magnitude of the problem, I would like to refer to another document called "Community Manual - Health For All By Year 2000", a Ministry of Health publication, Barbados, West Indies, December 1985, prepared by Peggie Rickinson and I will make this a document of the House. I would like to bring to the attention that the problem of the control of substance abuse spans several Ministries and on page 20 of this document it sets out some of the areas that deal with this problem and they include the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, because as you know there is a Psychiatric Wing which was recently instituted in that Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital which also includes Day Care for retarded children and adults. It includes non-Governmental organizations such as Alcoholic Anonymous which is a group which provides open meetings, advice and support to stop drinking and advice and encouragement not to take the first drink. It includes Alinon as well which is for children, the Samaritans that provide support and assistance for those in distress, the Barbados Mental Health Association which is charged with

providing education about the abuse of drugs or substance abuse. There is also the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Prevention which provides education group sessions, community awareness and development training sessions, promotion of rehabilitation and treatment facilities and mass media education.

As you can see, there are quite a lot of agencies within the society that are trying to make their mark in the area of the control of substance abuse and these will need to be coordinated.

12.45 p.m.

Formerly an attempt was made by the Health Education Officer in the Ministry of Health to co-ordinate them. The Health Education Officer was also Secretary to the Advisory Committee on the misuse of drugs which was set up and responsible for assistance in the control of the non-medical use of drugs, for dealing with the problems of alcoholism, for developing administrative and other machinery to reduce the availability of such drugs, for advising on facilities for treatment, rehabilitation, care of persons affected and for preparing proposals for the new Misuse of Drugs Bill, which has not come to pass. Recommendations by this Advisory Committee were made and they were put on ice, and I am very concerned that the same thing will happen once again.

I would also like to draw to the attention of this House - and I am reading from the Royal Barbados Police Force Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1992 - because that is the most recent one that I have access to - that on page 30 it states that efforts were made during the year to provide a structure for the Schools Liaison Programme. On the invitation of the Commissioner of Police a Committee of persons met and discussed a programme to be submitted to the Heads of various schools. The target groups were children 6 to 8, 8 to 11, 11 to 14 and 14 to 16. Officers involved in the scheme attended a two-week seminar at the School of Continuing Education to prepare themselves for the programme. While I was Secretary to the Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs, the Deputy Commissioner was a member of this Advisory Committee. It was a very high level committee that made substantial recommendations, which have not been carried out, and it seems as though we are just going around and around in circles and getting nowhere.

I would also like to point to the halfway houses in the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1991-1992, because this is the latest one that has been made available to myself, that there is the Roseville Halfway House and the Everton Halfway House and these are co-ordinated by the Ministry of Health. My problem is, by raising these issues, is it this new Council that is going to take over all of these areas I am mentioning?

I have grave difficulty with the fact that this co-opted body may not be adequately staffed in order to cope with all these far-reaching issues and problems. We must not fool ourselves, substance abuse is a major problem in this society and it is affecting our productivity. I also mean alcohol, which is legal.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: And tobacco, but tobacco affects one's health in the area of sickness and cancer, and it is only at the later stage that that affects productivity, but the alcohol immediately affects productivity. You take it and you go to work and you cannot think straight. It has an immediate impact, whereas the tobacco effects are long-term. That one for the road not only affects productivity but leads to increasing motor vehicle accidents, and I sincerely hope that this Council – although I do not agree with the route you are taking, I agree with what you are doing but not necessarily the method by which you are trying to do what you want to do, but there are many ways of doing things, and I will support this Bill.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I need to make it very clear that I do not agree with the route of setting up a Statutory Corporation to deal with substance abuse . . . Pardon?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson, please. Do not be distracted by asides.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: . . . to advise the Attorney General. I will talk to you about my views, because they are very strong. I am very sorry, Mr. President. I will air my views, since we have started going down that route. I will talk, because I can talk, as you know, if I want to. I will talk my talk.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can talk within the rules.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I will talk within the rules. The Council is being set up to advise the Attorney General. That is what it says. Is the Chief Medical Officer going to advise the Attorney General as well? Is the Police Commissioner going to advise the Attorney General as well? At present the Ministry responsible for the prevention, that is, mainly through education; the treatment, that is, mainly through the Psychiatric Hospital at this point in time; and the rehabilitation of substance abuse, which is mainly through the Psychiatric Hospital, and the halfway houses are all under the Ministry of Health. How is this Council going to relate to all of these bodies that are charged with this responsibility? It does not stay in one Ministry but there

are several Ministries that are involved in the area of substance abuse and I feel that what one could have done – and, Mr. President, I hope I am entitled to give an opinion – my opinion is that one should be able to draw from all of these Ministries in their attempts to control substance abuse and therefore not have to set up a statutory body in order to do this. That is my opinion.
12.55 p.m.

I do not subscribe to the view by some people that in the civil service you cannot get certain things done. If that is so, IF something is wrong with the Civil Service, change it! The Civil Service should be able to respond to today's problems, be it substance abuse or whatsoever. I am very concerned that in order to get things done one has to bypass the civil service which bears the responsibility for all of these areas in the area of control and start setting up other bureaucracies to deal with the problem. That is my concern. You might not agree with me, but that is my concern. I feel I know from experience as Head Education Officer working in the area of substance abuse that there are bottlenecks but what one has to do is to appoint highly qualified people who know what they are doing in order to bypass those bottlenecks.

Mr. President, I realise the difficulties the Resource Centre is having. I, myself, had those difficulties in the Ministry of Health. In fact, at one time they said to me you are doing more work for the Ministry of Agriculture than the Ministry of Health because I was working with the young people in the same area of drug prevention when I brought everybody from about 3 countries in the region in order to train them in the area of drug prevention. What I said was that I was working for Barbados and Barbadians.

When they say that they don't see you at your desk, I say there is nobody in there to educate so why do you want to see me sitting at my desk. Those are the types of persons you need to employ who will be able to carry out the functions needed to move Barbados forward. I am in sympathy with the problems, that everything is virtually at a standstill, but by bypassing the civil service and leaving the civil service there, in the end it is not the answer, because in the end you still have to resort to the same Psychiatric Hospital which is charged with the treatment and the rehabilitation of drug users.

We should learn from the lesson that was attempted in the St. Joseph Hospital that did not work. What they tried to do was to set up a rehab centre at St. Joseph Hospital by creaming off the nurses from the Psychiatric Hospital, the doubly qualified nurses, leaving at least 1 nurse on the other ward for 67 patients. Then to charge persons for the drug rehab. Now people do not have large sums of money to pay for drug rehab – the majority of people in Barbados. It has to be heavily subsidised.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I am not talking about St. Joseph Hospital now. I said that did not work. I am saying that we should not go off on another track similar to that that did not work for the St. Joseph Hospital.

Mr. President, in my contribution to the control of substance abuse I would like to suggest that one needs to start reorienting some of the senior members of the Civil Service if the persons within these agencies, the Psychiatric Hospital etc. are going to be able to function adequately, because even if you set up a statutory corporation you must remember that the drug rehabilitation unit is, on page 33 of the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, Tamarind House:

"the programme established in Tamarind House for substance abuse continues to offer services for both in and out patients. There were 500 interventions of which 364 were in-patients and 136 were out-patients."

What I want to say about this is that there is a programme there but when you take people from their drug environment and bring them into Tamarind House and put them through a programme and then put them back into a drug environment you are wasting time, because the next day they go back to substance abuse.

What one has to do is to create different types of environment through the rural development, which I must say I am in agreement with, to create different types throughout Barbados so that they will not be going back to a drug induced environment. The same thing with the prisons. Unfortunately, there are not enough psychiatric nurses attached to the prison and just one drug counsellor cannot really deal with the problems in the prison. You need to have people in place, on the spot, 24 hours a day, to deal with persons who are incarcerated.

In fact, Mr. President, I do not think that incarceration is the answer for some of these problems. They only learn who are the dealers and where they can get it cheaper and how they can beat the law. I feel that we need to have through the rural development several community based programmes.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: You must believe it because I said it called for more dialogue...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I believe you, Senator.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: ... more community based programmes and have more psychiatric

trained nurses who have additional qualifications in counselling working in the community to assist not only with the prevention but also with the rehabilitation of those persons who are involved in substance abuse.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, you are almost out of time. Please wind up.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak a little on the control of substance abuse. I am sure that there will be other times in this Honourable Chamber that I will have the opportunity to make other contributions. I thank you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 10 minutes after 2 o'clock this afternoon.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I should wish to say that I have been very impressed by the quality of the contributions which have been made by Honourable Senators up to now and I hope my simple contribution would serve to maintain the average that there has been so far.

At the very outset, I would wish to say that it is my intention to support this Bill. We have been careful in my organisation, both in the Barbados Workers' Union and in the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations, to consult with the National Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to discover whether that organisation, which has done such a marvellous job in harnessing the energies of a cross section of this community in the work to combat drug abuse, found any difficulty with the efforts which were being made by the Administration via this Bill; and I was very pleased to note that they were *ad idem* with the efforts of the Government in this regard and that they feel it would help to advance the efforts they have been making up to now. I shall eventually have some comments to make regarding the kind of notice which should be taken of those efforts and what should be done with regard to some of the players in that Committee when we look at the team of 20 which would constitute the Board that will be set up under this Act.

I think it is very important for us to recognise that there is a wealth of statistical information governing the level of fall-out in our community resulting from substance abuse. I am advised that more than 700 drug related cases were brought before the courts in 1994. That is a significant number of cases. When we speak of drug related cases I am sure we are not referring to the matter of alcohol. We are merely referring to other drugs which we associate with marijuana and cocaine and that kind of drug. One of my colleagues *sotto voce* suggested that we use the term illegal narcotics and not legal narcotics.

I am also advised that the information tells us that most arrests of persons fall to individuals between the ages of 18 and 35, and in that regard, I think we would have to take significant note of the contribution of most of our colleagues who have spoken either to the problems of youth or indeed to problems of persons at school.

There is also the consideration that there is a correlation between drug use and alcohol abuse and the HIV/AIDS infection. Therefore, there is a greater probability for spreading of this infection and for adverse implications, not only to the users, but also to the rest of our community.

I believe that those who have spoken before, and some of the others who might want to make contributions, will speak at great length about the younger members of our community, the ones at school and the ones who are pre-schoolers. I would wish to take some time to talk about those who have passed beyond that age and who have reached the world of work and also of those who have gone beyond the world of active work and are retired persons.

We have noticed the implications regarding the unemployed, as particularly has been addressed by Senator Mascoll, and we want to speak to those who are employed.

The first point I would wish to make, Mr. President, is the point that in our view most persons who are abusers of these substances, whether the legal ones or the illegal ones, are treated today by their colleagues at work, by their associates in the family and by their employers at work as though they are malevolent people, sometimes even persons who are criminal in intention. In some cases, they are also treated as sick persons.

I believe this Act wants to speak to that and, to that extent, I am concerned with looking at that. Perhaps I should say "ill", because I notice that persons look at me when I use the word "sick", since it has certain connotations that are not adequate. Persons who take alcohol and many persons who even use drugs may have

started, as Senator Rickinson said, as persons who were experimenting, and, I thought I understood from what she was saying, persons who were looking for new ways; and then she put that in contra-distinction to sex, so I was not sure exactly what she meant; but she was talking about persons who are in the experimental stage of their lives.

I am of the view that even though that maybe so at the beginning there comes a time in their life when those persons become ill and beyond the capacity to control. We have to be prepared and willing to recognise, as a community, that those persons have to be treated as other sick persons; they have to be cared for, they have to be rehabilitated. In that regard, I would wish to make the further point that the mental hospital is not necessarily the best place for them.

The mental hospital is associated with madness and, although there is the suggestion that people at the mental hospital will tell you that they are mad but they are not foolish, we still have to recognise that there is a certain stigma attached in this society to people who go to the Psychiatric Hospital. If once one goes there, even though the person may have had a psychological problem and may, in an effort to remove that psychological problem, have turned to some particular substance as a temporary measure of relief, that person would be stigmatised for life. I think that this community has to recognise this problem.

I would think that within the Bill before us and within the work of the Committee that was set, provisions have to be made for removing persons out of that particular environment. I do not wish to say anything that is critical of the institution. It has done an excellent job and I am merely talking about how the community itself responds to it.

Secondly, I would wish to make the point which is spilling off from the point I made about its being an illness, that the answer to treating persons who are abusers of the substance is not to be found in dismissing those persons from work. I am pleased to recognise that over the last 3 years particularly, many employers in Barbados have joined with the Barbados Workers' Union and the National Committee for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and they have moved to a new plane of dealing with problems of substance abuse.

For 10 years now the Barbados Workers' Union has been doing educational programmes in trying to sensitise employers and workers alike to the need there is for recognising the evils to the society inherent in the abuse of substances. But employers could not as a body have been said to have been brought on stream. Now we are pleased to say that they are working in this regard and a number of them are actively pursuing programmes at their workplaces where their Human Resources Managers or

Manageresses work assiduously with ill individuals and try to organise for the rehabilitation programmes, intending thereby to take them away from the difficulty of the time onto a plane where they could become full cooperating members of the community all over again.

