
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

THE SENATE

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, March 27, 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 Development) (Leader of the Senate)

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

Senator the Hon. 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. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator S. P. BERNSTEIN

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. SPRINGER,

G.C.M.

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator C. A. MASCOLL.

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations 1995.

Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308(A) to the following:

American National Insurance Corporation, Surewest Insurance Company Limited, Beach Reinsurance Corporation, Compco Insurance Company Inc., Eastbourne Insurance Company Limited, Great Pacific Enterprises Insurance Ltd., Oxford Indemnity Company Limited, Langevin Insurance (Barbados) Limited; Langevin Holdings (Barbados) Ltd.

Annual Report and Statements of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1993.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

The question was put and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to give notice of the Appropriation Bill, 1995 and to ask that it be read a first time.

The question was put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – TO MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1995. In pursuance of sections 108 and 109 of the Constitution, this Chamber's approval is sought, Sir, for the grant of a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of Government for the financial year ending March 31, 1996. The Schedule of the Act provides extracts from the various items of expenditure and full details are provided in the Estimates.

It is important at the start of this Second Reading to outline for the Honourable Senate the context within which these Estimates have been crafted and within which they are being laid. One of the things that we sought to do on this side in preparation of these Estimates for 1995-96 is to restore some order to the public finances of this country.

We had developed into a situation where public expenditure was being undertaken prior to parliamentary approval. We had developed into a situation where some false economies were being realised, unrealistically low targets were being set and the method of conforming with these targets included not honouring various inter-governmental transfers in terms of NIS payments to the Commission of Inland Revenue and various Government departments and also Government being recalcitrant in payment of debts in general.

Sir, this resulted, on our assuming office, in a number of supplementaries having been brought to this Honourable Chamber and to the Other Place for approval for the settlement of those arrears.

The other important feature, Sir, which would have informed the preparation of these Estimates would have been the need to create the conditions for sustainable growth. The Estimates form one part of that. The Budget to be presented by the Minister of Finance will form the other part of that platform for the development of such conditions.

I am sure you will agree with me, Sir, that fiscal policy in a small open economy such as Barbados is perhaps the most powerful tool which is available from a policy perspective. It is in that context, Sir, that these Estimates and the Budget to come assume their rightful importance. One of the important aspects of the Estimates will be the whole question of the size of the deficit and the method of financing thereof. You will note, Sir, that we

have strived to have a deficit of manageable size and as we get into the details you will note that our efforts at financing the deficit will not be those that run against the whole notion of fiscal prudence.

Sir, the size of the deficit has some other important features. One of the difficulties that Barbados has had at different points in time is the accumulation of large unmanageable deficits. This has led, given the structure of our economy and our dependency on imports, to an erosion of our foreign reserve position and generally, Sir, created conditions of unsustainable growth. In fact, the accumulation of extremely large deficits can be likened to a form of fiscal debauchery, and usually the result at the end of that time of activity is a programme of fiscal austerity which is meant to correct the situation which should never have developed.

We on this side, Sir, prefer manageable fiscal deficits which do not impede Government's capacity to deliver public services, but which also do not do damage to the foreign exchange and foreign reserve position.

You will note, Sir, that the Estimates of Expenditure do not include any showpiece projects. The largest capital item in our Estimates is some \$20 million. This is, of course, the South Coast Sewerage Project. We do not believe in showpiece projects. We believe in these Estimates in doing several small yet important works which will touch the lives of many in the community. But we will touch more on those later, Sir.

Sir, these Estimates must also be considered within the context of the performance of the economy in the recent past. We have seen a growth in the economy of 4% last year, but this has come after a cumulative decline of some 12% in earlier years. It is important to note that this 4% growth does not represent a fundamental change in direction of the graph because that 4% was fuelled by what are essentially one-off, one-shot activities. We must be aware of that, Sir.

Last year's growth was fuelled by an increase in tourism visitor arrivals. If we examine that closely, Sir, we would recognise that this does not necessarily indicate a turnaround in our tourism. Rather, if we focus on the special events which took place last year, mainly the English cricket tour and the Global Conference, you will recognise that those were two of the significant factors that led to the increase in tourism arrivals, especially in face of the serious problems and lack of direction that pervaded the tourism sector during that period.

In addition, Sir, during last year there was considerable investment in hotel plant, particularly on the West Coast. I believe it was somewhere in the region

of US\$100 million. That obviously will not be a continuous activity. What I would say, without getting into the details of tourism is that we now have 2 separate and distinct tourism industries in Barbados. We certainly have to address that problem and I am sure my other colleagues will get into those details down the line.

The other point I wish to make with respect to last year's situation is that while last year we had a sugar harvest which yielded some 56 000 tonnes of sugar this year, the projections are for some 36 000 tonnes. So you will see that last year's one-off activities cannot be used as the basis for continuous and sustained growth. What is really needed is for us to create the appropriate environment which will facilitate business and which will enable new enterprises to be created and enable also existing enterprises to be expanded. The Estimates and the Budget to follow will do that.

You will notice as well these Estimates do not include any provision for crash programmes. Crash programmes are not part of the way we propose to solve the issues before us, particularly the whole question of employment. We believe that employment generation must be on a sustainable basis and we did not yield to the temptation of getting into large unwieldy deficits all for the purpose of creating numerous crash programmes to solve employment problems 6 months after we assume office.

Sir, let us look in some detail at last year's Estimates and the projected out-turn for this current financial year ending March 31, 1995. The projected out-turn for the year as revised indicates total revenue and grants to be in the region of some \$1.05 billion of which \$960 million would be tax revenue and \$85.6 million would be non-tax revenue. Total expenditure is expected to be in the region of \$1.3 billion of which \$1.2 billion would be current expenditure and \$115 million capital expenditure. This would create a deficit of some \$261.5 million which represents 9.1% of GDP on the Accountant General's basis or some 0.9% of GDP on an IMF basis.

In terms of the financing of that deficit, it is expected that some 55.8% of the fiscal deficit was financed from domestic sources, less than \$145.8 million. And \$115.7 million will take the form of foreign financing. Of that amount, Sir, \$16.4 million relate to projects and \$93.9 million will be foreign commercial financing.

If we look in some detail at the revenue and expenditure of the previous year there are a few points that I need to highlight before we look at the projections for next year. Those revised Estimates for 1994-95 were revised mid-year after the submission in March 1994 of the original Estimates of Expenditure which indicated a \$1.02 million current revenue and \$1.09 million in current expenditure. Capital expenditure was some \$172 million.

In terms of the key areas of revenue performance taxes on goods and services were expected by the end of the financial year to some \$412.8 million which represents a 9% growth. Special receipts are expected to be some \$25.9 million which is a reduction of about 60%, mainly due to the elimination of a number of special levies. Taxes on incomes and projects in the current fiscal year are expected to generate some \$300 million and this is some 4.5% more than the previous year. Taxes on international trade are expected to grow by some \$8.1 million, a total of \$83.5 million, and stamp duties will be \$87.7 million. Those, Sir, represent the key points relating to revenue for the previous financial year.

10.35 a.m.

In terms of expenditure, it reveals a few interesting things. Current expenditure saw an increase in the utilisation of goods and services by some 17.4%. It saw as well an increase in returnable benefits. We also saw an increase in capital transfers mainly due to some supplementaries that had to be brought.

Capital expenditure fell by some \$11 million or 8.7% below the previous year ending up at \$115.1 million. What is important to note about this capital expenditure last year was that a number of supplementary provisions had to be made totalling some \$9.7 million and we noted that one of the reasons for the poor performance in this area was the whole problem of sluggish project implementation. That is an issue which we obviously need to address.

Sir, while we are on this whole question of capital expenditure and its sluggish project implementation, we obviously would want to note that this has been an area that has shown some of the worst form of planning, or the lack thereof, in the economy for some time. The number of unfinished projects which existed in Barbados at times, Sherbourne, St. Thomas Secondary School, the Ministry of Education Headquarters, The St. John Polyclinic, and the list goes on indicate that there are serious problems in terms of planning for capital expenditure and the appropriate financing for that expenditure. We also note, Sir, that a number of these projects were attempted to be financed on budget. That always constitutes the source of some difficulty in terms of the ability of the Government to carry the projects.

You might want to note, Sir, that the Government has resuscitated the Planning and Priorities Committee which will attempt to bring some order to the chaotic situation with respect to capital projects. The work of the Committee has already borne some results and you can expect a different situation when we review the next financial year.

I am sure you are aware, Sir, but for those persons who are not aware of what the Planning and Priorities

Committee is. It is a sub-committee of Cabinet that has responsibility for assessing and prioritising the various Government projects which are conceived of by the various Ministries. As you, I am sure, would anticipate, all the Ministries in their eagerness to spur on development, will conceive of a number of projects. In a situation of resource constraints, clearly there has to be some mechanism for assigning priority to those projects. There has to be the guarantee that there is proper financing and there has to be a mechanism for follow-up on those projects to ensure that the plans that have been laid with respect to those projects are, indeed, carried out.

The Public Investment Unit of the Ministry of Finance services the Planning and Priorities Committee. Before any major project is executed either by a central Government Ministry or indeed by statutory corporations, they are submitted to the Planning and Priorities Committee for review and approval. In that way one is able to obtain up-to-date information on all of the projects which are being executed by the Government. The Government is immediately aware of its financial obligations, not just in terms of the direct Ministries but also its commitments through statutory corporations. That, Sir, we believe is very, very significant.

It also, from a policy perspective, allows the Government to prioritise the various projects which may all be very good projects but if they all cannot be done at the same time some level of priority must, indeed, be assigned if we are not to have the unattainable situation of too many projects being started and none of them being completed, as we are witnessing at present.

Sir, on to the financial year 1995/96. To give you a summary of the projections for the year, it is projected that total revenue and grants for the year 1995/96 are expected to be \$1.1 billion. Of that, \$1.1 million will be tax revenue and some \$73.7 million will be non-tax revenue on lending. We are projecting total expenditure of some \$1.4 billion or to be more precise, \$1.358 billion of which some \$1.2 billion will be current expenditure and \$165.9 million will be capital expenditure. That figure on capital expenditure represents a \$50 million increase over the expenditure for the previous financial year.

A deficit of \$251.4 million is projected which represents 8.4% of GDP on the accounting general basis and a 0.9% of GDP on the IMF basis.

Now, Sir, let us look in some detail at what we are projecting for the year. The programme that we devised, as I had hinted at earlier, was centred around maintaining a manageable fiscal deficit. In these matters on the one hand you will have advice which would suggest that if you want to stimulate the economy you need to have a large deficit,

and on the other hand, you will get the advice which the IMF, for example, was offering that if you want to stimulate our foreign reserves we need to have a surplus. 10.45 a.m.

We considered that a surplus, at this point, would not have been the best way to go. You would be interested to note that just about a week ago the foreign reserve position at the Central Bank was in the region of \$412 million, as revealed by the Minister of Finance, as he led off debate on the Estimates in the other House. We believe that our level of foreign reserves must be comfortable but in the words of the Minister of Finance, we do not necessarily believe that they must be heroic, to quote him, Sir. We believe that a deficit of 1% of GDP and beyond is manageable. In fact the Minister of Finance is on record as indicating that, in his view in the context of Barbados, deficits up to 2½% are indeed manageable.

One however does not start the beginning of the Financial Year in a fully extended position. Governments must be able to respond to situations as they develop during the course of the year. One must start well below what would be the maximum level of deficit in case supplementaries are required during the course of the year that one is able to manoeuvre within that zone of comfort.

We have decided to aim at this level of deficit and our programmes have been adjusted accordingly. The expenditure, this year, also speaks to the priorities which we have assigned to the various programmes in the relevant Ministries. GDP for the year coming is projected to be \$2.9 billion.

Let us look, in some detail, at our revenue and expenditure projections. I will just lay them out for the benefit of the Honourable Senators. The current revenue is projected to increase some 4.9% from the 1994-95 level. That is an increase of some \$52 million. The most salient feature of that is a 34.7% increase in taxes on property. But that must be seen in its real context. There are some \$60 million in arrears in property taxes in this country. And we are projecting that the campaign by the Commissioner of Land Tax to recover some of this money should yield \$20 million during the fiscal year. We are not talking about an increase in the rates of land tax but rather a collection of just a third of the rest of the arrears that are outstanding.

Taxes on goods and services are projected to yield some \$435.6 million which is a 5.3% growth. This includes the adjustment for the surtax which will represent some loss to the revenue when it is reduced by the 50% level as of April 1, 1995.

Taxes on incomes and profits are projected at current levels to increase by some 4.1% to \$312.6 million and

this includes adjustments for income tax allowances which will come into force as they do on a calendar year basis so that the income tax allowances that were announced in the 1994 Budget are due to come in force in January 1995 which include the \$1 000 allowance per child up to a maximum of 2 children and also the \$3 000 tax allowance for a spouse who had no income during the year. These projections are based on existing conditions and, as you already recognize, they form the basis of our projections but the Minister of Finance is empowered, in the course of his Budgetary presentation to make appropriate adjustments to these levels.

Current Expenditure. That is the area that we perhaps need to focus on. Current Expenditure in our projection is expected to decline some \$8.8 million down to the total that we mentioned earlier of just about \$1.2 billion which results mainly in a reduction in the expenditure on goods and services and current transfers, that is, transfers to statutory corporations. Expenditure on goods and services will decline mainly because of an anticipated increase in efficiency of operations. We are satisfied that there has been substantial wastage in the governmental system over time on the procurement of goods and services and all the Ministers have been asked to ensure that all of their Ministries tighten up on their spending in this area.

The current transfers. Current Transfers are going to fall by some 8.8% down to a level of \$261.9 million. The most substantial component of that will be a \$66 million transfer for contributory pensions, \$19 million to schools and colleges, \$28 million to the University of the West Indies, \$16 million to the Sanitation Service Authority, \$19 million to the Barbados Defence Force and the others are all under \$10 million.

But, Sir, as far as current transfers go, we have taken the position that statutory corporations must tighten up on their expenditure. They are being called to account for the way in which they can constitute a drain on the public purse. The Minister of Finance has assured us that he will be monitoring the level of transfers to statutory boards, most carefully, during the coming Financial Year.

As far as capital expenditure goes, we included a \$50.8 million increase in capital expenditure. Some of the capital projects will be undertaken during the course of the year. Again I make the point that we are not engaging in any big ticket, show-piece items this year like Sherbourne. The largest item, on that list, is the south coast sewerage project, some \$20 million. All of the others are less than \$10 million each.

I want to make this point, we have had a ridiculous situation developing over the years in which we have not

maintained our existing plant. We have allowed our plant to fall down all around us whilst, at the same time, claiming that we do not have resources for maintaining plant. We have been building new, large showpiece projects.

We consider the maintenance of existing properties as important work. For example, the primary schools. A number of primary schools, as you might probably be aware have been very close to being condemned by the Ministry of Health.

What message are we sending to our young people if we are suggesting to them that the place where they spend some 8 or so hours a day, where they are expected to learn, they are not only learning technical skills or not only acquiring academic knowledge but they are assimilating the norms, values and traditions of the society? Are we suggesting that having unmaintained, dirty, rotting places is part of that tradition? Our police stations. What message are we sending to our law enforcers? Are we saying that their job is to protect other persons well maintained property whilst, at the same time, some police stations do not even have enough furniture to the policemen on staff? So what we have done, Sir, with a number of these maintenance issues is to develop several of them into projects. In the case of the primary schools for example, a \$13 million project has been developed where all of the maintenance in the primary schools would be tackled as a project.

10.55 a.m.

We argue, Sir, that doing that work is no less important, and in fact we could even be bold, Sir, and indicate that it is more significant than building large show-piece projects that do not touch the lives of the everyday citizen. Some of the projects, Sir, include Carlisle Bay Development Programme, the Speightstown Development Programme, project sites and management, livestock project, some work on the Cheapside Market, police stations refurbishment, some projects in Health, a number of projects in Education, the National Transport study completion, road works with respect to completion of Highway 2A, tenantry roads, bridge construction, drainage works, projects in the Scotland District, tenancies relocation and development, Grantley Adams Airport Expansion Study, Bridgetown Port Expansion Study and of course some projects in coastal conservation.

I want to touch on one other aspect of our work with respect to capital development, Sir. I mentioned the Carlisle Bay Development Programme. That project is one in which we envisage Government taking a lead by way of developing policy directions for the use of the area and creating the type of environment that would encourage private sector funds to develop.

We do not believe that the Government must necessarily itself be the person who injects capital into a particular project in order to have that project fly. Neither do we believe with respect to the Carlyle Bay area that the Government's Child Care Board or Welfare Department needs to be on one of the loveliest stretch of beaches in Barbados.

We believe, Sir, those locations should really gravitate towards their higher economic potential and in fact we are currently in discussions with several investors with respect to developing the area from the careenage southward up to the Grand Barbados Resort. Government's role in these projects will be by way of policy direction and facilitation.

You will notice as well, Sir, that we do not have too many projects for individual accommodation of Government Ministries. The other thing we have noticed with respect to capital works is that too many Government Ministries are wont to develop their own little property. Every statutory corporation has its own building, every Ministry and Department, Sir, needs a separate building and with limited land space as one factor, we really cannot have too many Government Departments spread around, building small two-storied buildings, on valuable land area.

Also too, to facilitate communication between Government departments both communication by way of movement of persons as well as communication with respect to technology utilization and so on. We believe that in the not too distant future the Government will have to look at providing more centralised office locations. This is important as well, Sir, because over time the Government has been in the habit of acquiring a number of buildings some of which have outlived their useful life and given Government's past predisposition towards not maintaining their properties, when you have a building that is well advanced in age and there is no maintenance that is a sure formula for rapid deterioration and obviously the complications relating to employee morale and so on. We basically have to move to a situation where the Government's provision of office facilities would have to be upgraded but that, Sir, cannot be tackled on an individual Ministry or Department basis.

The other reason why that becomes important as well, the use of modern technology by Government Departments requires obviously proper electrical systems and so on and in a number of these Government buildings they really were not wired back in the days when they were constructed for any high usage of electricity or for what we would call the clean delivery of electricity. There tend to be many surges and so on. But, Sir, you will not notice any of these types of projects in this year's Estimates because we are committed to, at this point, maintaining what we have and developing those longer term projects as proper

projects where they can be adequately financed and efficiently executed.

Sir, even the Parliament Buildings Project has not escaped the whole problem of sluggish implementation. The West Wing has been in the pipeline for some 7 or so years and I believe that we, before we left office in the previous administration, had developed the plans for both wings. We had renovated this wing, the plans were there for the West Wing and over the years, due to the sluggish implementation that has not been completed.

We have given directions, Sir, that that needs to be recast as a project so that we could assess where we are at, what will be required to do the completion and allow for proper execution. But this attempt at allocating funds on an annual basis, Sir, to do these projects bit by bit, whilst it might be a Barbadian tradition as far as house building is concerned – you know that many Barbadians have acquired their house by taking some money, particularly in the days when sugar was a larger thing than it is today, when persons at the end of every crop would allocate some of the earnings from the crop to add on a room at the back and expand bit by bit until you got your house. I do not think that Government can take that approach to capital projects. You cannot complete major works by allocating money on budget on an annual basis to do it bit by bit. You end up, Sir, losing substantially. So we are basically moving towards greater efficiency with the execution of capital works.

I believe, Sir, that I owe it to this Honourable Senate to make some comments on the existing unfinished projects.
11.05 a.m.

Those projects will be dealt with to the extent that our resources will allow. We will not be seeking to discontinue the projects simply because we did not start them, but at the same time we owe it to ourselves and to the public to re-examine their relevance in the context of the several years that might have elapsed in one or several of the projects, as well we need to recast them as new projects so that appropriate financing can be obtained to ensure that we ourselves do not run into the bad practices that were practised previously.

We have already identified that work on the new Ministry of Education complex in Constitution Road on the old Queen's College compound will be restarted. A proud Combermerian is reminding me that that is where Combermere used to be many years ago, but notwithstanding those unimportant points that project will be restarted because we have identified sources of funding for the project, but also because the completion of

that project stands in the way of the implementation of other important projects.

There is a Management Information System, for example, which is to be installed as part of the project for the better management of the education system, which depends on the completion of the new building, and the reason why that is so is that the consultants have identified that the existing facilities at the current premises in Jemmotts Lane cannot provide the kind of environment, both in terms of the air conditioning required, the level and quality of electricity required and other environmental factors, which would allow for the efficient operation of the Ministry of Education Management Information System. So that will be done, Sir.

The Minister of Education has spoken on the St. Thomas Secondary School and has indicated again that that has been recast as a new project and will be implemented subject to the financing being arranged. We will tackle those projects, Sir, subject to the relevance and to priority being assigned, and of course subject to resource availability.

Sir, within the area of Capital Expenditure, there are a number of Capital transfers which are going to things such as the Sanitation Service Authority, the Sir Garfield Sobers Centre, the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation and the Barbados Tourism Authority, the independent plantations income support, the contributions to national, regional and international financial institutions, and so on.

Capital lending will be in the region of some \$8.6 million, will include the Students' Loan Revolving Fund, some \$2.5 million has been included to resurrect the Fund, and we have other things such as the Industrial Credit Fund, the Sugar Rehabilitation Project, Caribbean Air Cargo Limited and lending to farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Those are some of the key highlights of these Estimates. My colleagues, I am sure, will deal with some of the programmes that are included and that will be executed by the appropriation of this sum to the Consolidated Fund.

But to recap, Sir, the Estimates for 1995-96 have been developed on the basis of having a small manageable deficit which will not do damage to our foreign reserve position but which also would not be of such a size that would prevent the Government from providing the necessary services. The Budget, coming as it will in another few weeks, will lay out more clearly the framework which will facilitate the creation of new businesses, the expansion of existing businesses and a

foundation for sustainable growth which will lead to stimulated economic activity and the creation of jobs.

With that said, Sir, I beg to move that this Appropriation Bill, 1995 be read a second time.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Good morning, Sir, and fellow Senators. I am very proud to be here because I am recovering from a bout of the 'flu, but I am somewhat like Gordon Cuthbert Greenidge, when injured he is equally as potent as an Opposition, so let not my bout of 'flu cause anyone to lull into a false sense of security.

Sir, I intend to look at the Estimates today at three levels. First of all, I am going to wear my hat as the economist and look at these issues from a purely technical side; I will then look at the layman's approach to the economic foundations of the Estimates and then I will look at the political side of this issue, but they are interrelated.