I would hope that in the educational programme, which will be set up when once this Bill is enacted and the Board is in place, that educational aspect of the work will be highlighted to the extent that we would recognise that it is cheaper and it is more productive to rehabilitate those persons and to maintain them within the community than it is for us to ostracise them, set them apart in little communes all by themselves where, as Senator Rickinson said, they fall back into the same habits except that they become worse. It is comparable to what we do, but unfortunately we still do it nonetheless, when persons serve time at Her Majesty's Prisons, sometimes for minor offences, and when the community, because of those offences, decide that although those persons have paid the price they cannot be taken back into their communities or districts. They have then to go on a professional life of crime because the community keeps them outside of the effort to rebuild themselves and their families. We would want then to have it recognised that, in the world of the adult, there is that particular need for us to see the value of building via the programme of family education arrangements and via the room and effort of adults, especially the working adults.

2.15 p.m.

It would be useful for me, Sir, if you would allow for my organisation to offer the Government and to offer this Committee the use of the facilities which the Barbados Workers' Union has as a training facility, the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College. We would want to continue the exercise of working with the Government and with this Committee, working in an effort to sensitise, to train and to rehabilitate. And we are of the view that, if this could be done, then we would all be working together in a very firm arrangement intended to help the people of our country.

Having said so, Sir, I have a few areas of concern which I would wish to draw to the attention of the Leader of the Senate. I would hope that in some of them he might be able to take them and go ahead on one or two of them, and that when the Bill reaches the Committee stage we might be able to have some adjustments in them.

I would wish, first of all, to refer to section 8 of the Bill that is before us and I note from discussions with the Leader of the Senate that in fact this particular legislation merely seeks to bring into formal structure an initiative that already has been taken by the Government and work is already being done in the question of rehabilitation and administration of those abusers via the Government

machinery. Nonetheless I would wish to make the point for whatever it is worth, that the Chief Executive Officer of whom mention is being made here, is going to be, or should be a person who has to have very specialised skills and such a person will have to be canvassed by the Board and every effort must be made to appoint a person in such a manner that that person is one considered by the parties to be most competent in all the circumstances. I had been given to believe that somebody was already in place but now the Minister has spoken to me I understand it was just a temporary arrangement and therefore I do not make the point other than as advice.

I would wish to express some concern regarding the point which is being made in Clause 9(3) where it says:

"Subject to this Act, no provisions shall be made for the payment of any pension, gratuity of other like benefit to any person employed by the Council without the prior approval in writing of the Minister".

I am not sure what is intended by the paragraph but like a Senator on a previous occasion, I wish to say that what is written down is what we have to be governed by and, although I cannot perceive of the Senate, or the Government or, indeed, of anyone wanting to establish an arrangement where Board Members or staff Members would not have provisions made for their pension, or at least for gratuities, yet this is what this says. I would wish, as an officer in a Trade Union, and in fact an officer assigned for the time being for a body of Trade Unions, to say that this would not be something which we would find to be palatable. We would believe that the Government, all Governments in Barbados up to now, I think, are Governments which have recognised the importance, the relevance of having gratuities and pensions set down as provisions for workers, and to have those provisions set down as part of the Civil Establishments for Public Servants, and we would therefore believe that there must be an oversight somewhere in the body of this clause which would need to be addressed, and I would like to believe, Sir, that even though we should not allow this to prevent the exercise of passage of the Bill in the second reading that, when we come to Committee Stage, we could find the appropriate language by which to make the modification in this area.

Then, Sir, if you would permit me, I would wish to turn to the matter of the First Schedule. The First Schedule says, clause 1, that the Council shall consist of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, and not more than 18 other members all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister by instrument in writing.

I understand, Sir, that the Minister has to appoint all members of any Board of which he is the Chief Overseer in writing. I have no difficulty in seeing this the way it is but I have a concern.

There have been a number of institutions which have worked and worked very hard on the preparation for this particular bit of legislation. The Committee for the prevention of alcoholism and drug abuse is one that has been mentioned. Senator Davis has spoken about the Committee against Narcotics and other drugs and particularly made reference to a public figure and civic leader in this community. Ministers are free to choose individuals and we cannot name individuals in reference, I think, to any piece of legislation but I am tending towards the view, that institutions which have demonstrated their commitment over time to eradicating drug abuse should be named as institutions within the Schedule be recognisably part of the figure of 18 or 15 or whatever figure that the Minister would have within the body of the Schedule forming the Council. It is a large body but I think the Minister and this Honourable Chamber is agreed to the figure of 18 because it is clear that we want to embrace as many points of view as possible and there cannot be any other interpretation we would bring to that than this, but I believe that it might be in the better interest of the Government, indeed of the Minister, if there were certain spelt out groups, perhaps the Barbados Youth Council or some other similar arrangement, something that speaks ...

Aside.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Yes, of course I am coming to that but I will put it at the end. I am coming to CTUSAB shortly but since I was passing around there and somebody threw me into the ring, let me say that I would believe that since CTUSAB and the Barbados Workers' Union together have done significant work over time and it would be useful to have this mentioned. I am not going to anticipate what the Prime Minister will say in this regard on the 26th because he has some Resolutions speaking to things of this sort, and he does have a platform for as long as he chooses when he comes to the Sir Hugh Springer Auditorium on the 26th. But I think that there are institutions beyond the Barbados Workers' Union and the Youth Club that would have to be referred to. Those institutions which as part of civic society have been making contributions and should have the honour in seeing themselves identified under this legislation. They may have the honour then of being able to work along with the Government.

2.25 p.m.

Then, Sir, if I may turn to page 10 of the Bill and to Clause 13 still within the First Schedule: I note that the decisions of the Council shall be by a majority of votes and that in the event of an equality of votes the Chairman or Deputy Chairman presiding at the meeting has a second or casting vote. It is my view in the limited travel that I do that the world has been moving away from the situation of giving the Chairman a second bite at the cherry, Sir. Generally, in Boards the feeling is that the Chairman is

able to exercise a certain level of influence anyhow as Chairman of a Board. I would never say, Sir, you as Chairman and Presiding Officer exercise any influence or unfair influence in this Honourable Institution. But the chairperson does manage to exercise a certain amount of influence generally and, on a statutory board, the chairman of necessity has to do that because he or she is the intermediary between the Minister of the day and the functioning of that institution and therefore must exercise some degree of influence in the way that the thing is being run. It would be my view that the chairman should have only the casting vote and should not have a first vote and a casting vote. I think that we have to move with the times and we should go in that direction.

Sir, in the Second Schedule and I am not going to be much longer, under Clause 4 it speaks of a committee being appointed and it says that it may include persons who are not members of the Council but the chairman and at least two-thirds of the members of every committee must be members of the Council. Now each sub-committee can be made up by as many as 7 persons and therefore let us assume that we are talking about 7 persons of whom the Chairman is going to be a member of the Board. The Deputy Chairman should also be a member of the Board. Two-thirds of the other members are to be members of a sub-committee, but if you take the Chairman out and you say two-thirds of the others then you are saying the Chairman and the rest that are left are six. The Chairman and four of the others then must be members of the Board. So a total of 5/7 of the sub-committee must be members of the Board.

I think that in so doing we are limiting the opportunity which there is for the sub-committee to be able to call on expertise outside of itself to do specialized tasks. We need, Mr. President, not to be scared of the line that would be taken in decision making because it is a sub-committee we are talking about. The sub-committee has to make recommendations to the Board and the Board has the final decision to make recommendations to the Minister. It is therefore my view that we should release the sub-committee some more, give more possibility for the sub-committee to be set up by the chairperson in such a way that if we were dealing with a certain body of expertise that did not at that time reside within the Board that we could still get that expertise without doing any violence to the work that the Government may have set itself.

So I am suggesting that it is too restrictive and it could very well be corrected. Of course, on Clause 7 of the same Second Schedule I would need to make the same point that I made in regard to Clause 13, that is the original vote and the casting vote. I am still of the view that we should only have the one vote by the individual.

It is my view, Mr. President, that this Bill will go a long way to helping to streamline work in a very important area and I have only one other point to make and I will not keep you too long. The point that I have to make further is that we are trying to do a lot to rehabilitate persons who are involved in illegal drug usage and in alcohol usage. The occasion of a debate of this sort should be taken by those of us in this kind of forum to speak to what I believe is something that makes us all very ashamed. Very very often we see in the Press or we hear stories of very large amounts of narcotic drugs or we hear about it, and we hear that somebody has been caught. When we examine that somebody who has been caught we often find that it is an unemployed person, who was sent down to island "X" or island "Y" or country "X" or country "Y" and we never seem to find out who paid the air fare, who put him up at the hotel or whatever it is. It strikes me as being very funny that continually this happens in our community and nobody seems to be able to get to the source. Putting them up at Glendairy is only putting up the little fellow. If we do not manage to get beyond the person who is unemployed, we will never be able to address the problem.

Sir, I have in another place expressed concern at some of the social evils I see in one of those countries with which we have established trade relations and, although I have every concern for our building of trade relations, I have every concern in seeing in the Press where right wing members openly declare war on those of us who are concerned with social justice. They shoot them down and nobody knows what to do about it. I did not serve notice on you, Sir, so I do not believe that I can call the name because we are in diplomatic relations with the country. With those persons killing like that without any conscience, it seems that the Attorney General and in some cases the Minister who is responsible for justice have said that they are not able to deal with the issue. But they are our neighbours and our friends and they are the source from which we are getting much of the illegal drugs. They know Barbados so well sometimes that, when airplanes drop the drugs they know how to pick them up.

So it seems to me that this cannot be accidental and that somewhere along the lines, Mr. President, there have to be middle people. Whatever profession or way of life or non-way of life they are coming from, we have got to have our Task Force and our other agencies for justice to deal with them. It is in times like these that we have to ask our people who want to save this country of Barbados to stop looking at the little fellow down the street or the little woman down the street and let us look to the people who are providing the wherewithal for these individuals. There must be some of them that are known, and there must be ways to catch them because, if you talk down the street, you hear everybody being able to tell you the names of some of those who have done very well and who by all indications are in the mid-stream.

It is about time that some of those people in the mid-stream and some at the top are apprehended and brought to justice and put out of harms way where they are contaminating our children and in your case, Sir, yes your children too but in the case of the Leader his grandchildren, and causing problems for the future of our country. We cannot afford that, Mr. President, because our future is our children and our children are harmless innocent victims of the worst kinds of exploitation in this sort that is being practised. I am sure, Mr. President, you have heard the stories of those who practise on them by giving them sweets or some things relating to icecream and having the drugs within that to bring addiction. I am sure that Acting Minister Forde would know this and is trying to come to grips with it, but it is something that we cannot leave for her and her Ministry alone. All peoples of all walks of life in Barbados must understand that we cannot be a sitter on the fence because with the drugs there comes the crime. They tell me that some aspects of the crime today, Sir, are where drug was induced. There may be some occasions when the person who is perpetrating the crime will say to the victim that since you do not have any money or what I am looking for I will punish you for wasting my time. So they may slash you because you did not have money or because you did not have the amount of money they were looking for and you wasted their time. They have guns and the more the police have guns the more they have guns and so we are in a position where there will be problems for us, if we believe that we can sit on the fence and that because we are nicely surrounded by our ironmongery within our prison, a prison that is our home, that that protects us. We are not protected because we have to work, our families have to go to school and we have to work hard to improve the situation for the betterment of our country.

2.35 p.m.

I believe, Sir, that you have been very indulgent with me and I saw your signal. I thank you very much for your indulgence, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I too strongly feel the points Senator Trotman closed with. Something all of us in this Chamber and all of us, responsible adults, absolutely must get out there and let us eradicate those who are creating the problems.

The problem of substance abuse in this country has reached far and wide, it has far reaching tentacles, and as usual the first thing that comes to mind would be the drugs. This has been addressed quite substantially in here today so far. The drugs that come first to mind would be the marijuana and the cocaine. I know when I was growing up marijuana was just coming in, and there was no way that I was going to touch that and I cannot imagine why anybody who has seen the effects of the marijuana, cocaine and the other types of drugs would even want to touch such a substance, and this is why I feel this

Commission is particularly well placed to sort of house these things and let us go out there and battle it with all that we have within us, bring out the battering rams. All of us in here are making excellent points and suggestions as to how the Commission could work. We need to continue doing this, not only in this Chamber but outside as well. As I said, in agreement with Senator Trotman, we have to come off the fence. Let us go out there and battle, because it is not good enough that the young people, the ones who actually come into contact and do the selling, are the only ones who are receiving the punishment.