It did not surprise me, Sir, that there is only a targetted fiscal deficit of only 1% in these Estimates, notwithstanding all the talk we had heard over the past three to four years that the Democratic Labour Party Government was adhering to the advice of the international financial institutions. I think the BLP government has come around to the view that the issue for Barbados really is one of trying to correct all the imbalances which we have had over the years, as far back as the 1970s in fact, and that for the first time we had taken the issue in hand and done something to correct the issue rather than toy with it merely through the provision of foreign borrowing.

I do not think that anyone who has taken a serious look at the management of the Barbados economy over the last three years can say otherwise than that the Government did in fact pull around the economy to a far more sustainable path, but before I go into all the discussion surrounding that, I just want for the sake of fellow Senators, and maybe the media as well, to explain a few things. You hear a lot of talk about a fiscal deficit on the basis of the Government and a fiscal deficit on the basis of the Central Bank and then a fiscal deficit on the basis of the IMF, and I am certain that my goodly Senators who have looked at the Estimates may not still quite appreciate the several layers of differences of the fiscal deficit in these Estimates.

On page 4 of the Estimates, you see the Government speak of a 1% fiscal target, what they are in actual fact doing – this is for the Government Senators as well – they are actually taking that figure called amortisation \$188.8 million out of the total expenditure of Government and they are also going to subtract out the salaries related cost of \$28.7 million to bring it to a figure of – after you have deducted revenue – about \$33.8 million in deficit. What

is happening is that the category "Amortisation" is not considered to be expenditure by the Central Bank or the International Monetary Fund because it is somewhat like taking out a loan and transforming that loan from the commercial bank into a house. Now it means that for the owner he has already converted that loan into a house so he does not regard the house as expense. It is only the interest that he pays on the loan that is regarded as expenditure. In similar vein the Government having borrowed what you call the principal part, or amortisation, is not regarded as expenditure and it is only the interest component that is treated as expense and therefore regarded to be part of the Government expenditure. In short, the amortisation is treated as a below-the-line item, that is, it is treated as financing.

11.15 a.m.

In truth and in fact when you hear the Government suggesting that they are not running a surplus this year because they do not want to follow the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund, it is a mere question of about \$34 million in expenditure which separates the two positions. If Government were, for some reason – which I will explain later – to decide not to spend \$34 million in capital expenditure, they would in actual fact run a surplus. It takes a mere \$34 million to achieve that in this fiscal year so it is not that there is a big gulf between the Government and the IMF in relation to the fiscal deficit. In fact, the gap is rather narrow.

The expenditure issue, Sir, is one merely of trying to come to terms with a more fundamental issue of financing which I will also discuss. Let me get down to what I regard as the more technical issues in these Estimates. First of all...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator, I think, inadvertently might be misleading the Senate. I agree with the explanation he has made but I believe the way it was delivered tendered to suggest that this side was using a methodology which is different from the standard methodology which was used in last year's Estimates by that side by suggesting that we are playing with figures to make the deficit look smaller than it is.

In my presentation I cited the deficit on the accounting general basis and on the IMF basis both for last year and this year so I think the Honourable Member may want to take the opportunity to indicate that this is really a standard methodology and he would not to be suggesting that the Government is using a special method to try to minimize what the deficit appears to be.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I guess you now understand my reason for indulging in this exercise this

morning such that the issues can become clear not only to those on this side but those on the other side as well.

I will look now, Sir, in more detail at the whole question of revenue in the Estimates. First of all, there are a certain set of assumptions which have been used to arrive at these revenue estimates. One is that the Gross Domestic Product will grow by about 1.5%. That is the real GDP. The other assumption is that inflation will be about 1% in 1995/96. There are other underlying assumptions here which suggest that the Common External Tariff rates will be reduced according to an agreement which was reached in 1993 and that is going to have implications for Government revenue.

The land taxes will rise because of the payment of \$23 million in arrears and you will find that non-tax revenue will decline by only \$1 million despite a decline of \$10 million in the Central Bank's profit. That is also very instructive.

The first assumption that real GDP will grow by only 1.5% is instructive because in terms of the nominal growth which is more important when measuring revenue, you should take that GDP, 1.5% and add inflation to it to get about 2.5%. In the context of Barbados that gives you a rough estimate as to what nominal GDP will grow by over the course of the year. Therefore we can say that nominal GDP will grow by approximately 2.5% to 3% over the course of 1995/96. That is instructive because immediately what you are seeing is that the revenue estimates which are supposed to grow by 4.9% over the year would exceed the growth of nominal GDP. That simply means that the actual tax taken out of the dollar would increase over the course of the next fiscal period.

One would have thought that given all the criticism leveled at the previous administration over the last couple of years that there would have been an attempt in these Estimates to reduce the tax take and not to increase the tax take as we would see in these particular Estimates.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator is fully aware that the Estimates do not set the level of taxation. He is quite aware of that. He is quite aware that that is the function of the Minister of Finance in the Budget. I am sure he is aware that the level of revenue projected there depends on several existing conditions which the Minister of Finance may very well change when he makes his Budget presentation. I am sure he is aware of that.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, just let me explain that if I had a business, before I can decide on any policy changes I would need to have a financial framework within which to put those policy changes. The Estimates

represent that financial framework. Therefore, I am entitled, based on the numbers in the Estimates, to make projections about future policy.

I am suggesting to you, Sir, that because the revenue take in this exceeds the growth in nominal GDP, that over the course of the fiscal year the actual tax take of every dollar in Barbados will rise as a result of these Estimates. That is what I am suggesting and it cannot be faulted on the basis of the information provided in the Estimates. It is a straightforward case. Let me, however, develop my points.

I now need, Sir, to look clinically at each separate category of Government revenue to demonstrate my position. First of all the major category of tax revenue for Government is consumption taxes. To explain why I am of the view that this area is also over projected I need to explain how it is actually calculated and collected on the part of Government. At the port of entry the consumption tax is levied on the c.i.f value plus import duties or the Common External Tariff.

11.25 a.m.

I have already said that the Common External Tariff will be reduced over the period of the next year. It means that, without any interference to the rate of the consumption Tax that there should be a reduction in the Consumption tax take for the year 1995-96. But we are not seeing that in these Estimates. In fact, what we are seeing is an increase in the consumption tax take. It therefore means that there has to be something countering the reduction in the Common External Tariff. But what we are saying is that the increase in imports cannot be resulting in that increase because, as I said earlier, the nominal GDP is only expected to grow by 2.5%. There is a correlation again between the growth of imports and nominal GDP in Barbados.

For us to get the kind of increase that we are seeing in international trade taxes of the magnitude of 5.6%, imports would have to grow by no less than 8% to 10% over the course of the year in order to generate that kind of growth to counter the reduction in the Common External Tariff reduction. If, indeed, it is being suggested that imports are going to grow by that magnitude, then you cannot say that GDP is only going to grow by 2.5%, because this economy is driven, as we all know, by imports, there should be some relationship between the growth of imports and the nominal growth of Gross Domestic Product. There is simply inconsistency in the numbers.

I am suggesting that the consumption tax take is over stated if we accept that the Common External Tariff rate is, in fact, going to be reduced by an Agreement with

CARICOM. No one can question me on this, Sir. I have been doing this for years, as an Economist, at the Central Bank. I have been forecasting over a number of years and I have been exceedingly accurate. If you want evidence, you can check one of your present advisers whom I took over from when he left office a couple of years ago.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I would not worry to discuss him. But certainly, I had a situation in which I had every confidence that the consumption tax take here is over stated. We cannot, on the basis of that, go on to make all the other suggestions which we are making in these Estimates. But that is not the only one.

I spoke earlier about the stamp duties. The stamp duties would not be affected by the change in the Common External Tariff because the CIF Value is the base of that tax. But I am again convinced that we are not going to get the kind of import growth from the economy to yield the kind of increase in stamp duties which are being projected in these Estimates. That too is also questionable.

This is the folly. In these Estimates we have the import duties. We are being told, in these Estimates, that there is going to be a rise of about 6% to 7% again in the import duties in spite of the fact that the Common External Tariff rate will be reduced over the course of the year. It is simple mathematics and I respect Senator Barker on that front – I have told him that already. But, certainly – in terms of an understanding, he cannot be making these assumptions about the Common External Tariff and then make such assumptions in relation to the growth of import duties and the other components – there are gross inconsistencies.

There is need to look at these major components to Government's Estimates. As we can see on page 5, under Import Duties, Taxes on International Trade, again, we can query and question those levels of taxes which are being projected in the Estimates. You can question each and everyone of them on the basis of the assumptions which have been used to make projections about the revenue base in these 1995-96 Estimates.

I go further, Sir. It is well known that the major influence of non-tax revenue in Barbados over the last 4 to 5 years has been the Central Bank's performance in terms of its profitability. Central Bank tends to perform very well when the economy is in recession. It is because of the changes in interest rate; it is because it becomes exceedingly active on the part of Government, in terms of securities, in terms of shifting between securities, in terms of the behaviour of the international markets and the like and therefore, the benefits which Central Bank

would derive in terms of profit would be transferred into non-tax revenue gains in the Consolidated Fund.

We expect a decline in Central Bank profit from about \$22 million to \$12 million within the course of the next fiscal year. Yet still...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is quite obvious. I would not explain that to you.... we have a situation where the non-tax revenue is expected to decline by only \$1 million during the course of the fiscal year. It suggests a couple of other things. I can now make some assumptions or projections in terms of what may obtain in the Budget. One may see some increase in fees at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. One may see increases in user fees. One may see all kinds of things happening as a means of countering the decline in Central Bank profit of \$10 million that we are seeing. Therefore one is expecting that, with the limited growth in economic activity over the fiscal year that...

Certain remarks made by SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY were ordered, by Mr. PRESIDENT, to be expunged from the Record.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I have no difficulty with that. In fact, that will be addressed in the fullness of time. It is very evident that the non-tax revenue, to my mind, is also over estimated in terms of what we would expect it should be in the year 1995-96. I have difficulties as well on that score in relation to Government's overall revenue take. I repeat, I consider – and I have been supported in the public domain by the Barbados Economic Society. I have also been supported by the National Democratic Party's chief spokesman and, therefore,...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. Order, please.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I know there is a fear on that front.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. Order, please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Therefore I have great difficulty with the overall projection for Government's revenue during the course of the year.

Let me now turn to the expenditure side of things. In relation to current expenditure, it is obvious and quite

rightly so that you could not factor in any increase in terms of increases in wages and salaries for the public sector workers, but that a strange thing happened in these Estimates. I am saying that it should have been foot-noted if, indeed, it is the case.

I am critical of the decline in the other personal emoluments under the Ministry of the Civil Service which declined by over \$2 million. This should not be taken lightly, Sir, because these Estimates are going to constitute part of the history of Barbados. Anyone who is going to be looking back to do analysis with the Barbados economy ought to be able to see, in a very transparent way, a number of things that would occur. If Government is going to take a position where it is going to shift – for whatever reason – certain expenditures from under one Ministry to another, then it ought to have been foot-noted and clearly so, within the Estimates. No one can tell me that I am incorrect. It should be. If, indeed, it is the case that temporary staff are accounted for under the Ministry of the Civil Service in previous years, then you cannot take it willy nilly and tell me that you are shifting the temporary staff to the respective Ministries. If that is the case, you should be in a position where I should be able to take up, like any other person, the Estimates of Barbados for 1995-96 and see clearly that that has been a policy shift on the part of the Government. It has not been done. I am of the view...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Senator knows quite well, he was given an explicit explanation as to why it was done. If you look at the Notes in the Estimates, they are purely functional. They do not explain policy.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. In fact, I am not going to permit, in this debate, points of order to be used by way of elucidation. A point of order concerns the interpretation to be put on the Rules of procedure of this Senate. The point of elucidation, as Honourable Senators well know, is a horse of a different colour. Please proceed, Senator Mascoll.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I think you can see the difference in countenance on my face today. This is time to be extremely serious with the affairs of the Government and the people of Barbados. I intend to be so from hereon in. The honeymoon period has gone and it is time to be serious. I am saying, Sir, that if, indeed, there was a shift in policy in respect of that, it should be stated explicitly within the Estimates. I will repeat that according to my assessment there will be some people being sent home by the Government of Barbados as a result of what I am seeing within these Estimates.

11.35 a.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of elucidation. If the Honourable Member would read Table 7 he would see that other personal emoluments have increased by 8.5% which represents not only the part for the increment but it represents an increase in temporary staff. Thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: What is not clear is that as you go into the estimates there is no statement within the footnotes telling you why there would have been a decline of X amount of millions within a particular category and I am saying that it ought to be put within the Estimates so that people who are going to look back at these Estimates would have a clear idea as to what position was taken by the Government.

It is not for me to scrutinise everything within these Estimates. It is not for me to do that. It is for me to analyse these Estimates to see where the Government is going wrong and where ...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I do not have to scrutinise everyone that is a matter for them.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. There is one Senator on his feet. Can he be heard in silence, please?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the other thing, goods and services. Now for a number of years there has been an attempt to look at this category, goods and services, because a number of people outside of Government think that it is easy just to reduce Government's level of spending by way of being efficient, whatever that means.

Now, this category has nothing to do with Sherbourne. This is the provisions bought for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Ministry of Education, a whole set of other things. Now, as it relates here, Sir, this is a point that needs to be looked at in a very much more detailed way. You will hear a lot of discussion surrounding the need to reduce the level of taxation in Barbados but whoever says it, never goes on to look at the other side of the coin. To reduce taxation in Barbados you need to reduce the level of expenditure but it is very convenient for individuals to say let us reduce the level of taxation in Barbados without necessarily suggesting how it can be done. I am saying that if there is that desire then there needs to be a very detailed look at different categories of Government expenditure. What is happening here is that the Estimates seem to be providing for some increased efficiency on the part of the public sector in terms of either the purchase of goods and services and therefore they are suggesting that there is going to be a reduction of \$9

million in goods and services. My position is that with the increase in inflation and overall cost of goods it would be very difficult to see how we can in fact reduce goods and services provided within the public sector without there being a reduction in the quantity. Government would have to suggest how it is in fact intended to do this kind of thinking, where it intends to reduce goods and services by as much as \$9 million or 7.2%.

I am not saying it cannot be achieved but with prices increasing, there would have to be reduction in the actual quantity or volume of goods and services purchased by Government. Is that the intention of Government? Is it the intention of Government to reduce the amount of goods and services or goods available within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or within the Educational system? I am therefore asking for these things to be delivered to me and to the rest of the Senate in terms of the method that would be utilized to achieve this. That is an area where I can well understand the need to reduce the expenditure to bring in line with revenue but you cannot go about it willy-nilly.

On the question of current transfers, there is a very significant reduction in current transfers for the fiscal year 1995-96 and this reduction is occurring predominantly within grants to public institutions. Again this is certainly a very surprising thing because of the stance taken by the then Opposition in relation to the whole question of privatisation as a policy of the Government.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I know you do not understand, that is why I intend to explain to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I hope you are not referring to the Chair.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: No, Sir. I respect your ability, Sir. The issue is this, Sir. If you embark on a serious privatisation policy, then what you are doing has two effects. It has the immediate effect of reducing your commitment to public institutions as well as the long-term effect in terms of not having to carry the recurring cost associated. That is, maybe the major issue in relation to privatisation programme, not that you are taking Government out of a particular activity but that in the long-term Government can think systematically of addressing the whole question of expenditure growth in Barbados.

When you hear talk about privatisation for the sake of privatising then you get a little worried because it seems as though those on the other side do not really appreciate what is happening. Yet still they feel proud to come in these Estimates and reduce current transfers by as much as \$25 million in this current fiscal year. I am saying

that given all the old talk about the whole question of privatisation by the previous administration there should have been an attempt in these Estimates to reverse that process but no, this Government is quite proud to demonstrate within the Estimates for 1995-96 that there is going to be a reduction of almost \$9 million in current transfers over the course of the fiscal period. What it does suggest is that they have accepted without actually recognising it, or confirming it probably, that they are conforming to a way of thinking which has been recently exposed as well. I will get to that later when I come to discuss the financing, but this is instructive because you cannot be saying that Government should not be encouraging people to be more efficient in their operations within the Water Works Department, National Housing Unit, or within the Transport Board. Yet still you are now more or less supporting a policy which says to them, get tough on these issues. But those get tough issues were in an attempt, as I said earlier, to appease the international financial institutions without necessarily admitting to it publicly.

Now, Sir, on the question of debt servicing the whole strategy over the period of 1991-94 was to revisit Government's whole approach to foreign borrowing. It was the question of the economy after the seventies and the eighties not being able to sustain itself in terms of the earning of foreign exchange and therefore Government had to, as a matter of course, address its whole spending levels within the Barbados economy. The major purpose of the programme was one to restore the foreign reserves of Barbados to a healthy position and to bring Government to a size that is considered rather more manageable.

11.45 a.m.

Part of the strategy in the pursuance of those two objectives really was to make sure that Government's expenditure is kept in check in such a way that it does not have to rely excessively on foreign borrowing. If you were to check the Central Bank Reports what you will witness over the last three years is that there has been a gradual reduction in the foreign debt component of the overall debt of Barbados. That has been a desirable feature, because it has taken a lot of burden off Government in terms of having to find additional foreign exchange to service our foreign debt. I am therefore surprised – indeed it is appalling – that Government in these Estimates could have shifted the onus of financing to the foreign financing side. Why would Government, having admitted that it needs to defend the foreign reserves by carrying a lower than anticipated fiscal deficit, wish at this stage to shift the onus of financing to the foreign side? It is remarkable that they can even conceptualise it, in such a way that we could have, for the last couple of years, been putting the emphasis of financing on the domestic market and now all of a sudden is considering a shift to the foreign sector. I

know it cannot be realised and I will explain it later and I will show you why there was this attempt to put the emphasis on the foreign side.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I have two hours, my friends, and I intend to use every minute of them.

In terms of the Capital Expenditure, Sir, one of the first naive statements made by the Prime Minister on assuming office was that the public servants did not make good forecast. He condemned the public servants of Barbados, but he did not recognise that the whole question of Government's operations over the last three years had to do with cash flow management. That is all it is now, the game has gone from just merely spending and then seeking to finance and the like, it now has to do with cash flow management. Little did he know, in fact, that the reason why Government's Capital Expenditure programme would come in at only \$115 million in 1994-95, as opposed to an approved estimate of \$172 million, which makes that \$57 million below the approved, is that Government was in a position where it had to manage according to cash flow. All that you do is adjust your Capital Expenditure side in line with your revenue. It is not a question of putting \$172 million in the Estimates and saying I am going to build all of these projects. You can only do that within your capacity now to finance the Capital Expenditure, and the reason why Capital Expenditure fell \$57 million below is precisely because there was no availability of all the foreign financing, and if you had to put that additional pressure on the domestic side we would have been under even more difficult strain and the foreign reserves would never have reached record levels in 1994.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Do not be bragging about the foreign reserves, the foreign reserves are merely a result of efficient, prudent management on the part of the last administration, and that is what you are getting now. Sir, what do we have? I have difficulty, as I said earlier and demonstrated with the revenue side of things, because I think they are over estimated, there are some concerns on the expenditure side. Let me state here now that the Capital Expenditure programme outlined by the Government for the fiscal year 1995-96 will not be realised. There is no need for showpiece projects or any such things, your major project will be the \$20 million south coast project. Let that be the case, because the reality is that you will not be able to realise any Capital programme of \$165 million over the course of the next fiscal year, and that is straightforward.

I will now proceed to explain why you cannot realise it. Sir, if you turn to page 8 of the Estimates – fellow Senators might not have brought along their

Estimates, because having witnessed what occurred in the Lower House it does not appear as though the debate is about taking care of the Estimates. But I do not intend, as I stated earlier, in any political arena, once I have committed myself to it, to be taken off track by other peripheral issues. I am committed to what is here in these Estimates and the public of Barbados has a right to understand what these Estimates mean for the future of the people, not just be derailed into debates on casino gambling and who did not get whom a licence and all that sort of foolishness. Those days should go and it is time enough for the people to push them through the eddoes. I am saying I do not intend to waste any time, I am looking at the Estimates in detail and what is contained in the Estimates will be dealt with by me today.

Sir, if you look at the Estimates on page 8 you will see that the foreign financing is up to \$155.2 million up from \$115.7 million. That is a significant increase. Let us now look at the individual components of it, the project funds and the non-project funds. Let us look in detail at the project funds. You will notice that the project funds under the IADB is \$43.9 million and that would be a whopping increase over the \$5.8 million in the previous fiscal year. It is known that the \$20 million for the south coast project should come through from IADB. However, Sir, that would leave a residual of about \$23 million from IADB sources for project loans. It is extremely difficult to see where the IADB is going to provide that \$23 million when last year they only provided of the magnitude of \$5.8 million. I am saying that it is going to be very difficult to get that \$43.8 million from the IADB, \$20 million would come for the south coast.

The other area that is of note is that the Investment Sector loan, which is also going to come from the IADB, would push up the resources from that institutional loan to almost \$54 million, and no matter how optimistic we may want to be it would be exceedingly difficult to expect that that amount would come during the course of the fiscal year. The Investment Sector loan we expect to come as a result, again as I said, of the performance of the Barbados economy. I do not think anyone can dispute that there is no need now, given how Barbados has demonstrated the maturity to manage its own affairs, for an enhancement surveillance programme to take us forward, because initially the concerns for that was just to provide security. When you confront the international markets for foreign loans the ESP is to tell the market you are in a period of surveillance, where things are being kept in check. But we have shown since the IMF programme that we have been able to manage, through the Central Bank and the respective Ministries, the affairs of Barbados in such a way that does not require that kind of programme any longer, so there is no need for that.

The other thing about it is that the internal affairs of the IADB are beginning to change fairly significantly, because they are getting a fair amount of pressure from the U.S. Government and the OECD countries to increase their commitments to LDCs.

11.55 a.m.

In fact, developing countries approaching the IDB at this stage, are also finding out that they are getting easy access to loans; but it does not mean that there is going to be an automatic increase in the provisions to the LDCs. It is just that political element which is saying let the IDB make a healthier contribution to the LDCs around the world.

So this is a fairly opportune time to approach the IDB but it is yet still too optimistic a projection to put almost \$54 million in the Estimates for funding from that source. No one on that side can dispute that.

In terms of the non-project funds, we see a figure here of \$80.9 million in the foreign loan. Again, it is good to play powerful and to tell the IMF where to get off and pretend that you don't adhere or fall for their way of thinking, yet still your Estimates demonstrate an even greater support for the thinking of the IMF than does the Democratic Labour Party's Estimates. It is really amazing that you can take one public view on the IMF and yet privately you are conceding. I will explain that as well.