I have come into contact myself with an individual. I could not believe it when I heard that she is now in Glendairy Prison because she was a drug mule. This is a female who looks good, educated, had a good job, but I thought to myself I wonder if her priorities were not misplaced, and so said so done. It was heroin. I was distressed, but at the same time I believe if you play with fire you will get burnt. She had every opportunity and should have known better. But it tells us that somewhere in the system we are falling down – and I have to say "we" because we are no longer the school children, we are the policy makers of this country, and the policy makers before us perhaps may have been somewhat short-sighted – but we should look at the avenues that Senator Davis and Senator Symmonds mentioned. When we look at our educational programmes we have to look at areas where we can create strong feelings, high self-esteem within the young people of our society, because if your self-esteem is low, and this is something I keep touching on all the time, you will reach out for whatever crutch you can find to make you feel like if you are in place and in power.

More recently information came to me that very, very young children out there now, the nights and the days in this very Barbados and in Bridgetown, are not doing an illegal deed by this thing they are doing, but they are aiding and abetting the illegal substance abuse. These are young children who sell squares of tin foil for 25 cents. Selling tin foil is not illegal, but they are selling the 25 cents squares to those who use the stuff to do whatever they do with it, because I do not know what they do with it and I really do not want to know, but it is drawing our very young people into this thing.

The effect that these drugs have on families is horrific. I had the privilege, I would have to say, of visiting Glendairy Prison not too long ago with a group of students from one of the newer secondary schools, and this was with an organisation which deals primarily with youth in societies. I am a member of that organisation and we seek wherever possible to do programmes which can again build the self-esteem, expose the children to the harsh realities out there. On this occasion we went in and we were addressed by a young man who I recognised instantly. I recognised him because he happened to be an individual

who I believe broke into my work place and conducted the crime of larceny, *et cetera*, and I could not believe it. He recognised me right away. He was in there for a drug related crime. Unfortunately for him, he with his cutlass made up in his mind that he was going to rob the next person that passed, who just happened to be a plain clothed policeman. In his talk he urged the young people not to touch the drugs, because there are only two things that will happen if you become involved in the use of drugs. You will end up in prison or you will end up dead. He related some horror stories as to how he came to be where he is.

He also went on to say, and this is a point that Senator Rickinson made, he too underwent the rehabilitation programme, spent the six weeks, went back to his village, got off the bus and before he could stand firmly on the road his pusher man was right there. Before he knew what was happening he was sucked into that nasty web once again, but he has urged them not to get involved – and this is what we must continue to do as well – we see how it breaks down the whole family life. Again, I believe in experiences, I do not believe that any of us should get up and talk about things perhaps that we do not have hands-on knowledge of, but we have seen the experience of others who have that hands-on knowledge.

More recently I went on a tour of Bridgetown by night, primarily to survey the homeless people – because I do not believe in just going out and just jotting down numbers – I took the opportunity to talk to the young men, because the majority of those on the streets are young men between the ages of 18 and 35 – this, as we keep hearing is the problem age – but here are some older people as well, and a lot of them are in this position because of their interaction with this illegal substance. Most of them are trying to repent, but they are so down and out and have nowhere else to turn. I do not want to spend too much time on that, but suffice it to say that it is because of the direct contact with these illegal substances, particularly the cocaine, that they have come to this sad end. Also, the *paros* culture. We even have a new vocabulary because of these drugs. Those of us in here who do not know what *paros* are, they are individuals who, because of the need to sustain their drug use, will do anything and just about everything for a five cents, a ten cents, a dollar – no pun intended – and just lose themselves completely.

My recommendation to this Commission would be to listen to the youth, hear their ideas as to how to reach them, because we have to start from the cradle and it continues to the grave. This battle is not one that will be won overnight and it is one that we cannot ever stop fighting against. Some feel it is too broad based, we cannot ever lick it. I disagree. If we just all sit back and say it is too late, then we will all be sucked in, so I say we must be vigilant, we have to be vigilantes and go out there and continue to battle against it. As I said, we need to

listen to our young people. As recently as last Wednesday when we left this Honourable Chamber I met with the same group of optimists who work with the young people in societies, and our guest speakers were two young people, one who had a very strong Church background and because of that he was able to explain to us why he never got into the drug culture, but how by his remaining within his community he is able to rally some of those bad boys – if I could borrow the expression – around him and bit by bit he is winning them over one by one. One of the most interesting things they said is that we have to use music primarily to deliver the message.

2.45 p.m.

I know this is successful because in the Optimists we use music. We use a dub video and we take it into the communities to battle the question of AIDS in societies. The young people are suggesting to use music in the form that they can understand. I myself am really not too partial to the heavy dub and I cannot understand it but the young people understand it and if that is the route we must take to get the message across I say so be it.

One of the other young persons also suggested that we use placards. Right away when we think of placards we think violence and picketing. I don't know how legal it would be, but again this is what the young people are calling for. These are the ways that they feel that they would be able to receive the message. They simply cry down "Just say No to illegal drugs". It is not reaching them. They are strongly recommending that we use language that will appeal to them.

The Council, I believe, will have direct responsibility as set out in the Schedule because there are many sections of the Schedule to really focus in and do the job at hand. But, as I said, substance abuse has far reaching tentacles and we talked long about illegal substances but I really could not sit down in here unless I touch on the legal substances as well. In the old days – I don't think any of us in here were around in the old days or what some older folk would call the "good old days" – alcohol was the drug of the day. We in Barbados have lived fairly complacently with the problem of alcohol and alcoholism in Barbados. I think we all, perhaps the majority of us, would have a social drink but you have to know when to stop. Some cannot even have that one drink because it leads on to another and to disease.

We cannot only look at the illegal things. We have to look at the legal things as well, as they have, as Senator Rickinson said, long-term effects. We all want to reach the long-term and more and more young people now – again this comes from the young people I met with the other evening – specifically go out now to drink and get drunk. That is the evening's entertainment. Gone are the days when you would go out and feel to have a little rum and

coke and that is it, one drink or a beer. Now they go out specifically to drink rum and cokes, beer and wine then that leads on to a little marijuana, then that leads on to the vehicle because it seems a lot of young people these days have access to vehicles one way or another.

I think our generation is in part to blame because the young ones are coming behind us and we are the ones nurturing. When I say "we" it will transcend many ages, those of us who have young children now, those of us who are this age and whose parents were perhaps a bit too lax, if I could use that word, in creating and giving the children everything that they did not have the opportunity to get for themselves. This I think is wrong. I don't believe in hand-outs. I believe that we have to instil in our children the need for value of things, not just give them money and let them do as they please. I believe that most of us in this very room never had a cent in pocket money. You knew that if the fair was coming or something was happening you had to find a project, earn the few cents and get on to the fair. Nowadays, a child asks, parent delivers: brand name clothing etc.

I am not castigating young people and I am not blaming them because they did not do this alone. Delinquent parents. I think these are the folks we really have to take to task. The parents who because they have such a busy social schedule will put a little something in the baby's bottle to get them to sleep should be punished. I am appalled. Or the parent who sends the child to the shop to buy the bottle of rum or whisky etc. I think they are indeed breaking the law because I believe that the law says 18 years is the age where you would have permission to consume alcohol. I tried to find it in the laws but I really could not find it. I don't know if it is there. To sell alcohol to minors needs to be looked at.

This whole Commission has, as I said, far-reaching tentacles. We are dealing with the issues as directly as we can but also have to look at other ancillary parts of the programme which because of them we are facing a situation today as far as substance abuse goes.

On the question of alcohol let's not feel it is okay because it is not illegal. Let's be vigilant, let's take a look at our laws. Maybe we need to do something about changing the age so that children cannot purchase alcohol for mummy and daddy or for anybody else far less for themselves. Breathalizers are something I feel very strong about as well because if you are drinking at your social thing when you get into the car it is going to be there. It is time too that we begin to take a look at that. Our neighbours in Jamaica have recently introduced this into their laws. If you do the crime, you have to spend the time. That is how I feel.

Let's make sure that we prevent the youth – the youth are indeed our future – from getting absorbed in these terrible things. Let me touch on cigarettes. That too is legal. So many companies spend large sums of money advertising cigarettes and alcohol in order to boost their businesses. Well, to each his own, so to speak but at the same time we have to be aware of the fact that a lot of individuals who begin with tobacco smoking will expand and move on into illegal substances. It usually is marijuana and from there the story goes on and on. This is a problem that we have to deal with.

We cannot just be satisfied to say that it is legal so it is "AOK" because again too these things cost money. Where are the young people getting it from? A lot of them are not working, they are not productive, they are not able to work half the time because they are either under the influence of alcohol or some form of illegal substance – bonavist, glue, you name it. The folks are trying... When you interact with young people you know they talk to you straight. When you talk to young people on a one-to-one you can understand where they are coming from and try to deliver the message.

This Commission I think is very well placed and I think it is worthy of all of us in here voting strongly for it because without it we keep saying that maybe we didn't need another commission but we need something and if this can be our stepping stone to housing everything... This debate alone is going to bring a lot of attention to the whole question of substance abuse. If that can be our stepping stone I say, so be it. Let us step off and we march on from there.

It also gives us the opportunity to fulfil a manifesto pledge. We would be battling to eradicate and get rid, however we can, of these illegal substances. I have always believed prevention is better than cure and so the educational aspect is a must. We have to talk to our young people, to our senior citizens because they too are involved. We all have to take some part of the blame so let us not just say put the commission in place. I know this will not happen because I know much debate has gone on in here today and there are many persons out there who are interested and who care and who are not on the fence to continue in this battle.

This Commission is going to be pro-active. We are not going to sit back. I say "we" as if I am on the Commission. I am not but I feel so strongly that we all are a part of this Commission as true Barbadians, sons and daughters of the soil. So I want to say let us not give up the fight. Let us work with the Commission to make sure that this culture, the substance abuse culture, whether it is legal substances or illegal can be controlled eradicating the ones which are really killing all of us and work together towards a better Barbados. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I join this debate after having listened to other Honourable Senators and reflected on the point that while the terminology might be new, while nowadays you might be talking about substance abuse rather than drug abuse or narcotics abuse, in truth and in fact, we are dealing with an age old problem, because man has always devised ways and means of concocting, formulating, what in sociology is known as mood altering drugs.

The last Senator who spoke made a reference to glue. Man has always found ingenious ways whether it be roots of trees, whether it be corn, whether it be wheat or berries, man has found a necessity, just as in some contradistinction, he has always sought to find out his origins, where he came from, where he is going. Hence the origins of religion. Man has also had in some way to seek ways and means of altering his moods. When that has happened, sometimes it goes beyond bounds of decent human behaviour and abuse arises.

That is why I had hoped that this debate would have taken the high road and stayed on the high road. Several Senators set out on the high road and maintained it on the high road and there are some who just went on the high road as a bypass and were soon down on the curbs and byroads and the grass tracks. Sir, the last Senator also said that we in this statutory body are seeking to establish – and this is part of our way of fulfilling a manifesto pledge – and to carry out an all-out battle against drugs.
2.55 p.m.

Because I think that if we indulge in a little political history we have not only a moral obligation in terms of fulfilling our Manifesto pledge, but we also have to make sure that we do not allow ourselves to be sidetracked by other issues and forget that by 1986 we had been already tarred by some political brushes as having been the kingpins, the very same kingpins and big men that people are decrying that nobody seems to be able to reach. However, rational reflection will show you that very seldom anywhere in the world, where drugs are concerned, do you ever really get to the big men. Think about it.

What happened in Columbia was an aberration and still they have been able to replace their big men by other men who are bigger and worse than those men caught. So it is an ongoing problem that never ceases and I do not think that we should ever give up. Why I do not think we should give up on either the battle against drugs or the treatment of people who have suffered through the abuse of drugs, like in the case of the Arab countries where there is a well-established policy that if after three months of attempted rehabilitation you are not on the mend; they take you out in the desert and let you go to survive on your own. That is the end of their drug treatment so they have no major drug problem. They have no major

population of drug abusers. Sir, we have always been a caring and humane society and this has always been a caring and humane Government, so therefore we cannot adopt such harsh methods.

I am also alluding to the fact, Sir, because of some of the political turmoil and some of the political issues that surround this issue. I hope that after this debate we will be able to go on without making any reference to the past, no reference unjustifiably, to the cocaine factory on the West Coast, no mention even to dope in the diplomatic bag, none of that. I hope then that we can treat this almost as if it were a religion, where you do not really criticise, you deal with the principles of religion.

Sir, when one steps back from this piece of legislation and looks at it rationally and dispassionately, one sees that it is really seeking to tackle an area which I am sure Senator Mascoll will appreciate – supply and demand. While the Police and the other forces are busy battling the supply, trying to catch the kingpins, this will be an agency which is seeking to curb demand and if possible eradicate demand for illegal substances, for substance abuse is at the core and centre of this Bill.

I know that some Honourable Senators have certain disquiet about the need to create another agency, another set of bureaucracy because they were fearful of maybe increased levels of expenditure and what not. But, Sir, people also felt that one was seeking to maybe invade other people's territory. But when you look at the layout of the Bill, Sir, one of its explicitly stated objectives is to seek to coordinate and facilitate existing agencies who are involved in the battle, to coordinate or facilitate groups and organisations in the effort to eradicate or control substance abuse. So therefore it is a recognition that other people are already doing it, but that there is need for a mechanism that will coordinate these things, just in the same way as the existence of the Ministry of Health does not preclude the existence of the Sanitation Service Authority, because that is a specialist role. Neither does the existence of the Ministry of Agriculture preclude the existence of the BMC because that was perceived as having a specialist role, although under the last Government it was abused and misused. Rather than substance abuse we should be talking about "BMC abuse" if you want to take it that far, Sir.

Sir, I am saying that there are legitimate roles for statutory corporations. Statutory Corporations came into being because there was a realisation that the general bureaucracy of the State, whether it be central or local, could not in itself always respond as quickly as possible to the demands of situations and therefore statutory corporations, which are not a Barbadian invention, but I think arose in Britain, were seen as an answer. While the Statutory Corporation would incorporate some of the established principles and methods of the age old

bureaucracy, it would at the same time have its own means to be sensible and devise means of responding more quickly to demands of the various needs of the society. That is why we are pursuing this route, Sir.

We are pursuing this route because it was found, contrary to some of the negative interpretations that have been attempted to be attached to this Bill, that statutory board was not set up to get around the law. It was found that there was a problem of responding to the needs of the society. For example, in Deacons Farm, this is something dear and close to Senator Mascoll's heart, I know he claims a Deacons Farm address but from the time I knew him as a little boy he also lived in Deacons Road and Deacons Court and Deacons Housing. Now for whatever reasons he has now shifted his address but I understand the need to attach some lineage with the great Lawson. Anyhow, Sir, it was found that in setting up the facility in Deacons Court where the work of refurbishing the Deacons Composite School it was found that because the work was being done by young men in the community because of Government's narrow and straight and tight financial rules it was found to be very difficult to pay these young men and women whom I am sure Senator Mascoll will appreciate should be paid as quickly as possible and as much as possible. It was found that that was frustrating both the young people and the workmen and also frustrating the achievement of the objectives of the previous body. Therefore it was found also that one of the reasons that led to the establishment of this statutory body was that it was found that because the existing council was not a legal entity, it could not attract funds, it did not have its own personality, legal or judicial, and therefore that also inhibited some of its capacity to work. So there are some very lofty and grand reasons why this route was sought and pursued.

It has the blessings from all the information that has been put at my disposal of the office of the Accountant General, the Auditor General and the Attorney General so therefore there is no need for us to see this as a pork barrel corporation or anything of that sort. It is an institution being set up for the very best reasons by the very best means, to be respected in law, no trying to circumvent the law or bypass the law or as the Democratic Labour Party would be most aware, breaking the law. And we are not even going to try to do it retroactively. We are doing it clean, straight and simple.

Sir, Senator Mascoll made a great deal of song and dance about the staffing of the proposed body being inadequate. He had grave doubts about it being adequate, *et cetera*, without giving us any basis as to how he arrived at those conclusions. I do not think that a man of his training and his professional expertise should just

come and second guess or guess or go by hunches or go by gut feeling. I would ask him what is the basis of his survey.

3.05 p.m.

So therefore he should have no problem in dealing with the statistics. I have to ask therefore where in July, 1991 the Minister of Justice and Public Safety sought and obtained Cabinet's approval to establish the National Council on Drug Abuse? That did not depend on a survey. But people knew sometimes through the existing work or the previous work of NGOs and other well meaning bodies that there was a problem and that they set out to deal with that problem, and this is another such Act, Sir. I am talking about staffing.

Senator Mascoll talked about perceiving some young man driving a brand new van as though he begrudged Bajans for driving a brand new car. That is why the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister in the last Budget Speech brought down the prices of cars so we all can drive brand new cars. So if a man has to drive in the pursuit of his daily duties, there is no problem with that. Thank God, Mr. President, we have not gone the route and I know that we will not go the route of entrusting that young man in a position of a five-day contract that allows for a chauffeur driven car 24 hours a day, morning, noon and night. We will never go that far.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Anyhow, that is the kind of thing we are seeking to impose on the Government.

I would like to turn quickly to some of the successes of this programme. I already alluded to what is going on in the Deacons Community. I understand that so far the work which is being done out of the heart of the community is almost 50 per cent finished. It is just the wood work and the metal work need to be finished along with the plumbing and electrical work. I understand, Sir, because of the method adopted it will cost \$138 000 as against \$400 000 if they had gone the conventional route of tender and contract and that is a tremendous saving that will be realized in that community and by the agencies.

It also means that it is achieving some of the objectives of the programme in Deacons where it is seeking to establish positive alternatives for drug abuse. It is not a question of preaching down to people that you should not use drugs and just say no that it is bad for you. You are offering people viable alternatives. You are also offering people skills in computers. You are showing people what they can do with their brains and with their God given talents and they will also be taught things like wood work, metal work, needle craft, home economics, *et cetera*.

Therefore, it is a programme which is targeted and directed not only the Deacons area as Senator Mascoll probably would hope but the wider St. Michael community, because we are all in this together and we all pay taxes and we need to support the state, Sir.

Another area of activity where a different programme is in place, Sir, is in the Pinelands where there is a business resource centre under which sums of money are going to be given to young men and women to help set up their businesses. It is going to be set up as a revolving fund so that it will replenish itself and that is going to be a way of ensuring that there is greater leeway and greater opportunity for economic democracy and economic emancipation using, Sir, the established community groups in the Pine already. So there is no fear that we are not going to destroy. We do not believe, Sir, in the well known phrase "After we build, we must try to destroy". We do not have to destroy in the Pinelands the existing community groups to build on them. We recognize them for what they are and we will incorporate them into other capacities.

Another area is Haynesville which is also the site of an alternative activities programme where carpentry, masonry are to be taught. They already have a unit so there is no need to build a unit for them as we did in Deacons Farm and they are also going to be exposed wizardries of computers, *et cetera*. Then there is Gall Hill where the focus will be on sporting activities against drugs. In other words, you are going into the community. There was some talk that this statutory board should get to know what is happening in the community before they proceed to work. Already it is clear that they know what is happening in Gall Hill, because Gall Hill is well known for its football and they are using the footballers as ambassadors or role models where they are going to be using their skills and their healthy living as a means of inspiring other young people in the district through the medium of football. They will be using sports as a medium for communication with the people in Christ Church who are very keen on football and they are very successful to carry out the battle on drugs.

Another area of activity, Sir, is the Clement Payne Labour Union or Centre on Reed Street. That too, Sir, has been carrying on programmes of education to the disadvantaged in the City of Bridgetown for sometime. That also is going to be incorporated into the programme of this statutory board so that again you are building on an established programme to seek to reach the people in that area.

Finally, Sir, but by no means least, there is also Eden Lodge where there is an integrated demand production programme. Apparently, Sir, from what I am told there was a plan to go to Jamaica and observe a similar

programme there but that plan has gone by the way and now they are revising their plans in order to devise the best means possible to make the fullest use of the talents of young people and to bring to fruition what is ultimately an exceeding prize-worthy programme from which all of Barbados can benefit. Because we are seeking to incorporate and involve people. We believe, Sir, in spreading the big ten and wherever possible we are seeking to involve and embrace as many people in the fight. I have never yet had the impression that the setting up of this statutory corporation will mean the end and the death nail of others, not at all. What it means is that while we recognize what other people are doing is beneficial we think that it needs to be taken a step further by using the resources that are being made available to us, resources which would not have been made available to organizations existing in the community, NGOs, but whose availability would only exist because it can only be used through the instrumentality of a Government or legal entity in the form of a statutory corporation.

Therefore, Sir, I have no hesitation in giving my fullest support to this measure and call on others to do the same. I thank you.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, first of all let me say that I am impressed also by the contributions that have been made here today by the Honourable Senators in this Chamber. But I must first of all commend the Government for moving really as swiftly and as expeditiously as they have to bring this Bill to the Senate and to Parliament. It is obvious, Mr. President, that this goes way beyond just a provincial problem and a parochial problem, but this goes beyond mere partisan politics that the scourge of drugs takes on a national purview. What is strange here is that there has never been any national policy with regards to how we deal with substance abuse in Barbados and the Government therefore must be commended for the speed because even before the United Nations desire for National Councils on Drug Abuse or Substance Abuse we the Barbados Labour Party had already put this into the manifesto in terms of moving towards establishing a council. But what is interesting is that before we can even go into recognizing the work of the Government, it would be remiss of us not to recognize the work of the many non-Governmental agencies which have been working so hard and really doing yeoman work in this country to deal with the scourge of substance abuse.

Mr. President, the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association has consulted with many of these agencies in putting a programme in place to deal with substance abuse in terms of creating a programme for hotel workers in Barbados which looks at dealing with the scourge of drug abuse and actually educating them on how to deal with drug abuse and substance abuse in the work place.
3.15 p.m.

But, Sir, if we move to the Bill, I believe the Bill clearly sets out the parameters under which this Council will operate and I do not agree with those who have stated that this Bill, like the Rural Development Commission Bill, is ill-conceived. I think that the functions as set out clearly within the Bill establish the parameters for its operation and if we look at page 1 it is stated there: "An Act to provide for the establishment of a National Council on Substance Abuse, which would *inter alia* advise the Minister on measures . . . " and those who are familiar with their Latin will recognise that among others this agency will advise the Minister, but it is not alone. Therefore, I am disappointed with the many experts who looked at this and have not been able to see that this Council will advise the Minister, among other agencies and other Ministries of the Government.

The functions of the Council are clear. To advise the Minister on measures for the eradication or the control of substance abuse, and also to advise the Minister on measures to prevent the proliferation of illegal narcotic drugs. It does not say that it is cast in stone, it does not say that there are not other agencies that are going to assist, and it does not say that it will not be complete, because as has been well pointed out, the Council may appoint Committees for the purposes of carrying out the functions of the Council and can co-opt any other bodies as it sees fit to carry out its work. Therefore, Sir, I think it clearly sets out that there maybe other people who maybe involved in the exercise. I am disappointed in these experts who clearly do not recognise that the past is only a guide to the future and therefore things like a Health Education Unit are all well possible within the advice that would come from the Council. Whether we need to extend the educational programme to pre-school or to any other place is also well served within the purview of the Bill as it has been set out.

We tend to waste a lot of time on the things that are not practical. I think we tend to bog ourselves down with the functioning, for example, of the Civil Service, when we know that within the Civil Service, under all administrations and even in more industrialised countries, there has always been a problem with the way in which the Civil Service functions. What this Government has tended to do is to look for ways and means on which we can move Barbados forward, working within what we have in terms of the Civil Service. I think that the establishing, while we reform the Civil Service, which is way up on our agenda, we still need to look for ways and means to deal with the problems that affect Barbados as a country, that affect our youth, and I think the Government should be commended for the innovative ways in which it has sought to deal with the problem of drug abuse and the establishment of this Council.

The realities of the problem are that we are well aware of the four million people worldwide that are affected by this problem, but it is even more interesting to note that not only social drugs should be dealt with by this Council. There is obviously the problem of tobacco and tobacco smoking. I cringe at the fact that even in our society today we can see people smoking in all public areas and there has not even been the thought of designating smoking areas for people in this country. That is something that must be dealt with very, very soon. There is also the problem of these performance enhancing drugs with regard to sports and the availability of performance enhancing drugs in Barbados. We have had many problems with our own athletes in all areas being banned for the use of performance enhancing drugs, but they are well available to anyone over the counter in Barbados. That is a fact and it is something that we need to deal with urgently.

Senator Odle mentioned alcohol. The problem of youth being able to purchase alcohol at every counter and every outlet is something that we also need to deal with. Whether or not it is illegal we need to deal with it.

We are well aware of the direct health implications that come out of substance abuse. We are also well aware of the social fall out and the economic impact it has upon our country, but within the tourism sector, Sir, I would think we would be very interested in knowing how it will work. Strangely enough, in 1992 as quoted, the year in which our tourist arrivals went down substantially, drugs also went down, which is strange to think. When we had less visitor arrivals in Barbados in 1992 to the tune of over 10 000 people in Barbados, it is strange also that the Police Department could also report that there were less cases brought against people for drugs, there were also less persons charged for the possession of drugs, when there were 10 000 less people – as a matter of fact, Sir, over 100 cases – 642 in 1991 and only 500 in 1992. When the numbers went back up to 11 000 visitors in 1993, it is interesting to note that the crimes also went up, cases brought over 100, from 500 to 601. It should send a very, very clear message as to who is involved and who maybe involved in this drug trade.

It also leads me to conclude, and something that we need to be very practical about, that we are not getting obviously the big fish in this pond, and the big fish in this pond obviously are the ones we need to deal with. I believe we are never going to get to the people who are really bringing the drugs or the ones who actually participate in importing illegal drugs into Barbados, all we seem to be able to get at are the poor youth who actually deal with the trafficking.