Before the recent meeting with the IDB in Barbados, the Barbados Government rushed to finish a medium-term strategy document which it has not made available to the public of Barbados.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: You need to make the document public since...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, try not to be distracted. Please address the Chair.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am not being distracted. I am stating clearly that a medium-term strategy document on the economy was prepared in time for the IDB meeting only 2 weeks ago, and the contents of that document have not been made public. You owe it to the media and the people of Barbados to tell them what it contains. I can tell you that the Government has conceded on its position in relation to the severance payments. It has conceded on the whole question of privatisation. It has conceded on areas pertaining to Water Works, National Housing and others. Areas Sir, which we were told a lot about prior to September 6. What we see contained in that document is an attempt in fact to appease the IDB by way of conceding on positions which they previously held very strong positions on.

There is nothing to hide. I am pleading with the Government of the day to make that document a document of the public.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I don't have a copy, but I would like you to make it a document of the public.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Let me go on to look at the question of domestic financing. These are the Estimates. This is not time to just politicise issues. This is time to be serious. Domestic Financing. Now, you cannot ask for a worst estimate than this. This is atrocious and any Government that allows this to come to the Senate and the Lower House in this State is a government that is certainly scrambling because there is no way that you should have permitted this to come here. Look at Page 8 – Domestic Financing.

I will explain what is wrong with it. It is well known that within the last two quarters of 1994 that the commercial banking system of Barbados was not as liquid as in the previous quarters. Therefore its ability to purchase government securities had diminished. The National Insurance Board had shifted its securities from Treasury Bills to Debentures, longer term securities on the part of Government. It was felt that given that there was so much liquidity in the system it would be a good thing for the commercial banks to have even greater access to treasury bills – that is, shift the NIB's securities into debentures as opposed to treasury bills and that would provide the opportunity. When that was done, the Central Bank was holding not one treasury bill.

By the end of the year, the Central Bank of Barbados was holding almost \$100 million in treasury bills. What that tells you is that the commercial banking system was under pressure because the Central Bank of Barbados is not going to hold treasury bills unless the commercial banks are in a position not to hold. When you see the Central Bank holding treasury bills it means that the commercial bank is not as healthy in terms of its liquidity as one would like.

Therefore, rather than there being a fundamental reason in terms of how the economy should be managed, the Government was forced to shift its emphasis to foreign financing. It was forced into that position in recognition of the fact that the commercial banking system is not in a position to buy additional securities of the magnitude which they require and that the Central Bank is not in a position where it can continue to print money.

I would love you to tell me what the most recent balance is on the Ways and Means Account of the Central Bank. You can then go on to explain to the people why that is so. Then you can state the reason why instead of putting increased reliance on the domestic financing sector you have decided that you want to go to the foreign financing sector as a means of financing the deficit.

You do not have a reason for doing it apart from the recognition that you would certainly crowd out the private sector if you go in that direction.

Let me go further, Mr. President. In December of 1994 the Government took the opportunity to increase interest rates. This increase was in direct contradiction to what they had said prior to that period. Now, something recently happened in the international arena which could have been factored in as well into the assumptions underlying the Estimates.

This economy does not exist in a vacuum, so we have to be conscious of the international environment. The U.S. dollar has been put under tremendous pressure recently and the authorities in the United States have taken the position contrary to all expectation that they do not want to increase interest rates. The reason that they do not want to increase interest rates is because it may have an inflationary effect. It may have the effect of pushing prices up. So the United States authorities have in fact resisted this move to increase interest rates.

The truth is that it is apparent that there should be more than likely be an increase in the rate.
12.05 p.m.

Sir, to prove the folly of the thinking, the Senator said that it would be a temporary increase. If he understands economics and if he understands that the interest rates within the West Indies are very dependent on movements in North America, then he would also understand – since you are agreeing that there will be an increase in the interest rate – that the increase in interest rates in the Barbadian economy cannot be deemed to be temporary, not in light of the situation that has occurred in the United States. It proves that they do not understand the issues.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL were ordered by Mr. PRESIDENT to be expunged from the records.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the issue is clear that once the U.S. is forced to defend the value of the dollar by way of an interest rate adjustment, then it is going to put additional pressure on the Barbados Government not to carry back the interest rate to where it was before that. It is simple.

The other effect is this. The hike in the interest rate is also going to make access to the foreign markets even more costly. Once you run to the foreign commercial markets for borrowing you are going to be confronted with a higher interest rate as well. It is also going to have implications for the overall current expenditure of Government because there is a component in Government current expenditure, which is called interest - domestic and foreign as you will see on page 4.

Sir, I can now on the basis of that kind of analysis suggest that access to the foreign capital markets is not going to be easy for us. Last year we managed to get as much as \$99.3 million from the private foreign capital market. It is not going to be easy to get \$81 million in private foreign capital from that market especially after the sentiments expressed in relation to the IMF. Therefore, we will not - I am going to put my neck on the block on it - be able to get the foreign financing projected in these Estimates.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I will put it on the block. We will not be able to get the foreign financing stated in these Estimates. What will this mean? It is going to mean that the capital expenditure programme of Government cannot be realised in 1995/96. You can see, Sir, how I develop my arguments to demonstrate that these Estimates are not as solid as they could be if, they were well prepared. I am saying they were not well-prepared in light of the circumstances that prevailed locally, regionally or internationally and that we are going to have difficulty.

On that front, the whole question of job creation which should have been the centerfold of the Estimates...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Can we have some order, please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Since Government is now in a position where it cannot itself, which it has admitted, increase job creation, the Government is now talking about facilitating the private sector such that the private sector can do this and do that. In fact, that constitutes part of the reason why there has been an ongoing attack on the well-presented and well-documented 5-4-3 plan because it was located within a sound macro-economic framework.

I was indeed very disappointed to hear the Prime Minister of Barbados criticising none other than Sir Arthur Lewis for his suggested framework score. I am saying that one cannot dispute the need within the Caribbean for a productivity policy. We have all accepted and conceded on that need.

In fact, if I may digress here, if indeed we had gone the route that we should have gone in 1974 when the National Productivity Board was being put in place, and when the Government was changed, it was changed and called a National Economic Council, if we had gone along the line of the National Productivity Board after consultations had taken place with the employers and the trade unions and the like, we would have been 20 years ahead of our time. But we took opportunity at that time to play politics and not put a National Productivity Board in place and set up a National Economic Council that hardly met.

The question of an Incomes policy has been well articulated throughout the length and breadth of the economy and there is full recognition of the importance of it. That is one of the major planks of the 5-4-3 strategy. The exchange rate question is also there and the whole question of trade policy. I am saying that one cannot dispute the need for a sound macro-economic framework to manage the affairs of Barbados and that the Prime Minister could have gone so low as to attack the late Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics, Sir Arthur Lewis, was indeed a recognition that he is not treating the office as an intellectual challenge. He has to treat it as an intellectual challenge. You cannot condemn the only plausible attempt at an employment strategy for the region because you are now seeking to attack a plan that has its roots in that sort of thinking.

The 5-4-3 plan, for the sake of those who do not understand it, at the time it was conceptualised the unemployment rate was 22% and it was felt that given the strategies which we had put in place that we should have targeted an unemployment rate of 10% over a 3½ to a 4 or 5-year period. Therefore, the 5-4-3 which add to 12 is simply 22 - 12 would give you 10, so there was a strategy over the course of the period, because of the sound economic programme which we had in place, to systematically attack the unemployment rate of Barbados. Indeed, the evidence is there to show that by the end of 1994...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order. I would like to remind the Honourable Senator that his Development Plan said that we would have it at 22%. How does that compare with it?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No point of order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: In fact, Sir, the medium-term strategy document produced in February of 1994 contained in it an unemployment rate of 15% by the year 1998. Check the medium-term strategy document which was subsequent to that. Check that. What I want you to do is to tell the people of Barbados what is contained in the recent medium-term strategy document.
12.15 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Tell the people. I have to worry. Why should you have a secret document, presenting it to the IDB, at a time when you were talking about transparency and all kinds of things about participatory democracy. You have a right to let the people of Barbados know...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL:...what is contained in that document. Tell them.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Tell them. The Five-Four-Three plan is straightforward and too sweet and you will have to resort to it. I am going to keep it on the front burner.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I believe the Honourable Senator might be imputing improper motives to the Senators on this side on behalf of the Government by suggesting that a document is a secret document. Describing a document as a secret document has a different connotation from a document that is a confidential document.

Clearly, there will be several documents relating to Barbados' position on several issues that would be confidential and not for mass circulation. But that does not have the same imputation as a suggestion that they are secret and therefore suggesting some clandestine element to it. I would suggest that he would want to refrain.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would you like to use another more acceptable...

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is a document that contains secret policies.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, Sir, to suggest that the policies of the Government are secret is really even worse. Because clearly that would be to suggest that things like the Party's Manifesto that would have been used in the Election have been espoused by the Government in the House of Assembly and in the Senate from time to time are not what are, in fact, guiding the operations of the Government. It is making it worse to suggest that the Government has secret policies. I would ask that the Senator withdraws those remarks.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think it is fair to ask for a withdrawal. I think the connotation is one, as you use it,

Senator Mascoll and there certainly seems to be a disparaging side to the comments. I would suggest that you withdraw the words.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I have the utmost respect for you. I withdraw those remarks. However prior to his departure to the Belize meeting the Prime Minister said that he is putting together a strategy document that is acceptable to all. When you analyse the phrase acceptable to all, it means that the other side has an input. Once the other side does not agree to what is contained therein the other side can disagree. Until that document or that strategy becomes acceptable to all, it is of no meaning to the 2 parties.

I want to know – and I just repeat – why are the contents of that document not being made available to the public?

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please proceed, Senator.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am hearing voices other than that of the Senator who is on his feet.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am surprised he is so vocal after he has been put on the back burner and not allowed to speak in this Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is a fair amount of scope in this debate but I think you are being a little bit irrelevant.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: All of a sudden he is so vocal. He has not been allowed to speak.

I have just dealt with a number of the issues in the Estimates from the point of view of the technician to demonstrate that the Estimates are not well-grounded. I am not convinced that the projections are sound, based on the overall assumptions being made about the economy. I am not convinced that we will realize the financing which we are projecting. I am not convinced that the capital expenditure programme can be realized. I am not convinced that the domestic financing market is in a healthy state to accommodate such financing. And therefore I am saying that these Estimates will not provide for us what we expect. And, more importantly, no policy framework can be put into place with respect to these Estimates without creating major disappointment for a number of the major sectors in the economy.

On that score, I now address some of the sectors. I will now discuss the area of tourism. It is well-known that the tourism product had some difficulties for quite

a number of years and that since 1987 the United States market, the major market reached a peak and has not recovered since then. In 1989 we had a situation in which our tourist arrivals reached a peak.

There are a number of difficulties associated with our product out of the US market. We have confronted some very serious competition within the region in the Dominican Republic, in Jamaica at the lower end of the market. At the higher end we have confronted competition with Aruba, a fresher product, Anguilla. Therefore Barbados has struggled, to a large extent, out of the United States.

What we have seen is that, Barbados, at the local level for a number of years, has demonstrated 2 separate kinds of markets on the west and south coast. Inasmuch as one can seek to blame high prices and the like, you would have to ask yourself the question why is it that the west coast properties continue to do so well in spite of the perception that Barbados is high priced? The thing is that you have, whatever you do, to provide value for money.

In that regard the last Administration recognized that that the south coast properties were in need of assistance. There was recognition of the difficulty with the Barbados Development Bank. When the Canadian market was a major market for Barbados and the properties, because of the conditions at the BDB, were confined to building hotels with less than 25 rooms, not recognizing that, in time to come, it would become a problem to manage such small properties.

What has happened is that those properties have found increasing difficulty in being able to service their debt while paying National Insurance, Taxes, Land and Property and a whole myriad of other problems which they have encountered.

It was a very well-conceived idea, on the part of the last Administration, to take the proceeds of the privatization and put into a public enterprise fund. That is why it can be described no less than callous, that the Prime Minister can suggest that because the funds are available they have to be spent.

There is no doubt that those properties...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Senator is ascribing to the Prime Minister motives that certainly are not correct. That fund – I can remember it because I was in the Chamber at that time – has specific items for which the money can be spent. The Prime Minister has, in no way, gone outside of those specified items of expenditure. To suggest that there is some sort of sculduggery going on or that there is a misuse of this public expenditure fund is misleading the

House and the Honourable Senator should desist from making those connotations about the Prime Minister.
12.25 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The standing Orders are quite specific on any question of imputing motives, especially if they are improper or reflecting on the conduct of Members of either House. So I think it is a valid point of order.

The relevant order is Standing Order 34. I have ruled on it. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, the Public Enterprise Fund, it was stated, would have gone a long way towards assisting south coast properties in terms of making available some financing to restore them to a state of health that could make them very viable and it was part of the Fund's intention to do that.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, when this Fund was conceived by the Democratic Labour Party when they were in office nowhere did they mention anything about...

Mr. PRESIDENT: On what are you speaking?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, on a point of elucidation. Sir, nowhere in that legislation when it came to this Honourable Chamber was the South Coast hotels ever mentioned.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, that has been stated. I do not see what the issue is. It has been stated a Committee was established but the process was interrupted. A Committee was established to look after how those funds could be better utilised within a small business sector and it was identified last year that small hotel properties would have been some of the major beneficiaries of that fund. What I am saying, Sir, is that if you are saying that tourism is the major sector to pull you out of the difficulties and that the BDB can no longer provide that kind of financing and that the commercial banking system cannot make that kind of financing available to small hotels, then it was very prudent to put aside those funds to make them available to the small hotels in a way that can uplift and upgrade their properties. You should not have simply taken those funds and put them under a category here to purchase government securities.

Sir, I ask this question, if you had funds available to you within a firm, would you take those same funds and purchase your own securities? It does not make sense. Why would I wish to take

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot state that the

fund is used to purchase government securities. Nowhere in the Estimates has it been said that the fund would be used to purchase Government securities.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you will have a full hour to develop your various points but that is not a point of order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is not a question of misleading, Mr. President. How could you say that? Could you explain therefore

Mr. PRESIDENT: To whom are you addressing your remarks?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Senator Barker.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well you cannot address Senator Barker. Senator Barker is not in the Chair.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. President I think the Honourable Senator is trying to say to this Chamber that the Estimates, as is before this Chamber, does not meet what his political party had in mind but the Honourable Member should remember that the Government would only be bound by such a situation if when they brought the Act they had inserted that as part of the method of spending that money. If there is nothing in an Act a Government is entitled to change its mind everyday and move its resources from place to place as it sees fit. You cannot criticise the present administration for not doing what you had in mind when you did not put it down in legislation when you passed the relevant law.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That Senator Bolder is not a point of order. It is a mini speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I am entitled to disagree with the use to which the funds are being put. I am suggesting that these funds should not have been taken and put in as financing for Government's deficit. In any case they were not supposed to be part of the Consolidated Fund because a separate fund was established to set up the Public Enterprises Investment Fund. It was not supposed to be part of the Consolidated Fund. I do not understand, Sir, why they should have been shifted away from the Public Enterprise Investment Fund and brought into the Consolidated Fund without an understanding ...

Sir, could I have some peace, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch I can hear you and I should not be hearing you. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am saying, Sir, from that stand point one has to query and suggest that the Government is scrambling to find financing to finance its deficit in the year 1995-96 if not they would not have had to draw on the Public Enterprise Investment Fund. That is my position on that issue and therefore no matter what happens they are not going to be in a position where they can truly assist the South Coast projects.

We are well aware of the difficulties that the South Coast projects have been under in the last couple of years and assistance was being provided in many forms as a result of our understandings and findings.

The other thing, Sir, is that there is no doubt that we have to have a clear policy in relation to tourism. In the US Market we are having a case where a previous Board had conceptualised the whole question of sales agents within the United States Markets, and a certain Senator in these Chambers is on record as disagreeing with the Minister of Tourism on the issue as to whether or not there should be sales agents within the US Market.

What I am saying, Sir, is that it is well known that a number of Bajans applied for those posts and only this weekend in Barbados we had a situation in which those sales agents were being taken around Barbados to become familiar with the product. What is most amazing about it is that they were quite a number of old people, all non-Barbadians.

Now, tell me, could you be serious about really addressing the question of sales within the US Market and then take up those kind of individuals who do not know the product of Barbados and have a situation which we intend to expend a whole set of money on those individuals. We cannot have that when we are saying that we are going to have a situation in which we are looking to lift our standards within the United States market.

Furthermore, Sir, it is more important for us to have a situation in which we do something with the product rather than simply to suggest that we can sell a product which is not of a saleable type within the United States market. So we have to address the issue of the product. It is not just a question of getting sales agents within the United States market, it is whether or not we have put in place initiatives within Barbados to address upgrading the small properties in Barbados in such a way as to make them viable entities within their own right within tourism.

We have a situation where we have decided to implement a policy position which we have, a Senator disagreeing with a Minister on and now we have a situation where we have not taken full hold on and we have decided to have a number of people who do not know the

product of Barbados. We cannot be serious, when you are talking about correcting some of the problems within Barbados.

12.35 p.m.

On the question of the wider project, it is well known that for a number of years Barbados would have been well placed and would have been able to attract a large hotel chain, but we had difficulties with the whole question of casinos and additional airlines coming to Barbados in such a way that they can link up with larger chains. But we have not been able to address that issue because we have not been able to convince foreign investors that Barbados is a place in which we can guarantee the kind of rate of return on their investment as to make Barbados a more viable entity than within other Caribbean destinations. So Aruba has been able to attract, other Caribbean destinations have been able to attract and Barbados, because of the lack of an adequate rate of return, has not been able to get the kind of investment to attract additional entities into Barbados. What we have seen are difficulties in relation to Barbados being able to attract that kind of foreign investment at all levels, so we have some serious problems in terms of that area.

Let nobody convince you that merely to try to shift blame to give justification for, some consideration of casino gambling in Barbados, that you can begin to pull the Democratic Labour Party into a whole discourse on casino gambling over whether or not to have casinos. It is merely to give yourself a comforting position so that in the event that you continue to struggle to attract foreign investment that you then decide to set up casinos and then say that the Democratic Labour Party was also supportive of it. That is a position which they are trying to hold to, but that is a position which we should all try to reject because there is no need for casinos within the Barbados' hotel or tourism plant. There is no need for that within Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch. I am not naming you, but I am hearing your voice. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, there is no doubt whatsoever therefore that the thing which we need to pull us out, which we have identified as the major foreign exchange earner in Barbados, tourism, needs to be looked at in a very detailed way. An appropriate starting point would have been to address the small properties, rather than to see Barbados only in terms of being expensive when certain elements of the market have in fact demonstrated that we can survive, and survive rather well.

In fact, the St. James Beach Hotel properties have shown over the years that tourism can be viable and that it has been the only local firm to have been able to raise

foreign financing on the Stock Exchange in London, or in any other market for that matter. So there is considerable hope within tourism, but we have to be concerned that we do not allow the lower end of the market to be so far removed from the upper end as to pull the entire market down. We have to try and get to that issue and I am saying again that the Public Enterprise Investment Fund should have been used to assist those small properties to upgrade their facilities, not against the law.

I now turn, Sir, to the question of informatics. I recall a ten-point plan being put forward for job creation in Barbados by the then Opposition Leader and he suggested that we can get, on the basis of a very simple, trivial, unresearched paper by Dr. Worrell of the Central Bank of Barbados, that 10 000 jobs can be created almost overnight within the informatics sector. The paper is called "Out of the Doldrums". One would have thought that since that constituted the major plank of the employment strategy put forward by the then Opposition Leader that we would have seen.....

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: On a point of order. Mr. President, I am concerned that the Honourable Senator has made a statement which could be disparaging of the professional reputation of a senior officer of the Central Bank and I think that maybe he should withdraw those remarks. He has named the individual and I do not think it is appropriate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think you did name the particular officer, but what you did say as I recall was that it was an unresearched paper. I am not sure that is necessarily a reflection on his competence.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: No withdrawal. It identified the informatics sector as being able to raise 10 000 jobs in Barbados over a five-year period. One would have thought that given that that was the major plank of the employment programme of the Government, that the first order of business would have been to establish a committee to look into investigating Barbados' competitiveness *vis-a-vis* the rest of the region and other developing countries in the area of informatics. One is unsure as to why we could easily have spent \$200 000 on a Casino Gambling Commission and could not have taken that \$200 000 and put into a committee to investigate all of the necessary work that one would have to pursue in order to be able to truly locate Barbados on the frontier of the informatics industry.

It is not going to be easy for Barbados to feel it can sit down and idle on this question because it has some comparative advantage over the rest of the region. In fact, only recently Cable and Wireless has carried out an entire fibre optics programme throughout the OECS, which

is going to mean that those countries are going to be well placed to indulge as well in this area of informatics and therefore one cannot see any comparative advantage being derived as a result. Therefore Barbados needs to urgently address what are really the conditions necessary to catapult Barbados forward in the area of informatics. Given that that was put forward as the major programme for job creation on the part of the Government, in these Estimates one should have seen an allocation of resources in such a way as to demonstrate that the focus was still on the informatics industry in terms of a job/employment programme. When you check the Estimates you do not see any evidence that there is going to be any major emphasis being placed on searching for opportunities within the informatics industry and we have to look very carefully at this issue, because it does not make sense at once stage suggesting that you have an employment strategy based on a 10 000 job creation within the informatics industry, as I said, based on a paper that did not do any investigative research. It was merely speculative. As I said, based on a paper that did not do any investigative research. It did not analyse the present circumstances under which the informatics industry operated. It did not outline the areas of competitive advantage for Barbados. It did not outline the status of the informatics industry within the world. It was just a casual attempt to look at Barbados 5 years down the road out of the doldrums.

12.45 p.m.

Out of that, came a suggestion that 10 000 jobs could be created within the informatics industry. The Government had the gall to take that little suggestion and use it as a major area of employment strategy for the next 5 to 10 years in Barbados.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator is recovering from the flu. I think he is having some medicine.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: So, Sir, I wish to suggest that rather than spending time having a whole range of committees setting up meetings, that we should have been setting up a committee to investigate truly the whole area of informatics. I have recognised that the public sector because of the initiative of the last Administration is going to be looking at the whole question of computerisation within the public service and therefore that is a very plausible thing that will happen over the course of the fiscal period, but that too, has not been fully ventilated.

On that score, Sir, I have not seen in the Estimates any provision made to train the people at the Customs or Inland Revenue in terms of preparation for the Value Added Tax system. I am saying that you cannot wait until that is implemented for provision to be made. One would

hope that since there has been an agreement in principle to the Value Added Tax system that the Government would have started from this fiscal year to train all the people at the Customs and the Inland Revenue to take over the system when once we have decided to put that system in place. Therefore one is asking for the Estimates to reflect that there is going to be that training process in place. It has to start way before the Value Added Tax system comes into place.

If we are forward looking and if we are saying that we agree in principle, and I think we all agree in principle that some of the ways to ease the system...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. The Government has \$8 million for tax administration of public expenditure and part of that programme deals with the implementation of the VAT system. It is on page 21. Over \$8 million the Government has committed to tax administration and the CAT is part of that and the Honourable Member knows that because this was negotiated before he left office, wherever his office was.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have made your point.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, if the Value Added tax system is going to be implemented in Barbados within the next year, is it not reasonable to ask that a training programme be started, or should have been started? Is there evidence of any training programme for the public servants of Barbados in relation to the Value Added Tax system? The provision which is in there is provision for equipment, computerisation with the main frame and other small PCs that you have to put in place to effect the Value Added Tax system. There is no evidence because it should have started.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order. The Honourable Member would be advised to read the notes facing page 21 and not only read them but to be honest enough to...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot use that language.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I take them back, Sir. I apologise. Sir, it is mentioned here what the money is for. It includes professional services, computer equipment, overall co-ordination and supervision of the programme.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I think you have made your point.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, what I am saying is that, you cannot wait until the Value Added Tax system is about to start. All like now, we should be getting all kinds of promos on television in the public press in relation to the Value Added Tax system. It has to start a year

and a half before, but there is no evidence. Have you started printing information? Where is the documentation? Where is the evidence that there is a programme to look at international Value Added Tax systems? There is none so I am saying that we need to look at that.

Sir, what we have here is that the Value Added Tax system has to be looked at *in toto*.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, if your last comment which I heard is on record I would ask that it be struck.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I do not want to overrule your ruling but anything he says to me I accept because...

Mr. PRESIDENT: On what are you speaking? Senator Mascoll please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, In the area of manufacturing, another critical area for Barbados as you look to the future. I have been hearing recently that it is fair to suggest that unfair practices within CARICOM are responsible for the decline of the manufacturers. There is vast evidence to show that even though there may be some unfair practices within the CARICOM that it cannot be responsible for the decline we have experienced over the last 10-12 years in Barbados. To suggest that you can restore the health of the manufacturing sector by getting fair practices within CARICOM is again to send a signal to them that is misguided. It is somewhat like the \$5 million concession which was granted at the beginning of the term more or less prompting the BMA to say that it can create 18 to 20 000 within 5 years and only in a couple of weeks then to retract on the position and to ask for further 'easement' on the part of the President of that organisation.

The difficulties confronting the manufacturing sector are many. They start with the agreement in principle to systematically reduce the Common External Tariff to a maximum of 20% by 1998. That is going to reduce the level of protection offered to the manufacturers. The other area is the area of the surtax which was introduced as a means of protecting them over a 4-year period and it has been agreed again that you will systematically reduce the surtax down to zero or so by 1998. That too is going to impact on the manufacturing sector.

It is also known that inasmuch as the Value Added Tax would reduce the taxes on inputs to the manufacturing sector that the Value Added Tax is also going to reduce considerably the kind of protection now being offered to that sector because of the consumption tax and the stamp

duties. Both the consumption tax and the stamp duties will be removed when the VAT is introduced. So on the one hand, there will be some ease in terms of the taxes on inputs by way of that tax but there is also going to be a significant reduction in the protection presently being offered as a result of the Value Added Tax.

One can therefore see that there are many challenges up ahead for the manufacturing sector within Barbados. If one did an analysis of the sector, not as an aggregate but a sort of sub-sectoral analysis, one will recognise that certain areas have done particularly well over the last 3-4 years despite the difficulties - areas like chemicals and the like.

12.55 p.m.

What one notices on very detailed investigation is that those sectors which have done well had been sectors where the labour cost as a proportion of overall cost has been around 10% or so. In the garment sector the wage cost which as a proportion of overall cost is in excess of 30%. This has been, to a large extent, responsible for part of the difficulties experienced by that particular sector within the manufacturing sector.

Now, a global assessment therefore of the manufacturing sector does point to not such a healthy future for this sector. This is not only the case in Barbados. If we were doing our reading on Trinidad we would recognise that in spite of all that Trinidad has done, that the manufacturers are under severe pressure within that sector and in Canada, as has been stated.

What we need also to look at is that the NAFTA arrangement which has been agreed to in principle, also has severe implications for Barbadian manufacturers and regional manufacturers as a whole. Do not let us give the impression to the manufacturing sector that so long as we address the whole question of so-called unfair practices within the region that we are going to provide the manufacturing sector with a life blood. We must have a more honest look at the future of manufacturing within Barbados.

I think the region as a whole should be concerned about the advent of NAFTA and not let us for the sake of political expediency give a sort of false hope to this sector. We would like to see, which we are not seeing in these Estimates, provision being made to assist the manufacturers by way of reduction in things like energy costs. The Estimates should reflect that kind of policy slant because what one would see is a reduction in the consumption taxes since almost \$100 million of those consumption taxes come via energy. One can see that you can make a definitive statement within your Estimates in relation to where

you intend to take the economy. If you are telling these Chambers that these Estimates which are projected to reflect the outcome for 1995/96 do not reflect such, then it does not make sense having debates on these.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It does not make sense having debates on Estimates if you are saying that I cannot discern as a result of looking at these Estimates any policy position or any slant in terms of where we are taking the economy, then this is an entirely useless exercise having debates on Estimates. We are wasting time. One is saying that this is supposed to be a charter for change, a period of change. Therefore there should be absolute change being recognised within these Estimates.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of order, Mr. President. What we are discussing here in the Appropriation Bill which deals with Government's expenditure. It even gives a figure of \$704 million in expenditure. The Honourable Member is misleading the House when he is suggesting that the Estimates should be dealing with revenue. It is basically an expenditure exercise because we are dealing with expenditure from the Consolidated Fund, not revenues. That is a matter for a budget which will come at a later date. The Honourable Member knows that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senator has given his interpretation of the Estimates. I think he is entitled to put his particular spin on it. Please proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Yes, Sir. Are you therefore saying, Sir, that we are wasting time?

Mr. PRESIDENT. I am not saying anything. I am saying, please proceed. That is what I said.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I was just asking a question. We have a situation in which I have outlined that the tourism sector cannot see any light from the provisions within the Estimates. I have not seen any shift in policy or emphasis in relation to the manufacturing sector. I have not seen any shift in emphasis in relation to informatics. Certainly there will be none in terms of the offshore sector because there was only an additional \$900 000 allocated within the Estimates in that area. Therefore, one does not get the impression that any significant shift in policy is resulting from these Estimates. I reiterate, that should have been clear.

Now, Sir, in terms of the agricultural sector, there has been considerable pressure put on the sugar industry of Barbados. It is felt that the sugar industry only started its demise in the last three years. One would see from an

investigation of the information that the sugar industry started its decline way back and I will explain.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I do not avoid confrontation.

Sir, if you look, and this is for Senator Barker, at the output of sugar production in 1980 the 135 000 tonne sugar production figure of the Annual Statistical Digest of the Central Bank of Barbados, you will see that in 1980 sugar production was 135 000 tonnes under the BLP. It is instructive to make the point that in 1981 having recognised that the export price of sugar had reached record level in 1980, about \$915 per tonne export price – this is also a record.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is also a record. Do not worry. It is okay. What has happened is that in 1981, one year after this record performance, we had a situation in which output declined by 40 000 tonnes in that one year. Now that is the single largest decline in sugar output ever recorded in Barbados.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of elucidation, Sir. The Honourable Member would be advised to do his research and to recall that that was the year when the rains came in April and a lot of canes were left standing in the ground so the decline in production was mainly due to natural causes.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I have written on sugar. He had a number of years and he never wrote on anything. It is not an issue.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But you gave way, Senator Mascoll, so presumably you were elucidated. Sir, I do not know how you could have permitted that.
1.05 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You gave way. It is not a question for the Chair. The Rules are very clear. If the Member on his feet gives way then ...It is different with a point of order. Please refer to the Standing Orders.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Let me just explain, Sir, that that year we had a decline of 40 000 tonnes. It is now being attributed to drought. Last year it was attributed to something else. It was Sandi who caused the reduction in output. In 1981 it was drought.

In the following year up until 1983, the output fell again down to 86 000 tonnes. I am saying that, over

a 3-year period, we fell by over 50 000 tonnes in terms of sugar. Therefore what we are saying is that to try now to attribute a decline in sugar to the last 3 years is madness. The reduction in sugar production started way back and, at a time when we were recording record export prices, we should have held on to the sugar industry in a way that we did not.

Then we had situations where we can hear about rain, at a time when the sugar prices were very good and the rate of return on the investment was much better than it is now in today's sugar industry. We missed out on the opportunity.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, you have 5 minutes to wind up.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Is that all, Sir? What is more important though, Sir, is that again further analysis of the agricultural sector would reveal – and I said this before – that the livestock industry in Barbados is worthy of even greater attention because it has performed extremely well over the last 10 to 15 years in spite of the difficulties that we have experienced in the overall agricultural sector. There is need to look and to target the livestock sector in a way that can reveal for us a much healthier agricultural sector because that is where we seem to have our competitive edge; in the area of chicken rearing, sheep and others areas of that type.

We therefore need to focus more intently on that area. The evidence is there to show, over the last 10 years, that we have performed extremely well, in spite of the other difficulties. I should like to say that, in the Estimates under the Ministry of Agriculture, I do not see any such provision being made to emphasize any particular aspect of agriculture within the Estimates. What we have is a so-called rural development plan, a \$3 million plan. To assist what? To build what? Tenantry roads? To do what? What will be done in the rural development plan? What is the strategy? Only just to consolidate support within the rural areas, you have decided to devise a rural development plan.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Three million dollars cannot make any impression. There is no need to come to pull the wool over the people's eyes about making provision, in the Estimates, for a \$3 million. It cannot happen. There will not be any significant dents anywhere. You are going to set up a few more lights. What are you going to do? That is the strategy that you intend to employ. There is absolutely no evidence that the Government has any clear policy in relation to any rural development plan. There is no evidence that there is any idea to pull around

the agricultural sector. All you have apparently done is gone down inside the Scotland District to offend the residents of that area.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Who has gone down to the Scotland District?

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The Government. Now that you recognize that the study which was supposed to give rise to all the confidence in the world that Greenland was an appropriate area, we now have a situation in which there is evidence to show that there is a complete under estimation of the cost required to conduct such a facility and that there is no provision, within the Estimates, to show that there is going to be any shift in the dump to Greenland. This should be reflected. All the different cost should be reflected in terms of the operational and recurrent cost. They are not being reflected and they should have been reflected in the Estimates to demonstrate that there will be some shift in the dump to Greenland. I have no reason, from these Estimates, to believe that there will be any shift in the dump.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have one more minute Senator.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: You are talking about rehabilitating the Scotland District and converting it to an economically, socially vibrant region of Barbados. What does it mean? A whole set of lies that do not mean anything, as though you are writing a poem. Economically and socially vibrant region of Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Just let me sum up, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please allow Senator Mascoll to wind up his speech.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am saying that these Estimates are not sound because the revenue basis or the assumptions used in deriving the revenue are flawed. The expenditure side would have to be adjusted in light of the fact that Government would not be able to get the financing and, therefore, there would be rather than a move towards job creation, there will have to be a serious look at maybe retrenching or sending home some temporary staff within the public service and that there is no evidence, at all, in these Estimates to suggest that Government is seriously embarking on a programme to create jobs within Barbados. I have no evidence that the private sector of Barbados can look forward to any Budget, given

the tightness of these Estimates to any ease that could create an environment which can create investment, which is a necessary requirement for job creation in this country. On that basis I say that these Estimates are, indeed, disappointing.

Thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Farley.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly at 1.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed. Before you start Senator Barker, it would help if Honourable Members would call the Heads as they refer to them as it would make it easier for us to follow.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President I was a bit upset over the week-end when I heard that Senator Mascoll has contracted the influenza. Sir, after hearing him my fears were fully grounded because normally the flu affects a person's muscles and joints and so on but this is the first time I have heard of the flu affecting a man's brain.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think you want to say that, Senator Barker. Please withdraw it.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, it affected his ability to think clearly and to articulate his thoughts because we heard nothing that we did not read in the newspaper of March 21 last week when the said Senator Mascoll, purporting to be an economist, as stated in that same article had a lot to say about the budget and said basically the same thing now as he said then.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker I do not know what you are reading from but it is not permissible to read from a newspaper article.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was not quoting the paper. I was just mentioning the fact that what he said earlier today was precisely what he said in this paper.

Mr. PRESIDENT: By holding up the paper you gave the impression that you were reading from it.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I can assure you that I was not quoting from it.

Sir, first of all the first point that you must bear in mind is that what we are discussing is a Bill which provides, and I will read this from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill. This Bill will provide for the grant of a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and the appropriation of the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending March 31, 1996. So that is what we are discussing. What we are approving, in some manner, is whether or not this Honourable Chamber should grant the authority for Government to spend \$704 671 129 as shared out between the different Heads, Governor General, Judiciary and so on, as also mentioned in the Schedule to the Bill. It comes to a total of \$704 million which is what you may call non-statutory expenditure which does not include things like statutory wages and things like debt repayments and so on. That, Sir, is what we are here discussing.

Sir, as far as revenue goes, this revenue is only put here to acquaint this Chamber with how Government is going to raise the money that they want to spend and how it is going to finance any shortfall between its expected revenue and its projected expenditure.

Sir, I think this Chamber should note this carefully, we are not here for discussing the revenues *per se*, we are not here discussing whether or not the Government should be raising less from land tax, that, Sir, is not the object of this exercise, that will come on another occasion when the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance goes to the Lower House and introduce, if he so desires, other revenue raising or revenue reducing measures. So for anybody to suggest that the Estimates should show a reduction in taxation does not understand the exercise that we are engaging in this afternoon. We are basically giving the Government authority to spend the money as given in the Appropriation Bill.

Sir, since Senator Mascoll mentioned a lot of things I think it is only fair that this Chamber should be given the real facts of the matter. It is only fair that we remove idle speculation from this debate and put the facts as they are.

Sir, unlike other years, especially since 1991, these Estimates are prepared by the Barbados Government without the intervention of any foreign agency. Sir, I will never forget that in 1991 I was never so hurt as a proud Barbadian, to see in the Lower House when the budget of 1991 was presented the IMF representative of Barbados was in the Lower Chamber in the place reserved for civil servants. That is a fact, Sir. The IMF representative was in the space reserved for the civil servants because in the Lower House there is space where the civil servants who advise the Minister sit. The IMF representative was in

that Chamber. Sir, when we came to office last year, the same IMF representative had one of the best offices in Bay Street as though he was a functionary in this Government. Sir, we were determined that the people of Barbados gave us a mandate to govern and in a short time, we got rid of that sore on the Barbadian political landscape where we were taking orders from an agency which had no mandate from the people of Barbados. We took over leadership of this economy and I want to say, Sir, that economic policy and leadership of this economy now reside in the Prime Minister's office in Bay Street. It does not reside, Sir, in any other place in Bay Street nor in Church Village, nor in Washington or in any place thereof. We have taken over the reins of Government in this country and we are dictating economic policy rather than being dictated to as was the case for the last 3 to 4 years.

I am not surprised, Sir, that Senator Mascoll does not appreciate that because, Sir, I will never forget that his mentor who is now the Leader of the Opposition, when he became Minister of Finance in 1993 it was said of him, "Oh we are glad, because he is a good listener". That is a statement of fact. They said he was a good listener. That is what we were reduced to.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I was sitting down there where Senator Mascoll is. I commented on that in this said Chamber. I said, Sir, and I will say now that we do not need a person who would go up to Washington and be a good listener. We want persons who can tell the international community, Barbados is no beggar country. We have paid our way in the world from way back when and we will continue to pay our way in this world. We are not here for hand outs. We are here to tell the world we are a free independent country. We are accustomed to this for over 300 years and now all of a sudden the last Government surrendered the leadership of the economy to Washington and we had down here some functionaries whose ability was nowhere near as outstanding as Senator Mascoll's. He has ability although from his verbiage you would not think so but he has ability.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes I taught him. The ones they sent down here had no more ability, in fact they have less ability than Senator Mascoll but they allowed people from God knows where to come down here and dictate economic policy. I want to say, Sir, that the Estimates is the first stage of the Government wresting economic control from these foreign agencies whose record all over the world is nothing to shout about.

They have destroyed country after country and I am sure that their policies are mainly responsible for the state

that Guyana and Trinidad and Jamaica find themselves in because their policies are not relevant to our type of economy.

Sir, I am glad that we have these Estimates here because Senator Mascoll is fuming about the deficit but those people want us to run a surplus when all along our economic philosophy has been that you should always have a surplus on current account and capital expenditure is mainly financed from borrowings. That has been the economic philosophy that has guided us from independence and even before and it has worked well because we were able to develop our country along those lines.

2.25 p.m.

Only about a week or so ago, Sir, I heard the same Senator Mascoll commending the late Prime Minister Barrow for his economic policy, which basically was to run a surplus on Current Account, but overall the country can manage a deficit and can operate with an overall deficit, but now the IMF wants us to run a Current Account surplus. What that would mean is that we would have to allow the programmes we have put in place to be cut out.

Sir, the Estimates of Revenue were prepared by the Civil Servants and they, based on their knowledge and expertise, have made certain key assumptions which govern the Estimates of Revenue. Among the assumptions was that real GDP would grow 2.5% and nominal GDP would grow at about 3.6%. They also estimated an inflation of 1% and a growth in retained imports of 7.6%. Senator Mascoll has problems with that, because he does not understand that it is very possible for a country to have zero growth, or even negative growth, and still imports can grow. The link between GDP growth and growth of retained imports is not always established, because it is possible that the two of them could be running in opposite directions.

Sir, he knows about negative correlation. There is not always positive correlation. There were times when the economy was in decline and imports still grew, so there is nothing to say that because GDP is only growing by 3.6% that imports cannot grow by 8%. It depends on where the growth is and if we are envisaging growth in tourism, which has a high input content in terms of goods and services, it is very possible that the level of imports can be higher than the growth in nominal GDP. I am sure that on reflection Senator Mascoll will concede that point. If that is so then, Sir, that will explain why in spite of the fact that the CET is going to drop from 35% to 30%, in spite of the fact that the rate of the surtax is going to be reduced from 100% to 50%, in spite of the concessions given in the income tax area, we are still projecting that tax revenue will increase. In spite of all these, because of the growth of imports, because most of the tax revenue in this country comes from imports, either through the Bridgetown

Harbour or through the Airport, because the bulk of the consumption tax, the stamp duties, the import duties and the surtaxes and so on come from imported goods, so once imports are projected to rise, then automatically the tax take in these categories will consequentially increase. Sir, if the Honourable Member was not trying to score political points, he would recognise that simple fact.

Sir, we are projecting that land tax, property tax, will increase by \$20 million. It is now a matter of public record that the people of Barbados owe the Land Tax Department a figure in the region of \$60 million. We are saying that in this coming year we are going to put in place measures to bring in some of that land tax. We are estimating that one-third of the arrears will come in this financial year. There is no evidence that there is going to be a raise in the level of property tax, because we believe that if we put proper measures in place we can encourage citizens to reduce their indebtedness to the Land Tax Department. That is why we have the figure for property tax increasing from \$58 million this present financial year to over \$79 million in the coming financial year, because we expect to get some of that down.

While I am on land tax I want to say this. The figures show that the bulk of the arrears accumulated in the last three years. It shows the extent to which the ordinary people of Barbados were put under severe pressure by the actions of the last Government, because for the first time in a lot of people's lives – I spoke to a lot of people – over the years they have been paying their land tax without any difficulty, but when you cut a man's salary, when you increase this, that and the other tax, there comes a point when the fellow just cannot pay certain taxes. A fellow will say if he does not pay his mortgage he will lose his house. He must feed his children and there are certain other things he must do, and when at the end of the day when he takes out his necessities and there is nothing left back, he cannot pay his land tax. I know some people might say that that should be one of the first things he should pay, but realistically would you expect a man to pay his land tax before he pays his mortgage? It does not make sense. He is going to pay his mortgage first, so what happened is that the action of the last Government had destroyed the hopes and aspirations of a lot of people, especially those in the vulnerable middle classes who were encouraged to go and build or buy affordable housing. Not only were they pressured by salary cuts and so on, but in addition, in 1991 the land tax rate was changed and I know people whose taxes went from \$600 to \$1 600 and at the same time you were cutting salaries and doing all sorts of things and still expected the people to pay. I do not want to call names, because I will call my own name.

We have created a lot of people here who are indebted to Government. I spoke with people in the Land

Tax Department and they told me that people normally like to pay their land tax. It is one of the few taxes in this country that they do not have problems collecting, but in the last three years the people just could not do any better. This Government has to be very sympathetic now and while it recognises it must encourage people to pay their taxes, they must do it in a humane manner, because the taxes have to be paid. So we are saying that in this year we are going to put in place measures so that we can realise some \$20 million of the \$60 million that is owed to the Land Tax Department. There is no evidence here that there will be any rise in property taxes, and the Honourable Senator knows that, so when he is pushing that point in the daily newspaper it is just a scare tactic.

Sir, the revenue projections take into account every single thing the Honourable Senator mentioned. The surtax change is there, the income tax changes are there, all the taxes we have taken into account before we come up with a projection, because we are projecting taxes on goods and services to increase by 5.5%, which is less than the projected increase in imports. We are expecting tax on international trade to increase by 5.6% which is less than the projected rise in imports. I don't know what the Honourable Senator is quarrelling about. We have made certain assumptions. He is not quarrelling about the assumptions but he is quarrelling about the amount of money we are going to raise. But they are based on our assumptions and he knows from his training that you have to make certain basic assumptions before you get into the quantitative and qualitative aspects of things. You make certain assumptions.

2.35 p.m.

My own personal feeling is that if anything we may have underestimated revenue but I would have to put my neck on the block for that and I am not so foolish. It is just my own view of things. I also believe that the figures for the revenue could be a little bit understated and I hope I am right because it would give us leeway to do things that we probably would want to do but because of our commonsense and our prudence we would not want to do what was done in 1990 when Government went on a spending binge and one Member of Parliament was reported as saying, "If that is squandermania, squander me."

We are not going to go on that pathway at all. We have more commonsense than that. We go for fiscal prudence. So if my hopes are realised and we have understated the revenue, I would be glad because then there are certain things we would be able to put in place.