Given the global economic patterns and given the survival that we need, because the only resource we have is our youth, I have always thought that herein lies the

dilemma and the solution. I have always thought that saying no to drugs and saying yes to what has always been a strange slogan. I believe just to say no to drugs without an alternative is always the problem. Hence, I am not dealing with the solution as it relates to rehabilitation and all the other things, but there must be an alternative to the use of drugs. The solutions that are being proposed, on education, I am appalled to see that CBC television can run for a whole night without one promo on substance or drug abuse. A radio can be on all day, or we can read every page of a newspaper, when these people shirk their own social responsibility in terms of creating the kind of programmes. We have a Broadcasting Authority in Barbados and a Film Censorship Board which censors CBC and the cinemas, but at the same time people can be allowed to erect satellite dishes willy-nilly in this country; take down whatever they please and then sell it, rent it or anything to the youth of this country. That is a fact, whatever the law is. One cringes at the fact that anyone can establish one without any reference and can take down anything, films which have explicit drug abuse, which show the use of drugs, and they can then be rented to our children. We can stop it at CBC, we can stop it in the movie theatres, but we still seem to be unable to stop it in people's homes who go directly to these video shops.

I am all for improving, continuously looking at the legislation that governs the imposition of penalties with regard to drugs. I am also very much aware that we need to improve upon the detection capabilities for both traffickers and users and we need to share intelligence. One of the areas I think has been lacking for a very long time is the area of research that tells us why people are using drugs, where it comes about. I know that Senator Rickinson has already spoken widely upon the use of drugs, but we need to continue the research. I believe that one of the things that has made most of us here very proud of the fact that we have never been involved in such areas is because we have had alternatives. I am very concerned about the alternatives which are being offered to the Barbadian populace, especially our youth.

3.25 p.m.

Sports is one area in which I am very disappointed in the performance. I can say very clearly that there will be a number of parliamentary questions with regard to how sports is functioning in Barbados and I hope we intend to do this very soon. Sports, which sets up the playing field for self-discipline and what people can do as an alternative, has not, I think, been pursued as much as it should be. We must not fool ourselves. We are never going to get over and totally eradicate drugs as long as there is greed in other countries and as long as other countries depend upon the drug trade for their own personal and social welfare.

All of us know *Radix malorum est cupiditas*. The root of all evil is greed. My old Latin teacher would

have been proud of that phrase that I have remembered. I believe, Sir, that it is very important that greed over all in all of these countries is what is causing... I am not at liberty here to call the names of those countries but we need also to provide alternatives.

I believe that sports is a very tangible alternative to the use of drugs. There are no idealistic solutions. I believe we need to get real and look at the practical issues. We need to offer the alternative that will keep our youth away from the scourge of drugs.

I think that this Bill is well founded. I hope, Sir, that the Council does not turn into a political council. If the make-up of the Council is totally based upon solving the problem, upon providing solutions and alternatives to the problem, I believe it will be very well founded and that it will operate expeditiously and will certainly do its job.

I want once again to commend the Government and to talk about a government which obviously looks after its people, a government of the people and for the people. Thank you very much.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I would like to make my small contribution on this Bill this afternoon. I listened to all my fellow Senators and I would not want to repeat too much of what has been said before, but I think that I ought to begin by encouraging all of the members of this Senate to become active in the work of our communities. It is all right to be legislators and be able to come here and speak on bills. I think that at the end of the day we all must put our hands in and make an active contribution to what is a very big problem in Barbados.

As has already been said, substance abuse is a scourge on this society. It deprives this country of a very significant part of its human resource and it is very important that we manage to deal with it effectively. One of the things we need to question is what is it that contributes to substance abuse, what is it that causes people to want to engage in this activity despite the knowledge that it is harmful to the body and very harmful to the mind.

In my work with young people, this is one of the questions I ask. I don't know if they are on drugs or not, but I try to lead them into discussions that they can talk about themselves, their experiences, their fears, their hopes, their aspirations; and one thing that keeps coming out is what they say in society is tempting to them. I think I will start at the point where Senator Lynch probably left off.

We really need to look at our television in Barbados. We really need to scrutinise carefully what is shown on CBC. I sat on the Film Censorship Board for 8 years and the Film Censorship Board does not have any authority at

all over what happens at CBC. That falls under the broadcasting authority. From time to time, all of us on the Film Censorship Board convened meetings with members of the CBC Board. We tried to pass on to them a feedback which we got from seminars from PTAs, the heads of organisations, community groups. People keep saying, especially the young people, that they saw this on television; they want to be like so and so.

Part of the negative influence in our society has been formed and a lot of what our young people do is mimicking what they see on the television screen. I don't think that we should ignore this. It is a very significant contributor to the negative values out there in our society. I watched a picture on television the other night and I saw a father was using his son to get drugs for him to sell to maintain a certain lifestyle. The young man who had fallen out with the rest of his family and had all of these problems with his family wanted to make his father proud. He wanted his father to love him and in order to do so he was carrying out his father's bidding, that of going and stealing. He was actually stealing drugs from other big drug dealers to pass on to his father. This is the kind of thing we are exposing our people to and we need to deal with it.

Even the wide screens, the movie houses. The categories which we use in Barbados which we tried to Barbadianise because we were using broader categories. We tried to bring them to suit our own standards and values but I don't think we have really succeeded in that area because there is still a lot that we allow to pass on the movie screens in Barbados that, to me as a parent, I do not think is good for our young people.

I would like to appeal to our Government, the people in control, to let us see how much we can do in that area as much as possible to keep out these negative influences. We cannot be too naive about it. Our people travel quite a lot. Barbadians seem to travel more than most other Caribbean people. For some reasons we seem to have the resources. I don't know from where we get them, but I know we cannot keep our people away from these things, but I think we should keep these things away from the people. I believe in some form of censorship at all levels wherever possible.

There is a problem with self-esteem with our young people. I don't think we can fool ourselves about this. I think a lot of it has to do with the new parents we have in our societies. So many of us, it would appear, have come from very humble surroundings and we are ashamed to let our children know from whence we came or we are ashamed to let them know that the experiences which we encountered helped to strengthen us and make us the people we are today. Our children just believe that everything has fallen out of the sky. We have not

passed on any of what our life was like to our children. That is in part responsible for some of the problems.

Within the last 6 weeks, I worked with some young people in a seminar and we tried to focus on positive self-esteem. When we asked those young people what was their biggest problem, many of them thought they would like to be richer. They don't have enough of what they would like to have. They see people wearing these things, living in these homes, and they feel that in some way they are disadvantaged and the society has not been giving them the best break. That was bothering me quite a bit because I thought that within your own home you are taught by your parents to recognise your own condition, you know why you are in this condition but you are encouraged to work hard to try to see how you can better your situation.

Unfortunately, it would appear that we are not teaching our children that anymore, so there is this lust. They want so much to be what everybody else is and they are not aware of how people get to these points. All of these things really cause our young people to resort to the abuse of harmful drugs. This is something we have to tackle.

I know we don't like to deal with certain things in Barbados because we mash corns, but in our new middle class we have problems and one of the problems is a lack of values. We give our children everything that they ask for and do not make them believe that these things come by hard work and sacrifice. We need to tackle our problems in the new middle class. I am really very concerned about that.

Why am I so worried about our young people in this 18-35 age group? I believe that these are our greatest resource. In this age group this is the most productive time in the lives of any individual. When you have not made certain decisions between 18-35 chances are you may never make them. That is the time when you make most of your decisions. Some people are fortunate enough to be able to do so at a later period, but this is a time when you are very active, you tend to be very fit, you can change jobs and make certain changes that you fear to do when you become older. It is very important that we try to keep these people in this age group in a very sound state of mind.

3.35 p.m.

When our young people are hooked on drugs it reduces the quality of life. It affects the morbidity in Barbados and mortality in Barbados and that has serious implications for our health services, serious implications for our National Insurance and Social Security Scheme and serious implications for the drugs scheme. In addition to that, it means that we are not getting these people to make contributions into the social security pool to help those

people who are living much longer. On the one hand we have a group of people who are living to a very old age and who are drawing from our social security scheme, and on the other hand we have these younger people who should be in there actively at work and making contributions who are not in the work place because they are falling out as a result of this drug abuse which has reduced their self-esteem and they no longer care about work, life or anything. So it is going to be a burden on the scheme at some time in the future and we need to look at it.

It has very serious problems for our health insurance scheme and our life insurance schemes because we are not going to be getting these young and fit and healthy people into the pool. It means that we are going to be dealing with older ages and the rates are going to be higher. As a result we are going to be pushing these products out of the reaches of the people who need them most because they are going to become too expensive.

Also the stress and strain it places on family members. I have experienced the hardships, the literal heartbreaking lives of fathers and mothers who are trying to cope with children who are hooked on drugs. They steal everything possible including odd shoes. They sell the most expensive item for \$5 - it is as bad as that - just to get a quick fix. It is very important that we work hard at this thing because parents have accumulated these things over a period of years, made many sacrifices to get them and overnight they disappear for nothing. Can we afford to have such in our society? I have heard of a motorcar which went for \$5. How many Barbadians have heard of that? All in all I think we need to be able to retain the quality of life for Barbadians because our people are our greatest resource. We do not have a lot of oil. We do not have uranium or plutonium or these kinds of things that other countries boast about and we need to make sure that we can keep our people in tact.

I think it is very important that we have our vibrant community groups. It is good to be able to have a Commission under the Government that is assisting in this fight. My concern also is about whether it will be able to manage the magnitude of work that is out there in the struggle against this drug abuse. It is good to have a mechanism like this at that level because non-governmental organisations have difficulty raising funds. I believe through a Government Department and Government Agency they would have easier access to these funds but I hope that this does not turn out to be an obstacle in the way of these organisations and that together they can work to the improvement of the quality of life of our very young people and that we will be very well on the way to eradicating these drugs.

Now, I have a concern because I listened to the news this morning and I heard that we have lost our position as the number one developing country and number 20 in the world. If the quality of life and these such factors contribute to this kind of data then I would want first to make sure that we get these things working that Barbados can regain its position as the number one developing country and go higher than number 25 because I believe it has been relegated from 20 to 25, in just one year.

It is good to know that we are number one in terms of the contribution of women. I am very happy about that one. I think we really need to work on this, but I would like to make a special appeal to our citizens. I find in this country that it is alright if you are going to be addressing a group as the President of an organisation, it is alright if you are coming as a Minister of a particular Ministry but I find that not enough of our citizens who have benefitted from the labour and sacrifices of ordinary working class people, not enough of us are giving back something to this society.

I think that this Council will not be successful unless a number of groups and individuals volunteer to be a part of the fight against substance abuse. I do not think that Barbadians should see the passage of this Bill as a signal for them to sit back since we now have an arm in Government to deal with substance abuse. As a matter of fact what I would want to say to all Barbadians is that with legislation there now that there is an agency in Government they should come forward and get active and try to stamp this out of the society. It is really a very painful thing to watch young people who have gone to some of our leading secondary schools in Barbados, walk around the country like zombies. They have lost their minds, they have lost themselves. So, in rising to support the decision for Government to become more active in the fight against substance abuse I would like to implore the Government to make sure that this mechanism that we are intending to put in place is not used as a political football; to make sure that the individuals who are associated with this programme are the best persons in Barbados to do so; to make sure that we draw on the resources of people who have, over the years, done a lot of research in this area, our health personnel and again those people, the Citizens Against Narcotics and those other organisations which have fought vigorously with no recognition or no monetary reward over the years.

I hope that we can really succeed in this area and I support the decision for the Government to get active in this regard. I thank you.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, as I rise to make my contribution to this debate I want to state from the onset that as a young Barbadian I am very concerned about the use and abuse of drugs among the society in

Barbados. I am also very happy that the Commission's term of reference as it relates to this Bill has not limited it to the abuse of narcotics and illegal or illicit drugs but has been widened to include a category of abuse that a lot of people have more or less forgotten about and Senator Farley earlier made mention of some of the substances, *valium et cetera*. But the important thing here is that this is an area of abuse that perhaps is seen more in the top executive in this society who because of the nature of their jobs are under a lot of stress and find themselves at times thinking it necessary to escape from some of the work pressures by abusing drugs which can easily be available over the counter. I am glad that the Commission has seen it fit to include these sort of substances in the focus of the Commission.

3.45 p.m.

I also want to state that in my opinion the geographical location of Barbados that have operated to this country's advantage over the years in terms of its economic development, the fact that it is a bit isolated being the most easterly of the Caribbean islands, the fact that it has a reasonably high per capita income compared to the other CARICOM countries and also because of the fact that it has been able over the years to attract a significant amount of tourists to the country have also had its disadvantages. Fellow Senator Noel Lynch has stated earlier that there was some correlation when you look at the statistics which were derived from the Police Drug Squad and when you look at the level of tourist arrivals in Barbados showing some positive correlation between the number of visitors and the amount of people who were convicted of drug related crimes in Barbados.