Sir, I now come to expenditure. The hallmark of the Estimates is the fact that we are controlling. If you look at the figures, especially current expenditure throughout

the year, you notice that for 1988-89 we get an astronomically large increase in current expenditure in Barbados. It was going at a nice rate until then but in 1988 we found that all controls were taken off and it just mushroomed with the result that in 1991 we had to try to control a horse which had bolted the stable.

Sir, we have decided that we are going to keep expenditure in check; but we are going to do it in such a way that we are not going to reduce employment because we recognise that Job No. 1 is "Jobs". We are not in the business of putting people out of work.

On the contrary, we have to make sure that we put things in place so that we can find jobs for our people. That is why it annoyed me when Senator Mascoll said on many occasions that we are looking to send home people. He mentioned 100 jobs, but I showed him this morning that other Personnel Emoluments which are really temporary posts have increased by 8.5% and all of that could not be attributed to an increase in increments because a lot of the temporary workers are not on the incremental scale. Those workers at MTW are on a flat scale so that only about 2.5% of this increase can be attributed to incremental increases.

Sir, I should have mentioned that the figures for wages and salaries are based on the current levels of remuneration but they do not take into account any increase in salary which we have promised to the public servants. The figures are based on the levels of employment that presently exist. 8.5% increase in personnel emoluments signify a small increase in the number of bodies that we are employing in Government in that category.

In spite of all the scare tactics that Senator Mascoll is engaging in, the evidence is there that far from laying off people there is scope in there for a small increase in the number of people employed by Government. Where we have been able to make significant savings is in goods and services where the figures show that in 1993-94 we started at \$104.8 million in goods and services; but this present year ending this week we are spending \$123.1 million and we hope as a result of good housekeeping to bring it down to \$114 million in the coming financial year.

I want to suggest, Sir, that looking at things that were happening in Barbados over the past couple of years we believe that there is scope for Government to be giving the same level of services and the figure for goods and services show a small decline. There is evidence of a lot of wastage in Government. We think, Sir, of the Kola Syrup, the fiasco at School Meals. We think of the fact that the whole tendering process seemed to have been not operating at the highest level under the last Administration. In fact, Sir, it was contaminated.

We believe, Sir, that if we have good housekeeping, if we pay attention to our dollars and cents that we can bring about a reduction in this category. This is our challenge and we have put our money where our mouth is because we are projecting to spend a little less this year than we spent last year.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party would not understand this because they were not always guided by the highest principles of priority when it comes to matters like this. But we believe that if we follow the financial rules properly, if we follow good housekeeping and if we remember that we are only keeping the public's money in trust and that the same way that we are careful about our money we should just be as careful with the people's expenditure, we can bring about the savings that are projected.

This, Sir, is a government which is seeking to cut out waste. It can be done because it must be done. Our overall aim is in a few years' time to make sure that for the same level of services to the public we are going to spend less. This is but the first stage. For the first time we see a government that is committed to reducing its expenditure and I feel that the government ought to be congratulated on this important measure.

If we look under current transfers, we see that Government is projecting to spend 8.8% less on current transfers and the bulk of the decrease is in the area of grants to public institutions where they are projecting to spend almost \$34 million less in the coming financial year than we spent in the current financial year. Sir, that is a big challenge because the philosophy that seems to be governing these institutions is that Government is a milch cow and when you want milk you just go and milk it without any measure of accountability and all that. We think of the St. Joseph Hospital.
2.45 p.m.

We heard that when the ADC was to be amalgamated with the BMC that it was supposed to obliterate the need for Government subsidies. That is what we heard, but it never happened. The message now in the Estimates is clear that this Government is going to make sure that all of its statutory corporations operate at the highest level of efficiency. We are going to make sure that our own Accounting Department in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs exercises greater control over some of these statutory corporations to make sure that their accounting principles and procedures are such that would encourage efficiency.

We are going to make sure that Boards like the Sanitation Service Authority, the National Conservation Commission and those operate with the highest level of propriety. We are going to make sure that where

an enterprise is involved in a service that can be quantified, then the project approach would take place. For example, there is nothing to suggest that the NCC could not quantify how much money it is going to take per month or per quarter to keep Government Headquarters clean because if that was done they would know then that if a month they are spending more that something is wrong and they have to look at the supervision and so on.

Sir, the statutory corporations in this country must be brought to heel. A lot of them have been given large budgets and will do as they like without the measure of accountability that is required. We are telling the NCF and all the other Corporations to buckle up. We are telling them that this is the end of an era for a free-for-all but accountability is going to be the key word from here on end and that we expect them to operate at a high level. That is what we are doing.

Sir, I go a bit further. By closing down the St. Joseph Hospital we are saying that uneconomic and unplanned for projects have no place now in the economic life of Barbados. We are saying that there is no unending source of income that you can just get a project and expect Government to fund it in perpetuity. That is what we are saying. That is why we are able to reduce the grants to public institutions by \$34 million by sending strong messages and telling them that this is your budget and you operate within the budget.

What happened in the past has been this. At Estimates meeting an institution would say, "I want \$10 million to run my affairs for the year." The Minister of Finance would say "You could only have \$7 million." That institution would go ahead and operate as though it was going to get \$10 million and halfway during the year they come with a supplementary. In other words, at the beginning of the year when they were told that they were only going to have \$7 million, they ignored that ruling. What happened is that the Minister who was responsible never exercised the control he should have. It is mostly "he" because the other side would not put a woman as a Minister. He would not exercise the control over that corporation to make it stay within its spending limits. Every year we have a lot of supplementaries coming in because there was a free-for-all. There was no control. People did as they liked. Government had broken down. Even a Cabinet Minister was reported as saying in the Other Place that Cabinet life had in fact broken down in this country.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: On a point of order, Sir. Having admitted that there would be a reduction in current transfers, is the Senator willing to admit that this reduction....

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am just premising my remark with a question. Is the Senator willing to admit that this reduction will mean a reduction in employment in these statutory boards?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, you are out of order. Please proceed Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you. Sir, we believe that the reduction in current transfers can result from greater efficiency and there is no need for any reduction of employment in these institutions. We believe that because, as I said before, our priority is to provide jobs for our people. We are not going to cut transfers and see what happened in 1991 when 3 000 people went home in some of these statutory corporations. That was a big figure of people in these corporations who went home and the level of services dropped. We do not intend to have the level of services dropped in this country. Sir, I am proud to be part of this exercise because I see that the Government is trying, and we are going to succeed, in bringing a level of efficiency in the whole governing of this country.

Sir, I want now to turn to capital expenditure. Capital expenditure is important because the Government, whoever it is, has to make sure that down the line in the next 10 years that the schools are still in good order, that the infrastructure is still there, so Government has to keep on spending money on capital projects to ensure that the level of infrastructure in the country does not decline.

What we have noticed over the past few years is that the then Government under the dictates of the international agencies has gone about and done something which is almost unforgivable. They have brought about a severe decline in the level of capital formation in this country. If you look at the GDP figures you will see that in 1992/93 there was a decline in the level of capital formation in this country. That is why I am proud to be part of a Government which is seeking to raise capital expenditure from \$120 million in 1993/94 and \$115 million in the present financial year to \$165.8 million for the coming financial year.

The point to note, Sir, is that the bulk of that increase is in the area of capital formation which goes from \$66 million to \$128 million, almost a doubling of capital formation activity in this country. What are we doing? We are ensuring that our children are left a Barbados where the infrastructure is still intact, where the capital, schools, airport, seaports, roads and so on are in good condition. That is what we are ensuring because economic development cannot take place in Barbados or in any other country unless the level of capital formation is maintained.

It is to the everlasting shame of the Democratic Labour Party that they in the past few years have reduced capital expenditure to such a low level that capital formation in GDP has declined. It should not happen. It shows that the Government had no foresight and that they were woefully ignorant when it came to proper economic management. If you cut capital formation, you are dooming generations to come. You are dooming them to a life of poverty. That is what you are doing.

This Government, Sir, while it is trying to keep its current expenditure in check, it recognises its obligations to future generations and it is making sure that the level of capital formation in this country is once again on the rise. That is something I am very proud of.
2.55 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Senator made a song and dance about whether or not we are going to realise \$165 million in capital expenditure. Suppose we fall to \$160 million? It is much more than this year because this year it is only \$115 million. If we get to \$160 million, I still feel proud. I wish it were more but if we get there, I would still feel proud. Because I would hate to be in a Government which in a Budget of \$1.3 billion can only spend \$115 million on capital activity. It shows where their priorities are. They are more concerned about spending money on the St. Joseph Hospital. They are more concerned about the Kola Syrup and making sure that the contracts are given out in a certain way. They are more concerned about that than they are about ensuring the future of my children and my grandchildren. They are more concerned about making sure that, in 1990, the top 2% of the Civil Service get fantastic increases than they are about making sure that our grandchildren have schools to go to.

A lot of people in Hillaby and where I live cannot get water on mornings to get a bath. The people in Hillaby have not gotten water for months. They have to wait until the truck passes with it. That is as a result of their crasse, ignorance about economic management, and then he is going to make a song and dance, you cannot spend any more on capital in one year. Foolishness. Before he praise us for having the foresight. He is saying that as though he is making a point, you cannot do that in one year. What point is that?

I also note, for the benefit of the Honourable Chamber, I should note that there is a lot of expenditure on the capital side which is not reflected in the Estimates. For example, Sir, we are spending \$19 million on the waterworks department. When I was a boy, the standpipe was good enough for me, but that was 20, 40 years ago. We are not going back to that anymore. I want on

mornings when I turn on my tap that I get water. We are spending \$19 million this year on improving the water distribution and the water production network in Barbados. It is not in the Estimates, Sir, because that is money that is off budget, that is spent by the waterworks department themselves. I am proud of that.

The NHC is spending about \$60 million, \$70 million this year. The money was there for the longest time. We left the money there in 1986, we came back in office 8 years later and found the money still there. All around, we see the people of Barbados having to do with substandard housing. The NHC has money there lying down doing nothing with it. The only housing units that they conceived and built is in Church Village, St. Philip. The one in Ponside, we had it on a larger scale, but they came up and, true to form, the people of the City do not deserve nothing like that. That is their philosophy. They cut down the scale.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: And turned around Nelson. The money was there lying down. We are taking the money and we want to improve the level of housing in this country. That is what we are doing. When the Honourable Senator is talking about you cannot spend that in a whole year, watch us. I do not mind Senator Mascoll because he wishes that he were on this side.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: He was talking about rather than a 3, 4, 5 or 5, 4, 3?

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I now turn to debt servicing. I want to make the point that this Government is not going to do what the last Government did. That is, crowd out the private sector when it comes to domestic financing.

The Central Bank records are clear. I am quoting from the Economic and Financial Statistics of February, 1995 produced by the Central Bank of Barbados. I am quoting from here. It shows on page 38, 39 that between 1989 and the end of 1993 Government had more or less doubled its indebtedness to the commercial banks. The Government soaked up all the money that was there.

Do you know what happened in the last year, especially since we came in? When we came in, we found that there were over \$626 million that the Central

Bank would lend to Government and we reduced that. At the end of December it was \$525 million. We have made a deliberate attempt not to be soaking up all the credit that is available in this country.

What happened, Sir? We found that the credit to the private sector over the period increased from \$1 172 million to \$1 322 million. We see a shift right away. Government decided that it is not going to be out there taking up all the money that is available out there but rather, we want the private sector which was hamstrung and squeezed for so long to be able to go to the bank and access this credit and engage in their investment and other activities. It is a deliberate attempt, by this Government, to make sure that funds are made available for the private sector to carry on their programme. The Honourable Senator is criticizing us for that. He is saying that we should not be borrowing on the international scene but rather that we should continue borrowing on the domestic scene and further squeeze the life out of the private sector. But we are not going to do that, Sir. Because we know that Government will never again be a major provider of jobs in this economy. We know that.

We know that the private sector must be given the opportunity to breathe, to live and to grow. We are taking all the shackles from off of them.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Partnership as my Honourable colleague is saying. The first thing we did is that we made sure that there is money out there, in the banking system, for them.

Sir, there has been a lot of talk on interest rates. I want to pause a little because it is important as I talk about domestic financing and foreign financing.

In this economy we have got to respond to changes in both the domestic and international situation. Towards the end of last year we saw something happening that we did not like. Our foreign reserves were showing a little bit of strain. We did what we had to do. We did not wait too late to do it. We said the matter is urgent and we must take greater action immediately. We increased interest rates, as a short-term measure. The result was that now the foreign reserves are at almost record level. Notice that this last month we were called upon to pay a \$40 million debt that was unexpected, and we paid it and still were able to keep the reserves at a record level.

3.05 p.m.

The point I am making is that if we are going to be called upon to act, we will act, and we will do what has to

be done to keep this economy afloat. We are not, Sir, going to know what is to be done and still not do it because the crisis of 1991 could have been averted if the Government in 1989 had taken steps to ensure that the foreign reserves did not fall as it did then. And we are not, Sir, going to govern this country and allow these things to happen when something could be done immediately.

Sir, the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister is on record as saying the time is coming when he will deal with interest rates again. We are not afraid to take decisions to protect the economy of this country.

Sir, I am going back to foreign and domestic financing. We are saying, Sir, that we are going to get \$80.9 million in foreign commercial loans. The Honourable Senator is saying that we cannot get it as though he controls the money in this world. The point is that if we were not confident that we could raise the money internationally we would not put it here. We do not operate like the DLP who for years have been putting in the Estimates that they would get money from the IADB when they knew they would never get it. They knew before hand they were not going to get it and they still put it down here. We do not operate that way. We put it here because we know that we have made the initial soundings already. We are confident, Sir, that based on the results of our soundings that we raise this money. Do not forget that last year within a short time of our taking office we were able to go to New York and raise a sizeable loan. Because, Sir, the people in the international community can now deal with Barbados because they know they have a Government which is true to its word because what happened in the last administration, they told the banks and the international institutions one thing and did another. But this Prime Minister we have, Sir, he tells you up front what is what. He told them up front, do not come here telling us to raise rents and so on, that is not your business, that is our business.

The international community understands a man but they could not understand the last administration because they were not acting like men, but in this administration we act like men. We tell you up front what is what and the time is going to come when our name in the international community is going to be what it was prior to 1986. That time is coming. Sir, we are confident that we are going to realise this level of loans.

Sir, the Honourable Senator also talked about the IADB money, \$43.9 million and he, himself, said that \$20 million is for the sewerage scheme. Sir, he forgot to mention that the IADB is helping to fund the tax study that was mentioned earlier and the West Coast Study and various other things. So this \$43 million is money that is already committed. It is virtually money in the bank so

to speak and when it comes to investments sector loan we have \$10.4 million and I sure that by the end of the year this is going to be more than \$20 million because the IADB now know whom they are dealing with and they can deal with a man.

One last thing, Sir. I read in the paper last week that our credit rating has dropped and, Sir, I ask myself what has happened in our economy that our credit rating has dropped? You know what I tell myself? I tell myself that the international community now realise that they have a man to deal with. This, Sir, is but the first salvo in a battle because they want to bring our administration to heel because we are acting too powerful.

Small Barbados once again is making sounds that they used to make before 1986. They are saying it is the sugar drought causing our credit rating to fall. That is a bundle of nonsense. Sugar is about 4% or 5% of GDP. Sugar is not the sugar it was 20 years ago so a small drop in sugar cannot bring about the damage to the economy that the international community is saying so this is only an excuse. The fact is, Sir, they do not like us small black countries making these sounds.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, it literally pains me to intervene here on a point of order. The Senator is misleading the Chamber because he should well understand that within the measurement of the Gross Domestic Product of Barbados that sugar still is very significant as a sector and even though it is true to say it has declined significantly over many years it is not true to say that a decline however small he may think it is, does not impact pretty heavily on the gross domestic product so the international organisations may have reason to believe that a reduction in the sugar could have implications for the future viability of the economy. You are misleading the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not really a point of order. It may be a point of elucidation. But I see that Senator Barker has given way, so....

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point is, that Senator Mascoll agrees with me that sugar is so small in relation to the GDP that even a reduction from, 57 000 tonnes to 36 000 tonnes cannot bring about a large decline in GDP. He knows it. Sir, the point I am making here is that that alone could not account for the decline in the credit rating especially when the same time they are reducing our credit rating our foreign reserves are at almost record levels.

I believe, Sir, that as I said there are those trying to put the squeeze on Barbados because we are acting again like men.

So, Sir, with those words I strongly support this Appropriation Bill and I commend it to the other Members of this Chamber and ask that they also support this measure because it shows that the Government is serious and that they are on the right track to bringing about fiscal stability and order in this country once again. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Davis.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I am very anxious to talk on this Bill which will provide for the grant of a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and the appropriation of the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1996.

Mr. President, I want to speak specifically on the Estimates for the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture which is, as a matter of fact, the second largest appropriation here. I see a total of \$131 million, second only to the Ministry of Health which is \$137 million, I think.

Now, I first want to begin by saying that I have heard a lot of very interesting theories on economics and all of that but I want to talk about the way in which the money for education is being distributed and I am going to talk about that precisely in the context of that shameful well kept secret that has now come out about 80% to 85% of our students who leave school without any certification. 3.15 p.m.

Let me say before I go on that from what I have heard coming out of the Ministry of Education there seems to be an understanding of the problem and there seems to be some sort of effort to redress a lot of the imbalances, but let me say quite frankly that there are no band-aid solutions to this problem of education. This is going to demand serious surgery. We are talking here almost 30 years into independence about an education system which was geared in colonial days to training people for the Civil Service. We have to talk seriously about education reform, accountability, productivity and justice and fair play.

I have agonised for years and I never thought I would have had this opportunity to talk in this august Chamber about the problems which affect education in this country. I have been very distressed, and I am saying this in all seriousness, I have talked to people who have heard me, who did not want to hear me over the years, and I want to make it quite clear that I have nothing against elitism, I have nothing against brilliant students, I have nothing against certain schools, I am only here concerned about the 75% or 80% of the students, the people who become young adults in this society who I think have been given a raw deal.

Let me also say, because I am going to look at the way money has been distributed, that one of the things I have felt strongly about is that the media has always put out the pictures, the photographs, interviewed parents of children who have won scholarships and their glorified schools, and I have felt that that kind of spectacle simply masks the real sacrifice that 75% or 80% of our students have had to pay for that kind of "triumphalism" of some school or some few students. I am speaking here because what really amazes me is that none of these parents, guardians, cousins, uncles or aunts over all these years has risen up and complained and asked for accountability and queried the use of money that left their children, their cousins, their brothers, their sisters without certification. Can anyone seriously tell me that 75% or 80% of our children are so dumb they are not even average? They are so subnormal that they cannot achieve some certification?

I am going to be very selective in my quotation of the way the money is distributed, I am not going to go into a lot of other areas. It is going to take political will, not tomorrow, but today to try to rectify the damage that has been done over all of these years. When I look at these Estimates the first thing that strikes me – I know that some people do not want to face up to these facts – but just look at Secondary Schools. We see that there are four sixth-form secondary schools, page 124, and in the Estimates there is \$12 678 095; then there are 18 other secondary schools where the Estimate is about \$54 million. Just within there we can see something happening. I worked at a school that was euphemistically called a newer secondary school at one time. I think now they say they are all secondary schools, whatever that may mean, but if you just look at this you can see right away that four sixth-form schools get almost a quarter of the money that goes to 18 secondary schools, and I can assure you that those 18 secondary schools are what they used to call newer secondary schools.

That is not as bad, to me, as the fact that when I look at what are the objectives of education here I see the provision of a sound basic education to every citizen, to equip them to recognise and realise their potential for development. Of course, once we look at that we can say this has been a total and complete failure. I do not know about any other organisation, institution, business or anything that could have gone on for all these years with this kind of failure. I keep going back to the fact that after almost 30 years of independence nothing dramatic has been done to determine what the society wanted for their young people, what the society wanted in terms of education, but if we take this objective here which says: "..... sound basic education to every citizen to equip them to recognise and realise their potential for development," I see in that you are including in this every citizen, the dyslexic, the autistic,

the malnourished, the child who is challenged in one way or the other, and I look at the appropriations again and I see on page 125, Continuing Education. That is not as interesting as the other one that I want to talk about. I wanted to look at page 123 where there is, if you are looking at these autistic or other children, Special Schools, where they include the Challenor School and the Learning Centre. On the next page then you see: "The function of this sub-program is to make grants to schools providing Special Education as follows:- " and what do we see? \$400 000. We look at something here called Continuing Education at page 125 and they have said on the opposite page: "CONTINUING EDUCATION: YOUNG ADULTS – The function of this sub-program is to meet the costs of Continuing Education Programme under which classes will be provided in Commerce, Technical/Vocational, Home Economics, Science and other studies leading to overseas examinations." What do I see? \$100 000.

I am going to show not only the fact of what happens in that secondary school, I am going to go back to what happens before they get to the secondary school, but I am just trying to pull out these figures, because I am looking at students who are supposed to be challenged, people who would have left school and need continuing education and I looked again at something called Youth Affairs, because I am assuming that young adults who have left school, who have not had any certification, who are supposedly interested in continuing education and who are out there and money is allocated to them, I see Youth Affairs \$3 million. Page 131. When I add Special Schools \$400 000, Continuing Education \$100 000, Youth Affairs \$3 million, I come up with a paltry \$3 500 000. Look at that \$3 500 000 and let us assume that we try to catch there the child who is challenged and so on, the young adults who probably left school, the 70% or 80%, and we say this is what we allocate to them. The four sixth-form schools get four times as much. This is only no more than 10% of our students. They get \$12 million. Of course, we already saw what happens to the other secondary schools. That's the majority of our students, 80%. Those are the ones who will leave without certification.

3.25 p.m.

I ask myself how is it possible for the 80% or 85% of our young people to leave a primary school and get into secondary school and leave without any form of certification. That is, more or less as we have said here in this space that these young people cannot read. They cannot write. They cannot reckon. Now, what is the real problem? They may be able to read, some of them, but most of them and especially our young men – that's something else I want to talk about – because if you know anything about education and you understand

the psychology of education and the psychology of the difference between boys and girls you may also understand.

Why should that large number of students who go into these 18 schools not have any certification? It is a complex thing. It is not one thing. It isn't just what we call poverty. It isn't just lack of productivity. I maintain this very seriously that a great portion of the responsibility for this area comes out of the whole psychological problem of saying that students of the 11+ are either failures for life or brilliant geniuses who will become prime ministers of Barbados and who will make it well in this society.

I am also going to say this: this is a societal problem because I examined this very clearly, because I had this close association with students who are in these schools and the Venerable Archdeacon Springer would be there to support me. It is such a deep-seated societal problem that the child who would get into your secondary school – I am not going to call names – and the sister who will get into a school that is one of the sixth-form schools would be treated completely different. They would get the clothes. They would get the money. They would get books or whatever and the child who is in the other school would not.

Then the whole sense of malaise that suddenly a young tender soul at 11 is told that it is no longer a worthwhile person. The lack of self-esteem and self-worth and all this that you see displayed by these young people. It takes so much to try to make them believe that they are actually wonderful human beings who have potential. It is such a crying shame. It is so limited. Who are we to decide that these children at 11 in some limited sort of exam in one day – an essay or something – could determine their life that they are finished? That is the general feeling.

Society says those at that school are no good. That's the end of them. Then when you do that you come back and see how the monies are distributed. But what is happening? What is given to these young people when they leave? Nothing.

I say today and it is going to have to be a political decision because the voiceless people who have children, these 80% of children who have not got up and said anything, who have not rioted, who have not rebelled who have done nothing, these voiceless people must be given voice. All those vocal people out there who say don't abandon the 11+, those are the people who are almost sure that their children are going to make it and we live in a society that says this is a democracy and that 80% of our children and 80% of these parents and guardians never got up and said anything and they are going to allow that percentage who are living wonderfully off of the taxpayers' money of these same children's parents who are maids

and gardeners and they are going to say "Do not change the system".

So we have to abolish that 11+ exam and it has to be a question of political will. As a matter of fact, I happen to know that there are all kinds of reports sitting and gathering dust in the Ministry of Education. I was a part of some report. Senator Forde should tell you. There are all kinds of reports. Up to today in today's papers. It isn't that this society does not know that this thing is happening. It is a curious thing. It seems as though as long as some of us are all right our children can pass exams, we give them the opportunities. They can go to the high schools. They are going to go up to University. That's the other thing I am going to talk about.

This whole question about \$28 million to support people in University. But before I go on to that, let me say now that I believe that there are a lot of educational theories to support the fact that you cannot condemn a child at 11 or 11+ to a life of failure; that you cannot, having condemned that child to a life of failure, sit back and then give very little to support that child or that young adult in any way.

The thing too about this is, when I make the link between this abysmal failure of the system with the fact of all those young men hanging around in what sometimes I almost say are townships, because I am quite concerned that maybe there might be a Vagrancy Act or something that might condemn them to have to explain where they are and that these fields and hills beyond recall that might be their very own they might have to explain why they are in certain parts of these fields and hills, those same illiterate young men who have not been given a fair deal in this society. I worry about that and that is why I wait anxiously to see what the Vagrancy Bill...

You see, when we give \$28 million to the University of the West Indies and we give \$12 million to 4 sixth-form schools, we are going to think about how much we would spend in prisons, how much we are going to spend in courthouses in relation to that 80 percent of students who leave without any certification.

Let's go to the University. That is another hard decision that people will have to make and it is a political decision and I don't see why people must pretend now or make a political game about whether people must pay or not pay for university education. They have to make the decision. If people are here to govern they have to govern. If they say 11+ is on, the 11+ is on. If they say people have to pay towards their tertiary education, they pay towards it.

The objective reality of life in Barbados and the Caribbean is no longer the same as it was 30 years

ago when those people we felt were in colonial days unable to pay for and did not have the opportunity at a university education. We got universities and we tried to put all of those people in and to help them. In the first place education is not free anyway. Ask the students up there. It is heavily subsidised and in all fairness to 80% of all the population who contribute to it... Another thing about that \$28 million – and I am always interested in that – is what we try to glorify as brilliant people, these bright students and all those we sustain and give loans to exist at the expense of the total population.

I also note a higher education awards which is \$7 million. We pamper. We treat them nicely. We are just preparing them for them to desert us, to go to greener pastures. They are well-prepared to live anywhere in the world.

3.35 p.m.

I was very interested to see on "Larry King Live", of all people Gingrich saying that the highest paid people in Atlanta are West Indian blacks. Of course, you see them. I know about them. They are all well-educated on these same taxpayers' money and those poor people's money. They can slip into any niche, any part of the world but the 80% and 85% would not be able to get into America, they cannot speak. If they get there they would tell them that they are subnormal or something. That 80% and 85% who we are not spending money on, we are trying to contain. We are always doing a sort of containing act. When every now and again somebody gets up and slashes somebody we panic and say, crisis. Then it cools down. It quiets down and that's it.

Twenty years ago I predicted – and I still have to say these Barbadians are marvelous people, long-suffering and patient. They are very wonderful because somehow I just cannot explain it. Twenty years ago I said there will be riots in this land when I taught at that place I taught at. I would get up and run around and say "This is not fair. This is not right. This cannot be just that you would not even clean a classroom and you have teachers there and children and you treat them with disrespect and you spend money all the way up there." Then I said, "Some day these young people who will become young adults must get up and rebel." So far they have been very good. This is a wonderful society.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: They are in Glendairy now, a lot of them too from that same school, that same area. I know what I am talking about. Yes, they are in Glendairy. I have said time and time again when we look at the limited things that pass for education here, children are not allowed culture. I would not even bother to look at

what goes in the Estimates to culture because I am heartened to see now that Primary Schools are having orchestras, that people seem to begin to understand that we are not cerebral alone, that we are not just heads up there, that we are physical. We have to play. We have to dance. It is an education that has been going on simply on some narrow academic thing and then to condemn young people for the rest of their lives.

Nobody could convince me that all those young men that are out there are less intelligent than the young girls who are doing well and going up to university. It is just that they have not been challenged in the schools. There is no proper educational theory that is at all being applied so that we end up sitting around talking about how to build more prisons, how to institute the Vagrancy Act, how to do this and how to do that.

I am saying there are hard decisions that have to be made. Continuing Education \$100 000? I say "No". It is unjust. I say that from tomorrow, if not before, that these educational plants that we have in this country must be opened and pay teachers to come in the evenings to let any of these students, from 18 to 80, who have never had any certification go back to school. Get them computers. People can learn now on their own proper computer programming. Put them back into school. Give them bus fares, if necessary. There is nothing wrong with that. Those are the people who are going to stay here. Those are the people we have to live with whether you like it or not. If we want to live secure, comfortable and happy in our lovely terraces and what's not, we had better spend this money in a way that seems to be fairer to the majority of our young people than we are doing now. This thing is disgraceful. I tell you, I am very passionate about this. I thought about this a long time. I have always worried about this because I feel there is no justification and there is no educational theory that will support the fact that 80% of our students do not get certification.

The other thing is it is a well known fact that students learn better in mixed ability classes and mixed ability schools. Teachers operate better in mixed ability schools and mixed ability classes. What is so frightening about saying that we zone people? Psychologists know brighter children are prepared to help duller children. Sometimes I think why these parents and guardians said nothing is because I think they took on the sense of shame, and the society made them feel ashamed even to have children who were a little duller, or who were whatsoever, and they just kept quiet. Who do they complain to? Who do they say anything to? Of course, that is part of it.

The other part of it is this. There are a few things I want to see happen in terms of spending money on Education. One – this is policy – you abolish the

11+ examination. There are all kinds of reports. They know exactly what to do. Abolish it. There is nothing else to say. Everything has been said. Everything has been written. It is just not fair and right to 80% or 85% of us adults uncertificated.

Secondly, money has to be spent to redress the imbalance for all those young people out there who cannot read and write. I talked about this. There are now computers in the schools. Bring those young people back. Bring them, whoever wants to come and let them use up those schools. Pay some old retired teachers. I would not mind getting a job going back to teach them reading, writing or something. There are a lot of very good teachers out there who have just retired who would be glad to go and teach them.

Then there is this thing about education that people are giving lip service to. I hear people saying now that top public servants must get money comparable to private sector people. Why not teachers? Why not the professional teacher, the special education teacher, the teacher who is concerned, who can teach people to read, the counsellors? Why do they not get that kind of money? All those teachers, and I can tell you, those who are retired are getting some paltry kind of money. They would be more than glad because they have always worked for little and worked hard. They would be more than glad to go back and help those youngsters who are out there.

Continuing Education needs half the money that is going to UWI. Put it into continuing education. Make sure that our young people have something, some certification. Put them back into those buildings out there. Stop this political football people are making about we do not want to stop free education. That is nonsense. The time has come to be honest and straightforward. We can no longer support UWI students fully. They must pay. Let their parents pay. They are mainly professional people and their children.

The next thing is this. I looked at the continuing education, the 11+ exam and the question of teachers and teacher salaries. The next thing we have to look at is productivity. Everyone knows that like in any profession there are good teachers and bad teachers. There are good civil servants, good doctors and so on. We have to be a lot more careful about our selection of teachers. We ought to be much more careful about the people we put to teach our youngest children. A lot of this thing that happens down in those schools is not so much the syllabus or the curriculum, it is the sense in which people feel committed and the sense in which they respect the human person.

I have always felt and I have heard it and heard it time again the way people feel they can disrespect that

human person because he is poor, malnourished, or cannot speak well, or does not come from the right set. I have heard that too often, that disrespect for that human person. Then when you are finished you expect these young people to grow up with any regard for you and your lives, your home or anything like that?

We have to be, and I heard Senator Barker say that this Bill that we are debating is to give the authority to Government to spend the following sums. Well, I will give the authority to Government to spend some provided they spend the sums for education on some of these things I think they ought to spend the money on and to stop pampering a few, a small percentage of people in this society and that everyone of us better thank God that we live in a society of such decent christian minded people who have suffered long and who have never got up and rebelled against this terrible injustice, this dismal situation that has now confined so many of our bright young people to sitting on the sides of the streets, in the back of a yard and then every now and again to be tempted by things like drugs and easy money. We ought to begin again to ask ourselves if we are operating in a democracy that we would, at least, be fair to the majority of our young people. 3.45 p.m.

As I said, I will support this provided the money is spent in the way in which I think it ought to be spent.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I wish to begin, first of all, by saying that the Minister of Finance must be highly commended because in these Estimates, he has returned humanity to fiscal management. This is evident in most of the Heads.

I am going to deal, of course, with Education. I know how passionately Senator Davis feels about the areas about which she has spoken. We have had a long association as members of a particular professional organization.

I am aware too of the very complex problems when it comes to the Common Entrance Examination. There are many variables and it is going to call for more dialogue. I do not think that we want people to rise up or riot but I do think it needs looking at again, very closely this time and this time to have some definitive solution. The problems are not just psychological, as she stated, and I do not think that they are sociological alone.

When it comes to family life, I think that that is a great part of the problem where there has been a breakdown in family life and where teaching nowadays

is three quarters motivation where children are far more difficult to discipline nowadays and where there is a great lack of inward motivation. There are counter attractions. There are distractions and the parental guidance is often lacking. Not so much because parents do not care. Sometimes they are so tired. Sometimes it is a lack of experience. I think that, very often, parents are taught to bear children, at least the mothers, and there is more emphasis on the bearing of children than there is on the rearing of children. I think that that is something we should pay great attention to.

But at this point, I wish to congratulate the Minister of Education. She is focussing on the primary level where weaknesses in literacy and numeracy need to be corrected, if the child is to succeed at secondary level and acquire specific competencies. We all know that it is, at the primary level, that the foundation is made. If it would give my colleague in Education, Senator Davis comfort, the fact that this is going to be tackled at that level with remediation and with diagnostic evaluation, I think that even though it will not happen immediately, it will do a great deal to correct some of the problems.

I also want to state that I support the idea of national certification 100%. The CXC Examination, excellent though it is, sets its examinations for a very limited section of the Caribbean. To be generous, I would say the top 25% of the entire school leaving population. Therefore you get a large number of students leaving school without matriculation to gain entry to institutions of further learning. Some may pass in one or two subjects. But every year a number of people leave without any certificates, apart from a certificate of attendance. I do not think it is as high as what Senator Davis said. I do not think it is 80%. It is more in the area of 60% and 70%. I am not saying that that is ideal. We need to go beyond the School Leaving Certificate to something which is a bit more rounded and which gives credibility for employment. There will have to be a great deal of discussion to find something that is acceptable, fair and relatively uniform, something that will give students a sense of direction. But I am confident that the Minister will do that.

I am also very happy to see that she has managed to procure 114 000 textbooks for those parents who cannot afford to buy them. I should like, however, to say that I hope that this will be limited and not for an indefinite period, because teachers like to be comfortable with the books they use. After many years of teaching from the same book you tend to grow bored and tired. What is more, new texts come along, new publications which you may find are better and more helpful to the children. That is something which I think that the Ministry should give some consideration to.

I have observed too that the school plants are going to be upgraded and, in some instances, the standards maintained. I would wish to say here again that I hope that parents at PTA level and, perhaps, on Speech Days will be asked to encourage their children to take care of the school plants. I know, from experience, that sometimes you manage to get money to paint the school hall for instance or do some sort of repairs other than what you are given through Estimates and, in a few days, you would not recognize the place because children sit in the window sills. They rest their heels against the walls. They stand and prop their shoes against the wall and there is still that lack of respect for other people's property. Just as Barbadians care about their homes, they like to beautify their homes and keep them neat and clean. I would wish that they would ask their children and try to prevail on them to treat the schools in the same way as if they were their homes. I think that has caused some problems with maintenance of schools.

Mr. President, I am not sure if in talking about Education, I can go on to another Head. I just wanted to correct something that had been said by Senator Mascoll. It is to do with the comments that he had made about the tourism agents. I wanted to explain to him that these agents have been contracted through the Barbados Tourism Authority, and no Barbadians did apply to be agents. These agents are very experienced and they know the demographics and they have to work on site in the States. Therefore it is not fair to say that Barbadians have been ignored and I thought that I should make that point clear. 3.55 p.m.

I also wanted to mention something about the Child Care Board. I think everybody knows that from the time of structural adjustment that the children's homes have become very run down and there has even been the problem of the staff in residential care not having new uniforms for over three years. But there has been an increase and this year, in fact in two months' time, the staff are going to get uniforms.

The Child Care Board has also re-established the post of clinical psychologist and this is a very vital post which had been frozen. It is vital to the ability of the Board to make timely assessment in order to prescribe the most appropriate rehabilitation programmes and the new Board is also appointing officers who had been acting in vacant posts.

There is also going to be an in-service programme so that staff are kept informed of new developments affecting children and they have also established a resource development committee. So, I am saying this to emphasise the sanguineness now that exists because of prudent management in just six month's time and the effect it is having on management.

The Child Care Board is also preparing a position paper on the development of an adolescent centre and children in the Homes who are now over 20 years of age will be sited on the top floor of the Nightengale Home. They are preparing them for assuming responsibility for their own affairs. The focus will be on developing their own esteem and making them aware of the options that will be available to them when they go out into the wider world.

There is more that I would like to say about education later on, Mr. President, but at this point I think I will give way to someone else.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 4.20 o'clock this afternoon.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken the Senator was under the impression that she would be allowed to continue after the break. She has not of course used up her full amount of one hour but if there is a consensus that she be allowed to continue I will permit her to finish her speech. Perhaps I should also point out that each Senator will be allowed one hour. There will be no Committee stage of the Bill. Immediately after the second reading we go into the third reading since it will be certified as a money Bill. Senator Symmonds.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS. Thank you very much, Sir, and I would like to express my thanks to my Honourable colleagues for allowing me to continue.

Now Senator Davis bemoaned the inequities that existed between what used to be known as newer secondary schools and what are now known as secondary schools, the inequities between them and what used to be called the older secondary or grammar schools. But I would like to point out that there have been many successes in the newer secondary schools and I think she can take credit for some of that because I could point out students whom I know she taught who are filling very important roles in society and who have entered the professions. You can find them in business, in the church and in education to name just a few.

Although it is important that more money be spent on those schools I remember when I was Deputy Chairman of the National Commission on the Status of Women and I

researched education I was really horrified to see the disparity in the amounts spent on one school as opposed to another but then we have to remember that the dedication and commitment of true teachers are invariably more important even than the money. You can spend any amount of money on schools and yet without the right dedicated teachers, students may not respond. That was just a point that I wanted to make about the newer secondary schools.

Then I wanted to come on to the question of curriculum reform which I know the Ministry is looking at. The curriculum of secondary schools has undergone some expansion in recent years in curriculum reform but there are a number of subjects which I think need greater attention. One of these is Home Economics which has always been one of the Cinderella subjects and which some schools still tend to consider to be a girl's subject. They do not look at the possibilities for career opportunities for boys as well as girls. Some of the schools which have more gifted children just really dismiss the subject and in one in particular it is not on the curriculum at all. I think that it is a subject to which every child in a school should be exposed at least for the first two years. It is important for living. There are so many aspects of it besides just cooking and I hope that it will be classified as one of the core curriculum subjects.

I know that we cannot teach every thing at school. I know that ever so often somebody, with the best intention, calls for another subject to be added to an almost overloaded curriculum but I do think that it is a subject that should not be neglected.

I also hope that very, very soon values education will be on the curriculum of every school in Barbados. I think that is where a lot of the trouble lies. I know that teachers have for years, without calling it values education, or calling it ethics or what you will, our teachers have been trying to instill values but it is becoming increasingly difficult with so many conflicting values and ideals and I think it is something which needs the help and collaboration of the home and the church. I think that they all need together to discuss this question of values education because we must remember that education is not only a matter for our intellect but for the building of character. I think it is because we are falling behind in that, that children are nowadays beginning to be less interested in the spiritual and in some cases, in learning.

I should also like to stress that literature is not being given the attention always that it should be, especially poetry. That is another subject which I think is so very important for our spiritual growth and for the development of our education.

I know that the Minister has spoken about oracy and it is a fact that teachers are unable to give as much time

to oracy or communication skills as they used to in the past. Unfortunately, too many of our children are leaving school inarticulate. Even some of them who write fairly well do not always speak as well as they should. They have to go for interviews and very often they fall down in that area. I think that drama would also help. There has not been as much emphasis on drama in recent times as there used to be. There was a time when we used to have regular drama festivals in the schools and I think that the Ministry should consider having those restarted. Drama is an invaluable way of giving children confidence, helping them to express themselves. It also helps to develop character, so I think the area of curriculum reform is one which I hope the Ministry will give immediate or speedy attention to.
4.30 p.m.

Family Life Education I am glad to see is being given more attention, although I would have preferred that instead of its being introduced on a pilot basis that it had been introduced in all the schools. With so many frightening diseases now emerging in our society, as well as a decline in moral values, it is very important that this subject be on the curriculum of all schools as much as possible. It may take specialised training, but that is something that can be done quite easily. I do hope that attention is given to that subject without delay. I do not think that we can wait. Apparently it is on a pilot basis at eight of the secondary schools. In the meantime, what happens to the other 14? So I do hope that the Ministry of Education will try to see that it is introduced in all the schools without delay.

I wish again to say thanks very much for having allowed me to finish.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I wish to speak on just a few Heads, maybe three of them, and in so doing I should like to speak on the social or sociological matters related to the Estimates. I defer to the economists and the statisticians and I allow myself to be educated by them in those matters.

The first Head I would wish to comment on is that of Agriculture, Head 25, on page 56 and the one following with explanatory notes, on Program 4, Sub-program 01, the Scotland District Development. I am not sure what exactly is envisaged in the carrying out of this work and the expending of funds in the Scotland area, but this is an area that has been sadly neglected by successive administrations for very many years and I think it is time that the people of the Scotland area, and more especially St. Andrew in the middle of it, to be able to hold up their heads and not be referred to as people who are behind God's back. It is time that there is some meaningful development which will ensure that that region can experience its fullest potential as what I like to call the real bread basket of this country. I think I do not have to go into details as to the possibilities and as to the performance agriculturally in that

area even without the help that I hope will now be forthcoming.

In addition to that potential of being the bread basket of the area, there is the reality of the potential for nature tourism. It is an area that all tourists go to see when they come to Barbados, all the nature tourism spots are located within the Scotland District without exception – there are several of them – and therefore I think we owe it to ourselves to ensure that whatever is done by way of expending these funds is something that will enhance that area. One of the ways of doing this will be to ensure that the bridges are maintained. St. Andrew has more bridges than any one spot, and let me say the Scotland District, than any particular geographical area in the island. You cannot get into Belleplaine except you cross a bridge on any one of the five roads or so that leads into Belleplaine, and yet although that is so, and in spite of the importance of that geographical region, there is hardly a time, any time, when more than one or two, perhaps three, of the bridges will be working.

Some years ago, in 1992, I stood up here – I do not get to change from one side of the Table of the Senate, Sir, to the other, like my colleague over there, who can now tell of his experiences on both sides, and therefore I get to repeat the things that I said before – and made almost the same speech and I hope that this sort of situation will come to an end and that the Scotland District will be enhanced in a very real way.

In saying that, Sir, I am a little concerned – and I am not going to speak on this at this stage, but simply to mention it – about the effect that the location of the landfill will have on the things that are planned and I hope that in light of all the information we now have a very careful look will be taken before we try to juxtapose a landfill alongside a thing of beauty and usefulness.

The next Head I would wish to comment on is Head 30, Page 111, the Attorney General's portfolio. That deals with the Industrial Schools. Sir, from my observation, these schools can hardly be called industrial or schools. Industrial would demand greater emphasis on what is produced there, on production in terms of art, craft and so on, and if I am wrong I would want to know why it is that we do not hear anything about what is being produced, why it is that with so many young people in both these institutions we do not have exhibitions of what is produced. Why is it that there isn't something from time to time in the Press about the things that they indulge themselves in? Because in looking through the list of emoluments where staffing is recorded one sees a number of persons who are there by virtue of their expertise as trainers or instructors or people by

such names, which implies that they should be getting involved in some industrial pursuit. To my knowledge, this is not the case to the extent that it should be.

4.40 p.m.

I question whether they can be called schools because the focus in school must be on learning and learning in depth and one would expect to have facilities for careful grouping by virtue of age or ability and this is not possible in an institution of this nature because persons are only there for a short time and they don't do wrong to get in there by virtue of their age. It is by virtue of their misfortune.

My information is, Sir, that there is a need for more funds to be injected for the purpose of training the persons in charge whether they be teachers or instructors or by whatever name they are called to qualify them to deal with the very specific problems that would be encountered in what I prefer to call reform schools. The focus in schools of this nature should be on reform rather than on the punitive which it seems to be the moment. I for one would prefer to see Dodds and Summervale being under the direction of the Ministry of Education to highlight the school aspects of them, and then, as it were, to modify the punitive direction and to permit for other students who get into trouble to be allowed, through the directive of the Ministry of Education, to be interned at Dodds and Summervale from time to time, on a daily basis rather than having only the full time inmates as they are called.