This geographic location and per capita income have already to some extent worked to our disadvantage and I will explain. My opinion and the opinion of some other knowledgeable people is that the geographic location has resulted in a situation where the major suppliers of drugs in South America have seen Barbados as an ideal location for transshipment to North America and Europe. We have a fairly large captive market for tourists and we have a very affluent society compared with other Caribbean countries and there is no doubt in my mind that these things have been the reasons why Barbados has been targeted I would say since 1983 as a centre of activity not only for drug shipments but as a point at which the lucrative drug trade can take hold to the advantage of those in South America. But I want to make the point that a lot of the failures in our fight against drugs have been the result of the fact that we have always gone after the supply side of control. To be honest as Senator Davis mentioned earlier, we find ourselves in a situation where there are no barriers. There is no person who is immunised to it. Even in the Middle East where the punishment for drug related activities are so severe, you still get it going on. This is a very important point because the people involved

in drugs are only interested in the money. They have resources that outstrip I believe even the resources that are available to a rich country like the United States of America and that is one of the reasons why the fight against illegal drugs from the supply side has been a failure. I think the time has come now when our approach must be to cut the demand and this is where I see education schemes to inform the youth about the dangers of drug abuse will come in handy.

As a few Senators have said in here today, it is not enough to say no to drugs. One of the failings to me in the anti-drug programme in Barbados has been the fact that we have not really utilized in my opinion the visual media in an effective way to show young people the effects of the use of narcotic drugs. For example, there is evidence that this type of approach which has been used recently in the United States has had tremendously successful results because you are able to view the effects that the abuse of cocaine can have on the unborn child. It is a sad sight to see a picture in which even within the womb children born to women who have been abusers of cocaine are addicted. They suffer medical problems like deformed extremities, under developed internal organs and they hardly survive at birth because of the stress in dealing with the withdrawal responses from the cocaine which they are fed through the mother's blood.

I think that if we use this approach to the problem of dealing with drugs we might be able to scare a few people particularly those who have never indulged in the practise of drug abuse to keep them away. Because that is the way how the approach of limiting the demand will work by scaring those people who have never had the practise, by looking after those people who to some extent are not addicted but have experimented and giving them worthwhile alternatives as Senator Lynch said earlier. Alternatives such as sport activities and getting them involved in community type activities and things like this.

One of the other things that concerns me about the abuse of drugs in Barbados is the fact like other fellow Senators have said earlier that it really puts us in a serious situation when we consider that because of the success of the Family Planning Programme in this country over the last 3 decades we have had a situation where the population is an ageing one and the sociologists have their concerns about who will contribute to the National Insurance Scheme, who will contribute to the tax contribution that we need to run this country. These are some of my concerns. It is my concern that at a time when we have a large ageing population and we need to maximize the contribution towards productivity of our youths that these are the major people who are the victims of drug abuse. Therefore, no effort must be spared in reaching these people before the situation gets more seriously out of hand.

My concerns also from a sociological point of view is the fact that in Barbados most households are headed by women and we have seen a pattern developing where a lot of the drug pushers and the guys at the top have been targeting women as drug mules for the simple reason that because of their charm and looks and everything else they probably might find themselves in a more favourable position to get past the Custom Officers at the port of entries in this country.

Sir, another interesting statistic is that the vast majority of women at Glendairy are there for drug related offences and this is a serious thing. It is also serious because we have seen about 3 years ago the first direct link between drug abuse in women and the contraction of the HIV infection. I think that this is one of the areas that we must keep special focus on, because drug addiction, particularly crack drug addiction which is a very addicted substance, can lead people to do a number of things. If a woman becomes addicted to crack and cannot find the money to support her drug habit and when all other avenues have been exhausted, she will go to prostitution. We can see the sociological and medical effect that this will have.

We must not just look at this thing in a vacuum. It has a tremendous effect on our health resources. We have the violence that comes from the whole problem of drug abuse and the problem basically with drug addicts is that most of the problems start in the home because they do not have the resources to support their habit, and then they start to develop all sorts of defensive techniques. They start to steal from their own family as Senator Thompson was saying earlier where they began to sell the family silver for nothing. Then you get the breakdown of the family structure caused by conflicts between parents and children and things like this.

But one of the themes I have heard coming out in this debate today would lead me to believe that a lot of us in here believe that drug abuse is a problem that is entrenched in the people at the lower economic regime in our society. That is the general idea I have been getting coming out here. But I want to state emphatically that in certain areas within Barbados you can target certain places like Haynesville, Gall Hill, New Orleans and Deacons where obviously there is a drug culture developing where people get introduced to drugs because it is what they see. They go on the block and see the guys smoking marijuana and see them taking coke and they get drawn into the drug net by this. But we must not forget that in the pursuit of happiness the middle and upper class people who want to live a certain lifestyle and who want to gain financial independence stress themselves out because they want to achieve the kind of lifestyle that everybody aspires to, and then it creates a stress situation where the parents as members of corporate Barbados are doing what

they think they ought to do and do not spare a moment to sit down and ask the children about their problems and the children start to feel isolated and then they go to drugs as an escape from this loneliness and lack of attention which they are getting from their parents. I want to stress this point, because I feel that parents need to have a more intimate relationship with their children. Unless this is done, all the programmes we put in place to give skills to people and to provide jobs for them would not make us any better off if the parents do not have any interaction with the children, and then rather than being drawn into a drug culture on one side because of the fact that you do not have the financial resources to get to the top, you would then find yourself in a situation where you have the money but you do not have the social interaction with parents who can help you to get over the stress and strain of coping with what is a very competitive life in this country.
3.55 p.m.

The statistics in Barbados have been really alarming in terms of drugs, but I want to say that one of the things that have limited the effectiveness of an anti-drug programme in this country is the fact that the statistics have been very scattered, there is really no comprehensive national picture of the extent of drug abuse, the extent to which it might be a cross-fertilisation where people might be on more than one drug, they might be on alcohol, cocaine and marijuana at the same time. I am happy that within the Terms of Reference of the Commission that there is an objective of gathering information so that an effective programme against drug abuse can be developed within this country. For too long too much of the data have been foreign data, most of the approach to drug reduction has been biased by pre-conceived ideas of people, and there is no hard scientific evidence that can be mapped so that we can use this information to determine what is the best way of dealing with this problem.

I am a person who likes to see the broad picture of this whole thing and I am quite happy that in conjunction with this Commission there has been a situation where the Government has appointed Youth Commissioners who are working within individual areas in the country and I believe that they have a very important role to play in information gathering, particularly those Commissioners who are operating within areas that they are familiar with. It is only on this feedback and programmes like the Junior Liaison Scheme by the Police, this sort of proactive approach to the problem, that would help us to cut the demand for narcotic drugs.

I believe perhaps the greatest challenge facing us as Barbadians, and obviously facing the law enforcement agency here, is the problem relating to drug trafficking and drug abuse. It is my view that nothing must be spared in the efforts to bring some measure of control in this area. The community centres and youth groups have a vital role

to play, but we must also go into the schools. I would recommend a national survey, including primary and secondary schools, where we try to gather information on the extent of drug use, the attitudes to drugs, and get information relating to what has forced children into the situation where they want to get involved with drugs. This would give us the type of information which we need to allow us to formulate sensible programmes for drug prevention in this country.

A few Senators have touched on alcohol and I see alcohol as the silent drug in Barbados which, because of social acceptance, is the one a lot of us tend to overlook. I was very impressed by the contribution of Senator Trotman who examined the effect of drug abuse on productivity. This is very, very important. Within the workplace there is obviously the problem of truancy and absenteeism, there is the problem of damage to important pieces of equipment because people whether on alcohol, cocaine or whatever come to work not in a fit state of mind to function. I think when we look at the broad picture, the youth, the productivity we are losing, the fact that the image of companies suffers, machinery damage and the lost hours that management and supervisory staff have to spend in settling grievances that are mainly brought about because of the effects of substance abuse, the time has come when we can no longer sit back and figure that all will be well.

It is on this basis that I commend this Bill to fellow Senators and hope they will give it their wholehearted support, because I see it as perhaps our final assault on the serious havoc which substance abuse can have on the youth on the one hand and the wider society on the other.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, I think that this debate on the Bill to establish a Council on Substance Abuse has been fully exhausted. It has provoked as much discussion, or even more than that on the Rural Development Commission, so much so that some of us even had to go back and cite the Rural Development Commission.

What I would like to warn the Council about is not getting too involved in all the theories and postulates and hypotheses that have been put forward for drugs and the abuse of substances. The document here by Senator Rickinson, from a quick perusal I think it is a fairly adequate and comprehensive document, and I do not think we have to go and re-invent the wheel. What I would like to see, nonetheless, Sir, is a rigorous connection between this proposed Council and primary schools, the police, sporting organisations, health, just to mention a few.

I remember, Sir, about a year ago on my way to work seeing a little girl, about eight or nine years old,

on her way from school, so this would have been just before 9 o'clock, and I questioned her. I asked her where she was going and she said that the Head Teacher had told her to go home. I asked why was that and she showed me that she had some sores all over the arm and leg. I asked why did the teacher want her to go home and she said the teacher did not want her to be in class with the others like that. I asked if the Head Teacher had informed her mother and if the mother knew about it. She said when she leaves home in the morning her mother is not at home, she does not reach home and she does not see her at night. So I concluded that her mother was in one of those unfortunate situations where she is a lady of the night.

4.05 p.m.

I said to the child, "Go back to the head teacher and let the head teacher know exactly what is happening and get hold of the polyclinic which falls in the zone of the school."

The reason I mention this, Sir, is to say that it is at the primary level that you see a lot of abuse. Teachers are fully aware of the *modus vivendi* and *operandi* of not only the child but of the parents and therefore I would wish that a closer link be made via this Council with the primary school.

At secondary level – I am going to be quite frank – the first place I ever saw marijuana was at school in third form when a student coming from what we would call a model home showed me and because we were brought up not to smoke, the marijuana meant absolutely nothing to me. When I went on to tertiary, when I was in class one day one of the students discovered that there was a helium cylinder, just as we have oxygen cylinders, outside one of the chemistry laboratories and if you eased the pressure and inhaled enough of the helium you would start to talk with a Donald Duck tone of voice. This intrigued many students. They left the first floor and they came up just to get a taste of the helium and the effect.

Sir, being in a country which was not tropical, I found that quite a few of the students were of the opinion that as one coming from the West Indies you knew quite a lot and the good places to get the "good stuff" from. So I am saying it infiltrates primary, secondary and tertiary and I am much of a stickler for whatever you are going to achieve, eradicate, let us go into the institutions and work from that level.

Sir, I would also hope that the people on the Commission, as Senator Odle said and I think as Senator Rickinson alluded to, go out there and see for themselves and get to know who are the generals at night and the runners by day, the small children. It can be a very vicious trade, Mr. President, Sir.

Coming to the point of rehabilitation and withdrawals quite recently we have seen some suicides and I am of the opinion that a lot of these suicides are caught up with the drug culture. They have tried it all and quite a few of them are unemployed. It is not their fault that some of them are unemployed. Their way of life can start in the mornings with a cigarette, then a stout, then a spliff, then a spliff that is laced and then a bit of crack and they graduate and keep moving and moving so as not to come to the stark reality of not having a dollar.

Sir, I drive parts of town and I see fellows that I was at school with and it brings a sense of sadness because maybe they were introduced to drugs at an early age and it was kept quiet and then as they reached for that additional height which they will never achieve and as their money began to run out they have to go in areas such as the Baxters Road areas and such like. It is sad to see the waste of what was once good talent and good brains come to such bad ends.

The other point is the violent crime. I was away a little while from the Chamber and I don't think I heard the first speaker immediately after lunch but I spoke to an orthopaedic surgeon and he said to me, "David, you do not have an idea about the expense which we incur trying to repair hips and femurs and serious bone injuries. It is a very costly exercise on the hospital. It is time consuming." Sir, the command of the turf can get so hot – if this is my turf you cannot come on it – that although a user maybe hospitalised although one involved in the trade maybe hospitalised he is pursued right into the hospital and it has the nurses scared particularly I am told on Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights to work Casualty.

If you think it ends there, Sir, that is probably only where it begins. It actually goes as far as the wards, threatening and forcing their way into the wards so that they can level the score. Apparently, they do not like to level the score through the law courts. Speaking about the law courts, Sir, I had reason a few months ago because of a breaking and entering to be there in court and again the sad part was to see the numbers of 14-16 senior teenage children being brought before the Judge for smoking a spliff in the cinema and having a cigarette in their possession which was laced.

Sir, I do not think that these cases should be highlighted. I think there should be a special court and I don't think the first offenders should be treated in as harsh a manner as they are. I think we have to look for gentler ways of treatment. The ones which you should spare no moment with are those who seek to poison the minds and the bodies of the juveniles because it is akin to taking the person's life. I cannot see how if at such a tender age, teen or pre-teen, you are introduced to such hard drugs

how in the name of Heaven you can be rehabilitated to such a point that you begin to lead a normal life.

Sir, again, I would like to warn the Commission about techniques in rehabilitation. I think we are going to have to formulate our own techniques. Of course we will have to borrow from the tried and proven records of some of the bigger countries but I have been told that recently in America they are actually allowing the user to hit – and I am not punning on the word – rock bottom to the point where they then begin to feel for themselves and then you try to rehabilitate them.

Sir, the most hurtful part is the lapsing part when the user comes back into society as we have heard from so many of the eloquent speeches here today.

Mr. President, Sir, as I said at the outset I would not be long. It has been covered in its entirety and I look forward to the passage of this Bill. I don't feel the negative heat which I felt only 2 evenings ago and so it will have absolutely my full backing when it comes to the point of voting. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, this is one of these measures which I think everyone has to support because it deals with the fundamentals of life which are being taken away in very devious ways and which we all need to join hands to eradicate.

The whole matter has been very well and widely and perhaps wildly ventilated today...

Aside.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: ... even wisely ventilated today and I do not propose to go into that. I think that it is one of these things that I must rise to give my support to because the objects of the Bill are both preventative and ameliorative and that goes a long way in dealing with the issue before us. The Bill of itself Sir, will not cover everything that is necessary forever and like most bills there will be need for an amendment from time to time as the challenges continue to face us in the future.

I would be very disappointed if any government in a measure such as this does not fully utilise the advisory resources which are available to us in this country and beyond to tackle this situation and I have every confidence that this present government will do so. I have no problems with that and when we look at the functions of the proposed Council I see that the functions are rooted firstly in theory – advise the Minister. Then there are rooted in activity – devise, undertake, manage, coordinate and then they are also participatory where they are talking about conducting and cooperating.

I believe Sir, that the Bill before us adequately covers all that is necessary to give opportunity to this Council to have a good look at and to set about the task on a national basis of eradicating this scourge in our community. Anything which seeks to preserve and to promote and to restore the wholeness and the welfare and the well-being of human life must be supported, encouraged and implemented. This Bill before us seeks to do this and I have every good reason to support the Bill.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise at the conclusion of this debate and the Second Reading of this National Council on Substance Abuse Bill. I would just quickly, given the full ventilation which this matter has had today, want to respond to one or two issues that were raised.

One is to reiterate the fact that there is already in existence an advisory council whose executive arm, the National Drug Resource Centre, is currently executing the UNDCP/Government of Barbados Project. That, Sir, is clear evidence that there has been a firm conceptual base for the matter which we have in hand today. What is being done is that a change is being made in the mode of execution so that the project can proceed more expeditiously. It therefore cannot be argued with any degree of success that there has been any rush into this matter, that there has been no conceptual base grounded in the treatment of substance abuse or the prevention thereof and that this is an ill-conceived matter because the functions are already being carried out via another channel. We are changing channels but playing essentially the same music.

Now, Sir, other countries have gone through this exercise and I would want to draw the attention of the Senate to the National Drug Commission Act, 1993 of Bermuda. This Act of 1993 establishes the National Drug Commission as a statutory board along the same lines as the National Council on Substance Abuse, 1995 in Barbados.

Sir, it speaks to the advisory nature of the organisation to advise the Minister. It speaks of the participatory nature of the drug commission and it speaks to the co-ordinating nature of the organisation and it is clear that other countries have experienced similar difficulties and they have sought similar solutions in terms of changing the vehicle which is used for delivery of this ever important service.

The other matters I would want quickly to touch on are some of the points raised concerning the legislation itself. A query was raised in relation to section 9(3) of the Regulation relating to the pensions and so on. Sir, what is intended there, especially if 9(3) is read in relation to 9(2) and 9(1) is that ministerial approval must be sought for the pensions and other benefits as in 9(2) for the

levels of salaries over and above what had been previously set. This, sir, is to provide a linkage between the Council and the Central Government whereby the Council will not be able to go off on its own without due reference to the Minister who would obviously have to make reference to Cabinet to set terms and conditions which would be out of line with what exists in other departments or which would end up being a charge on the public purse without those persons who are answerable for the use of the public purse having the necessary input and in fact granting their approval. That, basically, is the rationale behind the drafting of that section.

Some of the other comments relating to the Bill in terms of the drafting will be forwarded to the Attorney General of this consideration in terms of general concepts. A question was raised as to whether in these types of organisations the Chairman should have an original vote and a casting vote or simply a casting vote. Those are questions of drafting which I will raise with the Honourable Attorney General.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee, SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS in the Chair.
4.25 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 16 were called and passed.

The First Schedule was called and passed.

The Second Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Madam CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the National Council on Substance Abuse Act, 1995.

**ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE TO MANNING, WILKINSON AND
CHALLENGOR OF LAND AT SIX MENS,
ST. PETER**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate

for the sale of land situated at Six Mens in the parish of St. Peter to Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor Limited.

Sir, this land which was previously owned by Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor Limited was acquired as part of a road improvement project in the Six Mens area some years ago. That project involved, Sir, the realignment of Highway 1 as an extension to the Speightstown Bypass road. The property in question, Sir, is now no longer needed for that purpose and it consists in part, of part of the old road which was in close proximity to a building that used to be one of the warehouses of Manning Wilkinson and Challenor as well as some additional area of land that was not used in the road expansion.

The property in question, Sir, is adjacent to land which is currently owned by Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor and the company has made an offer to purchase, Sir, and the Senate's approval is being sought to dispose of 75.7 square metres of land in the First Schedule and 345.5 square metres in the Second Schedule by way of sale to Manning, Wilkinson and Challenor Limited.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that this Resolution do now pass. Honourable Senators

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I would just like to briefly speak in support of the Resolution and in doing so to recap that when the Senate dealt with the acquisition of the lands at Lower Estate the Leader of Business in the Senate did say that he would ask Senator Workman what was the biblical formula for continuity and he has not asked for it today but it was taken from Ecclesiastes Chapter 1:4

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."

What that says to me, Mr. President, is that it teaches us the transient nature of our people and the permanent nature of our property and I think that is quite relevant to the Resolution before us because two very important commodities and resources of our country are our people and our property. The property which we are dealing with today is important property but there are other bits of important property which I think it is common knowledge Government will seek to sell in the re-development of the Bay Street area and I think, Sir, that that type of property is becoming a rather scarce commodity, and in the interest of preserving that property for the benefit of our people, I feel that the time has come when we need to look at other means of utilizing valuable property. Basically in our country we tend to look at the sale or creation of freehold interest in property. But I do feel, Mr. President, that the time has come when we need to look

at the creation of leasehold interest where the owner, and in this case, Government, can indeed retain the ownership which is called the reversionary interest in the property and at the same time in creating this lease make provisions in the lease for what I call the social control of our property where the benefits which need to accrue to our people such as availability of beach lands are very well entrenched; where we can carry out such controls, particularly on waterfront property, against the possible use by owners of narcotics or illegal drug trade. We can put provisions in the lease as to what will happen if the lessees of the property are caught involved in any such trade.

4.35 p.m.

All of these, Mr. President, I think we need to look into at this time as we go forward and I would urge Government to consider the possibility of issuing to investors long-term leases. When I talk about leases, Mr. President, I am not talking about those documents that some of our lawyers are preparing which are nothing more than a tenancy agreement. But I am talking about true leases which give the lessee a right of possession which are long-term leases. You can take for instance the lease of lands to the University of the West Indies where the University does not own the land but it has put up beautiful buildings and will continue to do so for educational purposes. At the end of that period of 99 years, everything that is there reverts to the Government. It accrues back to the people of Barbados and I think that in the development of our Bay Street area where Government does have substantial property consideration should be given to the creation of leasehold interest.

I do not think, Mr. President, that it is difficult for investors to invest money when they are assured of a long-term lease. Some investors are very concerned about themselves only and most investors maybe at the age of 30 to 40 and if they can get a lease for 50 years for their lifetime, they are not too worried about that. But even if the investors hope that it goes over to their successors in title there will be some provision and can be some provision in the lease to make provision for a renewal of the lease. The point I am trying to make is that the scarce commodity of our valuable property will remain forever in the hands of the people of Barbados and we can have control over it forever. I would ask Government, Mr. President, to look at this type of leasehold interest as we seek to dispose of and to utilize our valuable property. I support the Resolution before us.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 5 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE TO
NICOLE BROWNING OF LAND AND OF
BUILDING THEREON AT 328 CLIFF
AVENUE, PELHAM, WESTCHESTER,
NEW YORK IN U.S.A.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution before us seeks the Senate's approval for the sale of some property in New York which represented the former residence of the Permanent Representative of Barbados at the United Nations. This property, Sir, was acquired in 1968 and because of the period in which it was acquired, it is at the point where it needs substantial refurbishment. The other consideration when the property was inspected was that our experience at the United Nations has convinced us that the location of the property some 1 1/2 hours drive away from the United Nations and from Barbados Permanent Representative's office in New York, it is really unsuitable for the nature of activity that has to be undertaken in that particular post.

The fact of the matter, Sir, is that this particular point that I made about the distance away from the United Nations was clearly illustrated in 1988 when in Barbados' attempt to bring the seat of the Office of President of the General Assembly to these shores we had to engage in intensive lobbying which is typical as one tries to gain position in the international organizations. It was found, Sir, that the frequency of meetings, receptions and the like that had to be held were such that it was impossible for the Permanent Representative to continue to commute between the United Nations Building, the Barbados Office at 800 Second Avenue which is about 5 blocks from the U.N., really would have made it impossible for the representative and indeed the Barbados delegation, particularly the representative, to have the level of presence which was required at those meetings, receptions and so on to fully allow Barbados to benefit. As a result, accommodation nearer to the centre of action had to be rented during that time to facilitate the lobbying activities.

The opportunity is being taken therefore, Sir, to sell this property which has proven to be in need of some repairs. It has also proven to be too far away from the centre of action to make full use of its potential. The property is a large property with substantial scope for entertainment and so on but, of course, because of its distance away from the centre of activity its use in that regard has never really come into fruition, Sir.

We are proposing, Sir, with the approval of the Senate to sell this property to Nicole Browning. I am sure that given the distance away from the U.N. as well as the fact that it is a sale, Sir, I am sure the Senate will be interested in the procedure that was adopted.

4.45 p.m.

Independent agents, a real estate broker, C.S. McCannon, who has been doing real estate brokerage in that particular area of New York State for many years, which company has been in business since 1878, who knows the area and is well established, as well as the Government's own attorneys in New York, were asked to explore the possibility of the sale. They did some research and it was found that property in that particular neighbourhood usually fetched the price of \$1 million to \$1.1 million. The property was however discounted because of the nature of repairs that were required and the estimates of the experts suggested that the discount would be in the region of \$240 000. Advertisements were placed in the appropriate places, Sir, such as the *New York Times* and the local Westchester newspapers, and an Open House was held as well. There were some 27 interested parties and a number of offers were received, some of them relatively low, in the region of \$700 000 to \$730 000 and they were rejected. After negotiations we happened to have found a willing buyer who is of some substance and who was in need of a suitable residence in that area and we were able then to obtain the price of some U.S. \$870 000, which was a very good value within the context of the market and the typical sale values of the properties in that area.

The Senate's approval is being sought for the disposal of this property, formerly the Residence of Barbados' Permanent Representative at the United Nations, to Nicole Browning.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CLERMONT ROAD/CANEWOOD ROAD

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution relates to the compulsory acquisition of land for the implementation of the Highway 2A, Phase 2 Project, Clermont/Canewood Road Improvement.

The Highway 2A Project consists of several phases. That project itself is part of a larger World Bank Project for road rehabilitation in Barbados. The Highway 2A component represents that portion from Warrens to Mile-and-a-Quarter, but there are a number of feeder and link roads which form part of the project. The one in question is a link road between the new Queen's College location, I believe that is Husbands Road, and the junction of Clermont at Warrens, that is just obliquely opposite Simpson Motors. It is essentially the Clermont Road, and what is being asked of the Senate is approval for the acquisition of 81 parcels of land, which all border the Clermont Road, for road improvement in that area.

Essentially, Sir, the road will be resurfaced and widened. Any of us who have travelled on the road will recognise its present state. The road will be straightened in some areas, widened in others, but definitely resurfaced, so that 81 parcels in question will not represent the total take-over of any of the properties which are next to the road, but in most cases will result in the acquisition of a narrow strip of land from those properties, which are adjacent to the road, to allow the road to be widened. Maps are here for those Senators who would want to examine them.