I say that because I am aware that a number of young people are getting into trouble at the regular schools, the secondary schools especially, and are having to be suspended or expelled, and to this day, in spite of the fact that we know that this is the case – you see, we try to deal with this by either ignoring the fact or leaving them at home or on the street or trying to send them to another school where their exploits would not have been known. I think there is a need for an institution of some kind and I am suggesting that these schools could be enhanced in such a way as to make provision for these students rather than turn them out on the road.

There has been a suggestion that there should be some kind of half day school for this purpose but this of course would demand the expending of even more funds to set up that kind of institution. I hope that something will be done in this regard. It was as long ago as the 1940s when a Commission appointed by the Governor, chaired by the late Sir Grantley Adams, stipulated that young people who got into trouble ought to be provided for and to note that that Commission was appointed to investigate the review and the re-organisation of Dodds and Summervale and one of its findings was that there should be a Borstal institution

for juvenile offenders which would not declare them to be criminal in the hard sense of crime and which would not send them on to Glendairy but would provide some place where the criminal trend could be arrested and where they could be reformed and redirected and rehabilitated into society without coming into contact with the hardened criminals.

I see the opportunity for something of this nature to be done, not by a new institution, because Government cannot afford any new institution at the moment as desirable as it might be and I suggest that we look into the possibility of having these young people interned at Dodds and at Summervale.

I am saying all of this in light of what we see going on in Parish Land and in Gall Hill, this new wave of violence that is overtaking the society and always among young people and I see it as related to the education system. I support what Senator Davis has said about the system and what it tends to produce and I hope that we will take all these areas related to young people, the school system and this penal system and the reform system as being of the utmost importance in our Barbados of today.

The next Head I would wish to comment on is Head 34: Education at page 126 of the Estimates of Expenditure. Between pages 122 and 153 of these Estimates we have the information on all the levels of education and my comments will be fairly general on certain areas. First of all on the primary area.

Much has already been said about the primary school and the effectiveness of the teaching methods and the need to change the system and I support that call for the need to change the system. It is clear that that 11+ examination has not been the solution to our problems. It decides from the very beginning that some people are not going to make it and what it further encourages is that teachers – because their whole future depends on it will try to get the brighter children to teach at the primary school level.

Nobody wants to have the dull ones, especially when they know that the authorities and the Ministry of Education will be looking at their performance, and now they are even talking about productivity within the teaching system. Part of that productivity is going to have to be – show your results, show how much you can get in.

I am not against productivity, but I am against its encouraging mediocrity in the system and I think that all children deserve to be taught. When I went – and I am sure that you, Sir, went to primary school in your time – that there was still the case that some boys or girls knew that they could only have made it because a particular teacher took him or her under their wing and made sure that

that child learnt. I have heard many a grown man who did something with his life say to younger people that were it not for Mr. So and So at Wesley Hall or at St. Giles or at Belleplaine Boys' School, I would not be here today. Teaching seems to have lost this: Teaching seems to have lost this where, in fact, to use the Biblical language people were able to sit, as it were, at the foot of Gamaliel and to learn and in that way not only of the academics and the intellect of the person but of that person's life and lifestyle, his deportment and so on.

4.50 p.m.

A teacher had, and was expected to have so much to offer. Nowadays we are forcing teachers to turn their attention only to the bright ones. So if a child has not learnt to read at Primary School in spite of all the funds we have invested in the past, and are now planning to invest even more, who is going to take the time at secondary level to teach that child to read? It would be asking too much. Yet I know there have been some teachers who have been trying to do this against great odds.

Now, I say that this system of trying to pump people to get them ready by 11 for an examination has a lot to do with this. Perhaps the time has come for us to abolish the 11+ examination, allow the teachers to teach the children at their pace, and find a system of continuous evaluation along the way for all the children, all of them without exception, and then determine where they go from there depending on how they are finally evaluated. I do not know if there are any other methods but that is one that I throw out for consideration.

My other comment in this regard has to do with the zoning. I have a slightly different view from Senator Davis on this. The Honourable Senator supported zoning because, I have no doubt there is a tendency for some people to get all the places at certain schools, the better schools so to speak. I think that if we begin to zone that is going to be even more so. The brighter children are still going to be going to the very best schools. I think what we need, and I see nothing wrong with bright children going to the best schools but there should be best schools for everybody. That is the point. I do not think that there should be best schools only for a few.

The solution, Sir, as far as I see, is to so upgrade the schools that you have no better schools or worse schools but that you simply have good schools and you will not have to zone. I think that in a country like Barbados that is so small, it would be a terrible pity to take away from parents and the families their right to send their children wherever they want to send them. This country is too small for that. Perhaps one way in the absence of upgrading all the schools, and I cannot understand why not much effort has been made to do this in spite of the injection of funds

from time to time to improve schools, no effort has been made to make sure that, for example, all 5th Form children are exposed to the same quality education, the same number of science labs and the same opportunities for subject choice. That has not been done. I think that if we are to continue this way we can at least develop specialist areas in all the schools so that a school, St. Lucy's Secondary, for example, would be known for its musical aptitude. The Alleyne School would be known for its agricultural prowess. St. Leonard's would be known for its arts and craft work, *et cetera*, and to make sure then that the people will want their children who have those aptitudes to choose the school where they can continue with those special skills.

Some of the Honourable Senators would be aware that it will not be long before persons are foregoing Harrison College to go to St. Leonard's Secondary School because it has the best computer programme up to now in this country. That is only a beginning. I would like to see more of this happening in this country in terms of education.

Now, mention was made, and is often made, certainly recently about the certification, the fact that people are leaving school without being properly certified. The figure has been given as between 60% and 70%. I think that the system as it is has contributed to this unwittingly in many ways. For example, a number of the schools in order to make the point that they are teaching at a high level insists that their students enter for the CXC General when, in fact, they should be entering for the CXC Basic. If that is the kind of ability of a child surely the child should be doing that and not hoping that you can show how many Generals there are. That is one way where we have been failing. Even if a child has what is regarded as the aptitude for General that child should be made to go via the Basic and I do not see anything wrong with that.

I know that certain Principals of Schools have been agitating for many years to get the Ministry to accept Grade 3 of the General as a certification. I am not aware that approval has been given to that yet. I have a feeling – and I want to have this researched. Anybody who knows for sure can correct me, Sir, that some of those who are included as non-certificated people are people who have Grade 3....

Aside.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: No. That is not the case? Okay. My first point still stands, Sir. I asked you to enlighten me, those who knew. I was not being categorical here but where I am categorical is in stating that the children who get Grade 3 are not encouraged to regard that as a valid certificate. I

know that for a fact. I know that in my association with School Boards and that is not right because we have a situation where even persons going to the United States find that universities there are accepting their Grade 3 and Barbados is not accepting it. We who encourage them to do it are not accepting it as we ought to.

I think we can begin there in search of certification and then, perhaps, have in place the Secondary School Certificates which used to be called the School Leaving Certificate which I believe could be the basis for some improvement for some kind of national certificate. I would like to know why that was being neglected both in terms of students being encouraged to do it and in terms of its acceptance in Barbadian society as something that the Ministry at some time must have thought was a certificate worthwhile taking.

My last point in connection with this Head has to do with the section sub-programme 04 in the Explanatory Notes where I see a list of institutions that receive subscriptions and contributions through the Ministry of Education. They are there before you. I need not read them out. I would like to ask, Sir, why is it that no reference or note is taken of Codrington College as one such institution that merits help as well. I am sure you are aware that a number of teachers are going and taking courses at Codrington College and if they had been doing the same at Cave Hill, it would be recognised.

5.00 p.m.

And obviously these institutions are compensated for that sort of thing. And yet, if a Barbadian student decides that he wants to go to Codrington College, instead of Cave Hill where he is qualifying for a degree that could lead him into the Ministry of the Church, as his occupation, or if he chooses, he could go into teaching with the same degree. Degrees from Codrington are no longer purely theological degrees. They are general honours degrees. Students there can major in anything that a student at Cave Hill might major in and do his theology at the same time. This institution has been known for this, as you are well aware, Sir, our Barbados island scholars went to Codrington College in earlier times. It was associated with the Royal Training Institute that turned out so many trained teachers. Students at Codrington College, in those times, would do Mathematics, Science and pre-med examinations. There was never a time, in the history of Codrington College, when it was known as a purely theological institute, the last of the old kind of degrees used to be Classics. Many of us either have relatives or friends or persons we know who benefitted from their opportunity to do classical degrees at Codrington.

That institution is still there. It is a national institution and yet the students who choose to go there – and they are

Barbadians like the others – are not supported. I suggest that something be done to include this Erstwhile university college into the scope of things and the thinking of the Ministry of Education with a view to its getting some help. These are my concerns.

I think we need to go beyond the statistics and the figures and think of the people who are being affected in one way or the other by the programmes that are being proposed, and never to reach a stage where the figures are more important than people.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Forde.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I should like to make my contribution to this Bill and carry on from an area that was touched earlier particularly by Senators Davis and Symmonds.

Sir, I want to touch on primary education, in the first instance, and I want to comment on the gross neglect that has shown up in our primary schools across the length and breadth of this country. These school plants have been neglected over the years, particularly in the last 8 to 9 years and, of course, you are aware that on numerous occasions in the media we have seen parents who have been demonstrating about the poor conditions of schools, particularly primary schools where there are very run down washrooms, the ceilings are falling in, there are very few chalk boards, hardly any textbooks and the list goes on.

Sir, you will appreciate that when the Barbados Labour Party's Administration came in in September, 1994 we were faced with numerous problems that were identified to us. I want, particularly, to mention the Clifton Hill Primary School, i.e. the Clifton Hill/South Borough. I personally visited that school and when I saw the condition I really felt extremely upset and hurt to see that for many years we have focussed attention on our secondary schools and our tertiary institutions and have put very little in our primary plant. In the primary plant is where we have to lay the foundation of any form of education whether it be education outright or any other area of learning, it has to happen at primary level. It is unfortunate that such institutions have been ignored over the last 8 to 9 years.

I got the impression that the last Administration felt that the PTAs should maintain the schools. We see in the media all the time where the PTAs are repairing this, painting that. I am not saying that the PTAs do not have a responsibility because Government cannot do it all. But certainly we cannot leave the total maintenance of our schools in the hands of the PTAs. I felt that that was gross neglect.

I am happy to say that we have considered injecting more funds into our primary plants to ensure that our very young children are given the correct treatment and the correct attention to help them to develop into worthwhile rounded citizens of Barbados.

Mr. President, Sir, for many years these schools have had no books, as I mentioned earlier, and therefore when the books were brought to the schools, it hurt me to see that schools that had 500 and 600 children got 6 of one text and 5 of the next, when there were no other books in that particular press of classes that contained 30 and 40 children. Therefore parents were saddled with the responsibility between the months of July and very early September of spending something like \$150 because parents had to purchase the reading textbooks as well as the work books in the numerous areas.

I am happy to say that this Government having focussed on the primary stage of education and recognizing its importance, has embarked upon ensuring that some 114 000 textbooks are placed in the primary schools throughout the length and breadth of this country. We are advocating, from the level of the Ministry, that parents would only be expected to spend at least as much as \$60, to buy work books because the work books cannot be used again by another student. Therefore we want to ensure that at least during school time, the children get an opportunity to do some reading at some point in time during the day to reinforce the lessons that might be done orally or in form of demonstrations and whatever.

Mr. President, Sir, in the early 1980s the Barbados Labour Party would have been in power. We saw the training of 95 teachers in remedial Reading because we could foresee the problem of poor readers who are now out there on the streets. Some of them, not all of them are wrecking havoc a result of the incorrect training from parents, we have found that thousands of them are extremely deviant. That is because when one cannot read, one feels a sense of insecurity. The self esteem is very low. One cannot express oneself on a television when there is something going wrong in the neighbourhood and they are asked to comment on what they saw. Sometimes it confuses me as to whether it is a foreigner speaking. Therefore these 95 teachers were trained to help to arrest the problem at that stage.

Every primary school in Barbados had a specialist teacher, that is, a teacher who concentrated on remedial education particularly in reading. Unfortunately with the coming of the structural adjustment in the early 1990s those teachers who were assigned specifically to deal with a group of children in a particular room with some equipment, not as adequate as we would have wanted, but with the language master and different things that would be

necessary to teach the children on a one to one basis. That came to an end, a very abrupt end. They were unceremoniously put back into a regular classroom, to fill in when one went on leave, whether it was maternity leave, long leave, whatever or if teachers were absent. Therefore the remedial programme that was set in place was hampered because those little children who looked up to that particular teacher for the fostering, the guidance and the positive attitude that started to develop, that was erased. And hence, our children who were in the programme are now into the secondary school unfortunately being unable – they may be able to say ‘ab’ but I do not know if they would be able to say catch a crab. It is extremely unfortunate because what those teachers would have done in those first few years, would have been destroyed. Those children went back to zero because hardly anybody shows interest in them if they are slow learners.

5.10 p.m.

Mr. President, Sir, I want to say that at present there is pilot programme for remedial education. Six teachers who were in the primary schools were drafted into the Ministry on a temporary basis to assist with the implementation of this remedial education programme which started from the beginning of this term. Some 20 schools have already started and another 19 will be going on stream next term so that come September we would hope that as many of the 84 schools as possible would be involved.

As a matter of fact today, Sir, there is a workshop going on at the Springer Memorial School. There were 20 teachers in a workshop during Term II which has just gone and the other 19 who will make up the 39, are going through the workshop today to get the initial training for those who have now entered the programme to get the refresher aspect of it for those who would have been of those 95 in the programme during the early 1980s.

Mr. President, I am happy to see such a move. Some \$475 000 has been put into the programme because we feel that we cannot just give the children books or a bit of card but we would want to use some technology as well and therefore computers and video sets and things of that nature have been included in that budget so that there would be some kind of innovative approach that would be used by the specialists. I trust that as the time goes on all of the 84 schools would be involved because we do have poor readers in all of our schools in Barbados and I feel that those students have to be helped.

Not every teacher in a primary school can teach reading. It calls for a lot of patience, a lot tolerance, a lot of understanding of the children and where they are. Are they hungry? Are they tired? Was there confusion in the home the night before? If the child cannot concentrate

then the teacher might not have the patience but those who are specially trained can deal with them and help them over that problem.

I am happy to be able to identify with such a project and I trust that as time goes on and we get the necessary support from the principals and other teachers in the school that our population of poor readers will lessen tremendously and that fewer of our children will become frustrated as time goes on.

Mr. President, Sir, I would also like to touch on the 11+ that has been aired by quite a few of our Senators here this afternoon. In our Manifesto of 1994 on page 19 we had looked at it as a flexible approach to examination and it is noted here that the common entrance examination will be continued but children will be allowed to sit it when they are ready. I, Sir, am of the view, I think I have even mentioned it here that there are times when we have late developers and a late developer may not be ready at 11 but may very well, Sir, be ready at 13. Therefore we do not want to stop that gifted child that may be ready at 10 years old. That child will be allowed to go on whenever the policy is implemented perhaps in another year or two. I cannot say for sure because it calls for a lot of consultation and a lot of guidance on the part of the technocrats in the Ministry of Education and otherwise, all those individuals who are involved in education, to give us the kind of direction and guidance to help us through so that we can have a smooth implementation.

Mr. President, Sir, those who are ready at 10, we feel they should be allowed to go on and explore the world and learn and improve and so on. Those who are not yet ready, we are of the view that they should be allowed to remain in the primary school and be given the necessary remediation, for lack of a better word, because some people seem to think remediation means you are retarded. I do not share that view at all. I am remedial where the computer is concerned, as a matter of fact I am illiterate where the computer is concerned. I feel that if we allow them to stay on and they are given the corrective measures, when they are ready to write that exam at 12 or 13 that they would perhaps be able to score 50% or 55% because at the present moment the 39 schools that we have selected for the remedial programme those are 39 schools where the bulk of the children have been consistently at the bottom of the results, scoring between 10% and 39%. That is the reason why we thought, well it is the result of poor reading that this has come about because we know reading involves composition, comprehension, geography and other areas and if a child cannot read and internalise, then it cannot function as appropriately as it should.

As a result of that, Sir, we think those children should remain in the school. It is interesting to note that very few

schools may have more than 10 children remaining behind and if a specialist teacher is geared towards assisting those children, Sir, I am of the view that those children can be able to upgrade their skills, particularly in reading, so that they can move on to the secondary level.

Mr. President, Sir, this would mean that there would have to be some changes first in the Education Act that says that our children should remain in school until they are 16 years old. Evidently, Sir, if a child goes in at 12 or 13 it would not be able to complete its education at the age of 16 and therefore that is also being explored to ensure that we come up with another particular age at which the child should close off. This is a flexible approach to the system.

Sir, we also plan to look at continuous assessment and that is something that is very lacking. As you know, Sir, each school sets its own end of term examination and some of the tests would certainly not, if you had to compare one school with another, be on a balance. This continuous assessment would be implemented where you would have records on individual children and you would be able to monitor their progress and see where there is improvement or see where the child has fallen off in certain areas. That would be one of the ways in which we would be able to monitor whether a child at 10 years old is really ready. If it is seen that it has been excelling from the time it left Infants B, well then you would know that that child is a child who would be ready at 10. If it is a child who has been performing poorly over the years you would be able to check those records.

I feel as well that the records that we have on the children from the primary school should be transferred to the secondary school so that a profile is there on each child and a teacher can see why a particular child has been functioning at a poor level in mathematics but is very good in language arts, therefore there is need for some kind of remediation programme in the mathematics to beef up the mathematics in that respect.

At the present moment, Sir, that really does not happen. There is no profile going on to the secondary school where the teacher can monitor a child and know its weaknesses and know its home problem if there is one, and be able to deal with that child in a humane manner as we would want it to be.

Sir, the final one I would want to touch in this area of flexible transfer would be to do with a complete change in mindset. We would need to have most of our teachers develop a change in attitude towards the child that is coming. Certainly, Sir, a child going to a school that drafts in students between 15% and 20% or 10% would be receiving a child that is at a lower level of academic

ability than the one that might take in a 50% or 70% or perhaps 90% child. Therefore, if we can get our teachers to do some training and re-training to let them be aware this is the product I am giving to you and if the child is not academically inclined then I would expect that any principal would give latitude to the teaching staff to work with those children in the areas that were mentioned by Senator Springer where this child can function if it is not academically inclined in Maths and English but it maybe able to do woodwork exceptionally well or it may be able to do art or welding or things of that nature. If we have our areas of excellence as have been identified then those children who have those skills will certainly be able to excel in an area where it satisfies them. They are somebody and the rest of the school be made aware of their performance and hence it will help to improve their self-esteem and so on.

The last thing, Sir, I would like to touch in that area has to do with partial zoning. That has also been touched by a number of individuals and I am one of the people who support partial zoning because very early in the mornings as early as a quarter to six, some of our children leave St. Michael and go to St. Philip. Some leave St. Lucy and go to St. Philip, some leave the length and breadth of Barbados and go somewhere very far away where they have to have different forms of transfers in buses. When they get to school some of them are hungry because there was no breakfast, some are extremely tired, there are a lot of activities that attract their attention, therefore they do not reach school in time, and a number of other things happen.

I support the zoning because I am of the opinion that any student living in an area, perhaps you can call it a catchment area, of a secondary school – and we are looking at that in the primary area as well – no child should be leaving St. Peter and going up to St. Michael to attend a primary school if there is a school in that environment that can accommodate that student. I am sure that once we draft in children from a particular community into a particular school, the behaviour will improve, because those children will be known by the neighbours. Young people sometimes only need for you to tell them you have observed they are doing wrong and I am sure that if they are being schooled in the communities where they live they will improve their behaviour. When they reach school they are not going to be as tired because they do not have to leave home as early as if they are going from very far distances. When there are extra curricular activities at the school the child can stay on for an extra hour or two, because it would be perhaps within walking distances. It can attend the ISCF, the Red Cross, the Cadets and things of that nature.

5.20 p.m.

Mr. President, I have part way touched on secondary, but there is one other thing I want to reinforce. I agree that mixed ability can work. In some of our primary schools

teachers concentrate on mixed ability and I favour it very much because I have tried it and I have seen it work where children who are very good in Mathematics were slow in English, but when the time for Mathematics came that was their time for them to get the praise. They were able also to assist those children who perhaps could master the English but were slow in Mathematics. So it is a sharing experience. It calls, however, Sir, for teachers to organise, to group the children. No longer do I think children should be in a mass group and everybody being taught the same thing, because we do not always understand and pick up the skills and the concepts at the same level. The mixed ability teaching says you have to take out these six who are slow in picking up a particular skill and give them the extra push and the extra encouragement in order that they can reach the next stage. I suspect that if we can get the mixed ability in our secondary schools it will assist a number of our children, because when they excel in a particular area it is their time to show off, their time to get the praise and that helps to boost them and their morale.

It calls again for a complete turn around. First, the teachers would have to be the ones who will help to propel this, and I am sure that teachers are only too happy to want to be able to assist the students. The second thing is, we will have to sensitise the parents. Some parents will feel that if their child is going to a particular school, it has been excelling well, by the time they put those six children in there – and of course they will label those children – then it is going to inhibit the teacher from moving at a rapid pace. We have to re-educate our parents and re-educate the public as a whole if we want that concept to be pursued in our schools.

Mr. President, I think there were two Senators who touched Special Education. Last year the subvention given to the special schools was \$190 000. I am happy to say that this year we are injecting some \$400 000 into our special schools. You are aware, Sir, that over the years as a child growing up nobody wanted anybody to know that they had a child that was retarded and therefore most of the special people in the communities where we lived never went to a school. They were hidden away somewhere, nobody wanted to be identified with them as a brother or mother or whatever. I feel very hurt, particularly when I see those children at the Annex at Erdiston, down behind a hill that you can hardly see them; the ones at the Learning Centre in the back of Grace Hill Church; the ones at Charles F. Broome where the students there say they are in the "dungeon". I am happy that parents are now proud to walk around with their children who are retarded, because they belong to them, and sometimes those special children can give you more love and attention than normal children. I am happy to say that the students at the Learning Centre have been given the keys to what used to be the St. Silas' Senior School, only last month, and they have

already started their renovations to have those children housed in better facilities where they will have a little more space that they can do some exercises and help to flex their muscles, and they will be able to have their computers and the various things that will be given to them to assist them in their development.

Mr. President, Continuing Education was also touched by Senator Davis. She was concerned that only \$100 000 was injected into the budget for this year. I want to say in the early 1980s – I speak under correction, perhaps it may be 1979 – we saw the need for adult education slackening up. Very few people attended the classes at St. Leonard's. I am one of the people who benefited tremendously by the adult education classes, as they were called at that time. There was a branch at Holy Innocents' School. Mathematics, Arithmetic, Home Economics and things of that nature were taught at St. Leonard's School, there was a little Spanish, Arithmetic and English at a number of areas and young people flocked there because they wanted to improve their education.