For reasons of just a quick example, Sir, the roadway is shown there and the narrow strips of land are on the individuals' properties as they are adjacent to the strip of road.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution for the acquisition of 81 parcels of land at Clermont, St. Michael for the purposes of road improvement do now pass.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of this Resolution, but I have some concerns about road safety in Christ Church.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Welch, we are dealing here with Clermont and Canewood. I am not aware that they have moved to Christ Church.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: I was taking the opportunity to speak on road safety. I will not be long, I think there are about two or three important observations I need to make. I beg your indulgence, Mr. President. I will be very brief.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think the matter you have raised is irrelevant to the Resolution before the House.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: I respect your ruling, Mr. President, and I will take my seat. Thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I will not be long. Since so many people are aware of where I intend to canvass next election, I wish to make it quite clear that I rise to support this Resolution because it is.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: At least you are dealing with the Resolution.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: because this improvement happens to be bordering on the constituency which I happen to have run for last election and I am still in fact looking quite seriously at continuing my pursuits in that area. I therefore rise to support and I hope that the improvement would improve the value of lots surrounding that strip of road from Queen's College to Warrens.

Indeed those of us who use the road frequently would recognise that it is extremely dangerous, particularly the corner just past the small supermarket on the left hand side going towards Queen's College, especially at night. 4.55 p.m.

Also the floods in the area affected everyone quite badly, the piece of land opposite Meadowvale. There was severe flooding in that area and about 6 or 7 houses were badly affected. I am proud to say that CERO did speedily attend to the needs of the constituents, but the attendance was merely in the form of a visit and since the visit nothing positive has happened in the area. So while I support the quick response of CERO, I am saying that since that visit nothing has really happened.

I am looking forward to the repairs to the road assisting not only as I said with making the road more safe but also with trying to alleviate the serious flood problem which they had at the top of the road in Meadowvale. If that is going to happen, certainly the Resolution gets my full support. I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, while I rise to support this compulsory acquisition of land for Highway 2, I would like to ask that special attention be paid to the sinking of wells and for the proper drainage of this area while work is being done followed by the proper and adequate and continuous maintenance of these wells and other wells in Barbados, including Batts Rock where the grass is growing. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ST.
JAMES, ST. THOMAS AND ST. MICHAEL
TO IMPROVE HIGHWAY 2A

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate for the acquisition of 145 parcels of land in the areas of St. James and St. Michael for the purpose of improvement of Highway 2A.

The area in question relates to the stretch of Highway 2A from Lancaster to Warrens, St. Michael. The land in question relates to properties which have been bordering the Highway 2A and which are required either whole or in part to allow for the progress of the Highway.

The area along the earlier position of the highway, that is, the Lancaster to Six Men's, has already been taken

care of. This measure is required in order to allow the project to proceed as planned.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
LEASE OF LAND AT THE PINE, ST. MICHAEL
TO TAB LTD. AND LIFE OF BARBADOS LTD.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Senate for the lease of land at the Pine, St. Michael to TAB Ltd. and Life of Barbados Ltd. The land in question, some 1900 square metres, is required for the use as a car park by the building which is known as the Financial Services Centre or the Coopers and Lybrand Building at Collymore Rock.

The property was conceived as a financial services centre by Coopers and Lybrand and was built in association with TAB Pension Funds. The reason why the approval for the lease is being sought in the name of TAB Ltd. and Coopers and Lybrand is that although the financial services centre has been built as a joint venture there is no corporate entity called the Financial Services Centre and the Government's legal advisors have advised therefore that the lease cannot be drawn up in the name of the financial services centre but the joint venture partners would have to be both listed as the joint lessees.

The project, as originally conceived, has taken off in a more spectacular manner than was planned and, because of its location along the very busy Collymore Rock Road, the difficulties which it has had in providing car park space have been very acute. Whereas in other areas there maybe adjacent properties on which clients and staff of an office such as that would be able to temporarily park, such is not possible in the case of this particular area.

The impetus for the expansion, as you would be aware, Sir, would be the growth in the offshore sector which accounts for the high level of activity in that area. Adjacent to that property, is some property which had been a part of the Pine Central Livestock Station but a portion of which was not in use. Government has agreed to the lease of that area which is to the back of the Coopers and Lybrand building and technically is really in the Pine rather than in Collymore Rock to Life of Barbados Ltd. and TAB Ltd.

Town Planning has granted the necessary approvals for the use of the property with the appropriate constraints. The lease period is for some 15 years and option to renew. Initial rental rate is \$7 680 per annum with a 5-yearly review. It is to be used for the parking of cars and the adjacent lands are to be appropriately landscaped.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I did not get the value of the rent per annum. Okay, it is on the Resolution.

Anyhow, I would not be long. I understand. I will not be long.
5.05 p.m.

I will not be long, Sir. Again this comes to the question of how well the offshore sector is performing and also how limited the benefits from that sector are being spread around. In fact what is most amazing about this particular Resolution is the company to which it is associated. I could recall in another place and time that some of the individuals relating to this particular company showed considerable resistance to certain initiatives being taken even as it affects critical areas like tourism and the like and also in the area of the offshore sector. I think that subsequent events have revealed to me why there was a certain level of resistance when I now look at the composition of the Board of the Central Bank and I see certain persons emerging.

I also saw, only this morning, another representative of tourism in the Chamber and when I put all of these things together I can see the kind of resistance that I was receiving as a result of some initiatives being taken. It was really instructive that the private sector, even when you are putting initiatives in place as a means of assisting the wider economy regardless of whether or not it is in the area of offshore or in tourism how very political the private sector of Barbados can be. It is amazing that even when they know that the initiatives which are worthwhile and sound for the economy and will work, even when they are aware of that, the difficulty you have in trying to get them to even go public and say, this initiative is not just one that has a political agenda but it is intended to assist the various sectors in the economy.

I therefore am not surprised. I am not aware however, and I must say that I would love to have been aware of the kinds of charges that one would normally see being applied to parcels of land. I am not aware but I do not want either to impute any improper motive to the Government, but it all now fits together in terms of the whole development of the offshore sector, the whole question of why certain individuals probably found it exceedingly difficult to appreciate the direct tax reforms and why it is in fact that all of a sudden there is all the desire on the part of these particular individuals to get involved in the action and to spread the joy.

As I said earlier it really is too many in its impression and kinky in its formation as well. These are words which I have invented. When one looks at the very nature of this ...

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I will say it now, but just let me state that it really does hurt in some respects when, as a young professional, you are seeking to advance the cause of the country by trying to implement as best you can a set of policies given the circumstances of the economy only to be soundly resisted by individuals who should know better and these individuals are now beginning to indicate that the policies then pursued have in fact yielded the kind of benefits that were intended and yielded to the extent that they are now seeking to expand their businesses, seeking to get car park facilities, seeking to upgrade and exercise all kinds of initiatives at this point in time. But time will tell.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I have listened to the presentation by Honourable Senator Mascoll who attempted, Sir, to suggest that there is a high degree of polarisation in the private sector and that this matter which is before the Senate and the fact that one of the corporate agencies involved or some professional associated with the corporate entity involved, the fact that they have had some professional disagreements with him in his other life, Sir, are linked to the fact that this Resolution is before the House today. He even made reference to the fact that the public gallery which as I know, Sir, is open to members of the public other than those who run afoul of you, Sir, in the Chambers, happened to be visited by one of the individuals involved in that in one of the firms, Sir.

It would interest Senator Mascoll to note that although the Senate is considering this matter of the lease of land to be used as a car park on August 18, 1995 that on September 30, 1993 the matter was considered by the previous Government of which he has admitted, Sir, to being chief adviser, and the architect, Sir, of major economic programmes. Not only, Sir, was a decision made in September on that one, but the rates were also set at that particular time. So I would just want to make that clarification for the benefit of the Honourable Senate in this matter.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION FOR SALE TO B & D
INC. OF A PARCEL OF LAND AT PARADISE
BEACH DRIVE, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Senate is being sought for the sale of land at Paradise Beach Drive, St. Michael to B & D Incorporated.

Now, Sir, this property in question came into the Government's possession as a result of a series of land acquisitions that were made to facilitate the Spring Garden Highway. This particular lot, Sir, is adjacent to a number of properties opposite the Paradise Beach Village and next to the Tower Hotel. The particular lot in question of some 531 square metres was previously the property of the Paradise Village Limited. The Government was approached by B & D Services Inc. operators of the Tower Hotel seeking to make an offer to purchase this land from the Government.

5.15 p.m.

The Government sought to establish from the previous owners, that is the persons from whom it had acquired the land which is Paradise Villas Limited, whether they still had an interest and they indicated in writing that they were no longer interested in the small corner lot as they described it, Sir. Discussions were entered into with the owners of the Tower Hotel which is adjacent to the property and a price was agreed on of some \$9.00 a square foot and agreement for sale was reached.

The Senate's approval is therefore being sought for the sale by the Crown of some 531 square metres of land at Paradise Beach Drive, St. Michael to B & D Services Incorporated. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Once again, I will not be long but this seems to be a question of being forced into a position by the pending development of Sandals Beach Resort. Yes, there is a correlation. It would certainly not make business sense for a small property like Tower Hotel not to take the opportunity of the benefits which can be derived from being located next to Sandals Beach Resort. In addition to that, one would like to see that this property is given the opportunity to expand but that the Sandals Hotel property would also be seeking to complete or to begin its refurbishing exercise or expansion exercise in the nearest possible time.

On a very serious note, I for one am of the view that the future of Barbados is tourism out of the United States and it depends largely on Sandals Resort coming to Barbados in order to improve our image within the U.S. destination. So it is really a serious issue that has to be addressed and must be addressed as swiftly as possible by the authorities. There are also obvious benefits to be derived from the upgrading of that small hotel along the top of the Spring Garden Highway and may very well offer opportunities for residents in the area to be given some kind of job which is necessary. The thing about this particular debate and about that particular location is that it borders both on St. Michael North West and St. James South so I cannot be guilty of making any particular sounding in favour of one constituency as opposed to the

other. In fact, I am straddling the fences, Sir. Sir, I do rise to support the Resolution and look forward to seeing the Tower Hotel property not only be upgraded but upgraded in accordance with the kind of property that the Sandals Resort intends to put right next to it. There are some very serious benefits which, as I said earlier, can be derived from the expansion of this small hotel. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Lynch.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, obviously I would rise to support this Resolution. It is strange though hearing the support coming from a Senator who has just advocated recently that the only future for Barbados' tourism lies in foreign investment and nothing in the local sector as reported very, very clearly in the media. What is very interesting to note however, Sir, is that as long...

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: On a point of order. It is not true that I made the comment and more importantly, Sir, it would be remiss of me not to respect that local owners would have a share in the intended tourism pie and that I did say, and he is saying it by inference, that the foreign investment is absolutely necessary because we do not have the local resources to be able to carry the tourism sector where it has to go in the 21st century.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, it is strange how they react so quickly to these things. It is important for us to recognize that unless Barbados and the Government does something really quickly to at least release the burden placed on the hotel sector by the domestic cost factors that exist in it that Barbados will never be able to attract the kind of local or foreign investment it needs to push the industry forward.

It is also very interesting to note that many policies that look at developing cruise tourism as opposed land based tourism has caused a problem. Anyway, I would certainly like to support this Resolution and to make it very, very clear that there are ways and means of pushing the tourism sector forward once the initiatives are given to small investors, once some kind of venture capital fund is created within the tourism sector that small entrepreneurs can get involved in the tourism sector there will never ever be in Barbados the kind of investment that we need to see. Tourism needs to be treated like any other export industry and not left at the expense of the other import substitution industries like manufacturing. It needs to be given the same kind of incentives and there must be ways and means. Government must not just hang out an "open for business" sign but it must make provision for this industry to prosper with sound fiscal incentives if Barbados is ever to move it forward. It must be done, Sir, at the expense of the cruise tourism industry which continues to milk us and is not providing half of what we believe it is providing to the economy.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the adjournment of this Sitting. Before I do that, Sir, I would want to note the presence on the Order Paper of some Private Members' Resolutions which in discussions with the mover of those Resolutions he has kindly consented to have those matters traversed until the resumption of the meetings of the Senate. Senators will also want to note, Sir, that the House of Assembly is in recess until October 10, 1995 and having cleared all matters coming up from below, Sir, we will therefore be in recess until sometime after October 10th.

I would want before moving the adjournment, Sir, to thank all Senators for their lively debate during this session and wish them well during our time in recess. I would also of course, Sir, want to thank you, Sir, for continuing to uphold the highest traditions of Presiding Officer and we certainly look forward to continued guidance from that high office.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I just want to speak on the adjournment. In fact, I rise to note the performance of the Senators and to say that I think this week for me has been a week in which I have given some consideration to my initial position on the Senate and its usefulness. I am indeed pleased to note that the Senators have been very mature in the conduct of the debates and I am also pleased to note, Sir, that you have shown a continued maturity and non-partisan approach to the conduct of the affairs in the Senate which I support fully and in fact I wish to praise you on that and look forward to my vacation and to the resumption of the Senate in time to come. I thank you, Sir.

5.25 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should like to thank the Honourable Senators for their comments in respect of the Chair. As has been said, we will shortly go into our customary recess. It is my hope that Honourable Members and members of staff who will take their holidays at this time will enjoy the break and that we shall all return refreshed and reinvigorated in a couple of weeks.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

5.27 p.m.

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