In the early 1980s some of those centres were closed because they were under-utilised. I am happy to say that when the Barbados Labour Party administration came to power there were one or two schools that were looking after the needs under the title "Continuing Education Programme" and this time around we have added two schools that would be opened on evenings to afford young people an opportunity to further their education. Springer Memorial is one, St. James' Secondary is another, but there are two to be added as far as I am aware for this new financial year.

Sir, the Barbados Labour Party is the party that started the skills training, as far as I know, and a lot of those centres were closed down and those young people that did not adequately receive the education in the secondary schools were given an opportunity to go out there and develop skills. Some of those young people who should have been benefiting by our Training Board programme are out there on the streets now running wild. I am happy to say, even though I want to say a little on the Youth Service and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and I can still touch them now lest I forget, that this year around at the SJPP that formerly housed 1 400 students we are beefing it up by 2 500.

I want this for the record, Sir, that under the Barbados Labour Party administration the Honourable Louis Tull then was the Minister of Education when we changed the school leaving age from 14 to 16, so it says that we have the interest of the young people at heart and we will continue to show interest in the young people of Barbados.

Mr. President, the Youth Service has some 100 students and I want, before I get to make the point on the

Youth Service projections this time around, to say that in the 1970s under the Tom Adams administration when the Barbados Labour Party wanted to start the Youth Service – I would have been a little younger by far than now – but I clearly remember, and I am not here to tell untruths at all, either I am going to speak in a factual manner or, Sir, I am going to sit – there were mouthings all over the island of Barbados by the members of the Opposition at that time that the Barbados Labour Party wanted to send young people out there to learn how to shoot down one another under the training of the Defence Force.

Mr. President, if we had been able at that time to implement the plan that we had, because we could foresee the deviance in our young people, we would have been able to curtail the problem we see now. I really did not want to say Parish Land, but when you look in the Orleans and in communities like Proute, St. Thomas – of all places, because country people never used to behave like that – and if we had been given that opportunity and the other individuals who were criticising had the vision that we in the Barbados Labour Party had, I am sure that we would not now be struggling with what we call a Youth Service. I attended a function at Grazettes Community Centre on Friday and it is the only day in my life that I have spent with almost 10 000 children, because I went to five functions with five sets of young people, including one at the Stadium, because the primary school sports were going on. The Youth Service put on such a fantastic function last week Saturday at Harrison's Point, the drama, the discipline, when I was able to observe the recruits in the Youth Service last Saturday, as compared with when they were seen in October when they had just gone in for a day or two, the tremendous change I saw in their attitude and everything else blessed my heart. I felt as though it was one of my children that was a member of the Barbados Youth Service who was benefitting.

5.30 p.m.

Sir, when you speak to those young people, the positive attitude that is coming from them – and they are not on any Defence Force – they are being trained by other young people under the direction of Mr. Ralph Walker whom I perceive as doing a fantastic job with little or no resources. But Sir, we are going to turn the tables around this time. Some funding is in the Budget to upgrade the facilities of the Youth Service and to extend the number from the meagre 100 to 250. So we are looking at 250 come September 1995.

Mr. President, Sir, by the time the National Cultural Foundation gets its programme in place we will be having more young people involved in positive activities.

As I said, I do not have a very short memory and I was always told a sharp pencil is better than a long memory, so I made jottings from the 70s and I can

find diaries that will give me little bits of information. I remember clearly when teachers went on secondment to become cultural officers in the very early 1980s. There was such an awareness of culture and young people getting involved and participating in NIFCA. NIFCA was really blooming then, Mr. President, and people got involved in the cart parade. I carried down my team from St. Thomas and they won the prizes too. That awareness came as a result of people like Mrs. Peggy McGairy and Tony Thompson and those who were coming into the schools and making young people aware of where they are, where they came from and where they are going.

That was unceremoniously closed in 1986 when the Democratic Labour Party Administration came into power. Mr. President, I am glad that the plan which the Cultural Foundation has for officers to be put back into the schools and into the communities as well as those from the Youth Service that are going to be drafting in some certified youth commissioners. I am happy to say not all students may want to go to the continuing education classes, but as long as they are actively involved in activities that will help them to use up some of the pent up energies they have, I am sure that they will make a positive contribution to Barbados and its development.

Mr. President, the rural development plan is also going to involve young people. Never mind it is \$3 million. Once there is a proper educational programme put in place and once the facilities are open in small business and they can get grants that they can put up their own little shoe project, that they can plant little gardens on a quarter acre of land, that they can do some sewing then that is a start. We have thousands of females in the various communities where we live that we don't have to buy clothes from overseas, but they do not have the marketing skills and I know that the rural development plan has embedded in it some training in marketing of small enterprises so that the young people too can get an opportunity.

Mr. President, the Cultural Foundation would be restructuring and will place emphasis on training and business elements in the Arts. Furthermore, there is a business and financial plan being prepared for submission by September 1995 to make the National Cultural Foundation reach a greater level of self-financing. You know, for sure, Sir, that over the years the Cultural Foundation has had numerous problems and the plan that is afoot is for the Cultural Foundation to get involved in developmental activities. Get the people involved and educate them as well as to be more self-financing so that the funding will come in and they can get involved in more community activities to push Barbadians forward.

At Board level it has set up 3 sub-committees to help it to be able to have this idea implemented and the 3 sub-

committees will review, monitor and upgrade its functions and make recommendations for strengthening the 3 core areas – festivals, establishments and a finance committee.

Mr. President, Sir, the Queen's Park facilities. I do not know how Senator Mascoll can scream and do a dance when the Democratic Labour Party never placed any emphasis on repairing any facilities in Barbados. Instead, Sir, they concentrated on things... When I see Nelson being turned around at \$240 000, it hurts my heart. When I see the school in St. Thomas and the decay that is taking place, it hurts my heart. We had school plants. We had the Queen's Park Steel Shed that is falling down on people. We have the Archives where the books are getting ready to be destroyed because there is leaking in the ceiling, the air condition units are not working. If we want to preserve our history we have to do it in a proper way and it pains me.

Mr. President, I cannot get up and talk because I have a mouth. I want to get up and speak the facts and I want to speak not only on policies but performance. Mr. President, I am aware that a number of people in Barbados over the last few years talk about impressions. They said impressions count. I do not think that way. They said that there is light at the end of the tunnel. We have the light beaming over us now and we are going to help to improve Barbados.

Mr. President, the main source of the Queen's Park facilities is the revenue that it gets from holding the various activities in this country and the institution is in dire need of repair. Sir, we are willing and ready to have the facility at Queen's Park repaired in an acceptable manner and Senator Murray is reminding me that we built it. We have done so many things for social development in Barbados and sometimes it makes me wonder whether Barbadians do have short memories or if some of them want to be plain indifferent.

We are looking at having the Queen's Park facilities upgraded so that it can continue to pursue its plan of creating finances to maintain that particular area. The National Cultural Foundation estimates that it would need a recurrent budget of some \$3 206 570 to meet all non-statutory operational and maintenance expenditure for the year 1995-96 and of course Queen's Park comes under the National Cultural Foundation.

It anticipates that revenue to the tune of some \$1 118 721 would be raised from its various commercial activities including sponsorship for the Crop-Over activities. Clearly, Sir, the actions of the last Administration during the late 1980s really has affected our Cultural Foundation and I trust that with new management and with new vision that the Cultural Foundation will certainly reach a

standard that is acceptable and I know it will with proper and new management.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Greater accountability has to come about, Sir.

Mr. President, Sir, the Ministry of Education Complex. That is another project that was started under the Democratic Labour Party Administration at the old Queen's College site. Some \$3 million has been provided in the Estimates of 1995/96 to restart its construction. We hope that those facilities will be completed by 1996/97.
5.40 p.m.

The Barbados Community College, Sir, additional resources have been provided for that College which is planning for an increased intake of students in the Hospitality Studies which is a new ultra modern institute. It has some 20 rooms for a hotel and training school for the 1995 tourist season. It is anticipated that the additional intake of students will eventually include graduates from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic through the design of an appropriate bridging course to effect such transfers between the institutions. I think that is very important. There is no point in having activities going on at the Community College that are similar to those that are going on at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and that are similar to those that are going on in other places. I think that one should feed into the other rather than having to duplicate the activities and use up resources unnecessarily.

There is one thing, Sir, I would like to touch on, the Museum. The Barbados Museum and Historical Society continues to play a vital role in heightening the awareness of Barbadians about their cultural heritage. The staff has been actively involved in seeking new avenues and resources to raise the public profile of the Museum while generating more funds through increased visitorship and sales.

The institution continues to be hampered by the lack of human and financial resources in the area of marketing and so on. We are willing and have planned to assist the Museum in upgrading the facilities. I understand there is also a plan to have a container placed on the site to help store some of that very vital information that may very well be destroyed if such is not done.

Sir, the National Library, very briefly, that too has been given some repairs. The flooring and ceiling was in very bad shape. It has been upgraded to an acceptable standard. We rely heavily on the National Library Service to assist us with the remedial reading because if the

children do not have the books at home, well then facilities should be made more adequately available for them to continue their reading. The purchasing of new books to assist our students in the Library would be extremely important.

The Student Revolving Loan Fund started in 1977. That is also under the Barbados Labour Party regime that came to power in 1976. The plan of the Students Revolving Loan was to provide loans to eligible Barbadians to pursue their studies at undergraduate level in areas which were considered critical for economic and social development. Over the years the Loan Scheme has very adequately assisted most Barbadians who sought the use of the facilities in getting their education. Unfortunately, the Fund's operations are meeting problems simply because many students who received the benefits of the Fund over the last couple of years have not been repaying the loans.

We have found ourselves in a position where a number of students who would really like to utilise the facility are unable to do so because the Fund needs to be replenished. In order for us to grant new loans, the Fund will have to examine the possibility of obtaining external financing to support the loan operations of the Student Revolving Loan Fund.

Delinquency, Sir, on the loans has continued to be a major concern of the Fund's operations. The arrears profile continues to be unacceptably high and consideration is also being given to hire the services of a bailiff in order to retrieve the funds that are outstanding. I think it is very unfortunate that if our Barbadian people use the Fund that they have not been paying back into the Fund. Many of them have not been paying back into the Fund as had been bonded. Therefore, we have to put a system in place to have that money retrieved so that more money can go into the Fund to help other Barbadians who are in extremely dire need.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Well, we are working on the Water Authority arrears now that you all never looked at. We collected more than \$1 million within the past couple of weeks. It says to me that once you put your mind to do something and you know that it can work, that it is extremely important that you pursue it despite whether you become an enemy of somebody else. I am glad that the funds for the Water Authority are being collected because there are thousands of poor people out there who go in every month and pay their \$25, \$40 and \$100 and then there are other people who are in a better financial position who owe thousands of dollars to the Water Authority so if that is the case we will work on that.

Mr. President, my final comment has to do with Erdiston College. Erdiston College is the premier teacher training institution in Barbados. Of course, all Barbadians know it provides a very high quality of training and outreach services for teachers, schools and other institutions local and regional.

Mr. President, Erdiston Teacher Training College continues to sponsor courses to help teachers to upgrade their skills in teaching, also the community can register at Erdiston to participate in a number of other areas that perhaps we would not have considered in the past as forms of education. People are certainly doing ceramics, floral arranging and things of that nature. There are not necessarily teachers. They are from the general public but the skill they can develop there at very low cost can assist them in finding some form of employment.

A Resource Centre is being developed at the College. I would just like to list two of the training objectives. The College will be seeking to help teachers to design and develop indigenous materials using new and current technologies such as multi-media and video. I am happy to say that there is no point in us having all the up-dated equipment in the schools if the teachers are not trained to use them effectively. For too long we have had the duplicator sitting there, the overhead projector because teachers have not been trained to use them.

To assist Erdiston in its venture is the Audio Visual Aids Department where the officers there have been going around to the various schools within the last six months, I cannot speak of before that. I am seeing new activities being injected into the schools through the Audio Visual Aids Department officers and they are assisting teachers in acquiring the skills so that teaching could be more innovative and students would be more inclined to want to learn new things and want to explore new avenues using updated equipment.

Mr. President, I would want to close off my comments here by saying that I am extremely happy to be able to assist the Minister of Education in these avenues that we perceive as extremely useful to the development of education in Barbados particularly the areas that have been neglected for years that we know are so vital to the education of our students. I would want to also commend the Government for giving her the opportunity to be able to present the various proposals to show that we are not only interested in governing but we are interested in governing to ensure that happiness, joy, contentment, discipline, a number of things that are missing from our society today to see that whatever plans we have in our proposals would be implemented into our society to help our people to feel a little more comfortable and a little more satisfied with the small mercies or the large mercies

as they may be, that we would want to be implemented in the finances this year.

With those couple of comments, Sir, I would like to lend my wholehearted support to this Bill and trust that despite whatever area it may be in these Estimates that we would be able to see them come to fruition for the benefit of all Barbadians.

Thank you.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, this afternoon I want to begin first of all my input and most of my input will be based on the tourism sector. 5.50 p.m.

I hope time permits that I can also speak very clearly on the other areas that I should like to speak on. Those being education and the media in Barbados. I want to add a lot to the media. The other one is, obviously, the Ministry of Community Development and Sports.

But I want to say, first of all, listening to the input and listening to what Senator Davis had to contribute to the education debate certainly sets us in the right kind of mind in terms of what political reform in Barbados should be.

I want to say that it is a waste of time in another Chamber for every Tom, Dick, Harry, Johnny and Richie to go on and constantly debate things with which they are neither familiar nor have the expertise to debate. Like the American system, it is important for us to move into the committee system that electoral and political reform in Barbados is necessary if we are ever to bring these debates into the kind of framework that really does justice to the people of this country. We waste too much time in talking and allowing all kinds of people to debate things with which they are not familiar.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, I must stop you. I am not sure what you are referring to but I hope that you are not referring to either of the Houses of Parliament and that you are not reflecting on the conduct of Members of those Chambers. If so, you are in breach of the Rules, specifically Standing Order 34.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: No, Sir, I am not reflecting on the behaviour of those people in the Chamber or in that particular House, but the system itself.

Sir, it would not be real to bring a debate on tourism into its proper perspective unless we understand exactly the role that tourism plays with regards to the wider economy in Barbados. I want to begin by saying this. We in Barbados have got to be clear and recognize that

there must be and there will be, in short measure, a life without sugar. I want to repeat. We have got to come to grips with the fact that – whether you take it as total quick fix or not – there is going to be a life in Barbados without sugar.

I want to bring this into the right perspective so that we understand exactly why we need to push the tourism sector and why we need to pay more attention to the tourism sector. In 1966 sugar contributed 20% to the GDP in this country and it employed 25% of our work force. By 1978 these proportions had dropped to 7% contributions to GDP and 10% of the work force. By 1994 we were down to 2.5% of GDP from sugar and we employed 4.5% of the work force.

It is interesting to note that an economy that was based on sugar has now dipped to the levels that we are speaking about today. Within the ambit of the macro economic framework that we have got for Barbados, we understand that there are very few things that we can do with the macro economic framework of Barbados to place it anywhere where it is going to give the kind of results that we want with a fixed exchange rate were still constraints in terms of wages. No wage freeze on but still some kind of constraint. There is still tight fiscal policy. The credit markets are still slightly restricted. There is a little more that we can do, in the macro economic framework, to bring Barbados back to where we want.

Maybe there are one or two things like the interest rate on savings, but there is very little we can do within the terms of the macro economic framework of Barbados. Therefore, Sir, I believe that our next step is to look inward at sectoral areas of the economy. We need to focus our efforts on those areas which we believe can bring the type of receipts that we want for the economy of Barbados. That is where tourism comes into play.

It must be clear that the Democratic Labour Party claimed that they understood the role that tourism played in the wider economy of Barbados. I am saying, Sir, and I am going to prove here this afternoon that the Democratic Labour Party neither understood how much tourism contributed to our national economy or understood the importance of tourism in terms of a sustained economy for this country.

I am going to put you again in the right perspective. Tourism's performance in 1994...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Talk your talk. I am going to deal with you now.

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

SENATOR C. A. LYNCH: Stay over arrivals in 1994 accounted for 425 000. I want to set up the backdrop upon which you will understand where we need to take tourism and why tourism is as important as it is and why there was gross neglect on the side with regards to how we pushed the tourism product. Stay over arrivals in 1994 accounted for 425 000 visitors. That was up from 395 in 1993, 7.5%. It is interesting that July and March were the months with the highest arrivals, 46 000 in July and 39 000 in March. That puts the lie to the fact that we have a seasonal tourism product. If you start to look at it, you will realize instantly that in March they are going to come for cricket but look at July. July was the highest month for arrivals in tourism in Barbados. It certainly sends a strong message that the tourism product...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. LYNCH: This does not have anything to do with Crop Over. The tourism product is no longer seasonal. The worst months of the year were June and September which accounted for just over 27 000. In 1993 we had 100 000 visitors from the UK. In 1994 we had 123 455. A lot of people are going to say that that is accredited totally to cricket.

But I want to say, Sir, that when you get a month in which there is 19% increase, in other words, do not tell me that cricket accounted for 23 000 visitors to Barbados. I say it did not. It did not increase by 23 000 visitors during the months of cricket. It obviously means that the UK market was a market that was growing and which we did not pay much attention to. European visitors accounted for 161 000 in 1993. They accounted for 190 000 in 1994. That is 30 000 up. But US arrivals which accounted for 112 000 in 1993 dipped down 3.2% to 109 000 in 1994. US arrivals have declined every year, except for 1993 as opposed to 1994. In 1988 we had 170 000 visitors.

Long stay arrivals – and I want to bring this clearly so that we understand the European market as opposed to the US market – in this country for the US market only yield 6 or 7 days. The European markets yield 13 to 14 days. It is interesting to note that with the European market producing the numbers that it has, we have not done the kinds of things that we can do to keep the UK market moving.

Canadians and Commonwealth visitors accounted for 12%. The high months for US travellers 94 and 95, February and July produced the highest level of visitors from the UK market. New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, the mid Atlantic states accounted for 48% of all our visitor arrivals from the US with New York alone producing 38%. The South Atlantic produced only 18%.

Cruise tourism figures in Barbados fell in 1994. I hear people touting this cruise tourism as a fundamental part and a growing part, it fell by 7.2%.

It is important to note that when the US market which is the closest market to Barbados was growing, it has the kind of airlift that we need to produce the kinds of figures that we want, what is happening is this: What is happening is this, Sir, last year in the Estimates, and I will make this a document of the House, the Democratic Labour Party in the last administration voted \$32 million to Tourism and at the same time, seeing that Tourism is basically our most important industry right now, what happened was this. And this comes straight from the Barbados Tourism Authority DMB & B in New York which is the Barbados' Tourism Authority advertising agents. Our advertising spend in the market dipped from \$2.5 million to \$1.1 million. We gave the Barbados Tourism Authority \$32 million in 1994 and what they spent in promoting and advertising Barbados which is their principal mandate was \$1.1 million. It is here. I can make it a document of the House. All the people who want to look at it can see.
6.00 p.m.

Now, remember this, in 1993 they spent \$2.5 million. In 1994 they spent \$1.1 million. And, Sir, I also want to bring this truth to bear. Most of the other markets we are comparing with, with regard to tourism have increased their spend with regards to how they treat American tourism. We in Barbados spent less than half of what we spent the previous year.

Sir, it is also important to note this. In 1993, they spent \$2.5 million in 1994 they spent \$1.1 million and that is important when you look at Barbados and when they tell you what they were putting the Honourable Senator stands condemned. He was on the Board. They were the ones who spent less in 1994 to promote the tourism product than they spent in 1993.

I will bring you back to this, Sir. They talk about the accommodation sector in Barbados. What we have done in Barbados is created two types of tourism. We have created a West Coast product and a South Coast product. We have totally gone down the line and all of the concessions that were given, were given at the end of the day to promote a product on the West Coast at the expense of those on the South Coast of this country. Whenever you hear them say that they have put away money to help the South Coast hotels we must ask how did they intend to help the South Coast hotels? Was it just by providing dollars and cents to help the South Coast hotels? The South Coast product that has grown out of other areas of industry in Barbados needs more than just a money injection. I will come back to that.

They are characterised by a lot of problems on the South Coast. It is very difficult for Barbados to operate as

competitive *vis-a-vis* the other sectors and I am going to make this a document of the House too, they would have seen this because this was part and parcel of the IMF Report on tourism during 1991. They dealt with the World Bank and the IMF. It says that tourism was the main provider of foreign exchange earnings and has currently contributed 12% of GDP. In spite of improved performance in Barbados in recent years, Barbados has continued to lose ground as compared with other major Caribbean destinations, a process which began in the early 1980s. Hotel capacity in Barbados over the last 10 years has stagnated and refurbishing and renovation has lagged, consequently the quality of accommodation has deteriorated. Since Barbados has traditionally sought to attract the high end of the tourism market, this development is worrisome. Domestic cost factors have reduced the profitability of tourism relative to other sectors of the economy which in turn has reduced its capacity to compete effectively for capital and resources to expand output and productivity. Average wages for hotel workers, over the past decade, have risen at a rate faster than the rest of the economy which is especially critical for an industry where labour costs represent a high share of total costs. Furthermore trade policy in Barbados is characterised by a high degree of protection for import substitutions and by anti-export bias. Prices for tradeable intermediaries, inputs notably processed foods and furniture and indirectly prices for non-tradeable goods and services, transportation and restaurant meals which are sizeable components of tourism expenditure tend to be higher as a result.

Sir, this is the important factor, throughout the 1980s Barbados consistently lost its share of Caribbean Tourism stay over arrivals to qualify the relative impact of external as opposed to domestic factors and the loss of external competitiveness of Barbados an empirical study using regression analysis was undertaken. The results show that domestic cost factors play the key role in determining the loss of competitiveness with regard to the Barbados Tourism product. Sir, it is clear, if the Democratic Labour Party was as interested as they are in making sure that we are competitive in terms of the tourism product they could have dealt much more with regards to how they are dealing with the south coast hotels because it would not have created the rift that it created between the West Coast properties and the South Coast properties.

It is clear, Sir, we have got, Sir, a visitor satisfaction survey which is produced by Caribbean Tourism Organisation and the Caribbean Tourism Authority and it talks about Barbados' competitiveness and about Barbados and how visitors view Barbados. It talks about all of the positives for Barbados but one of the important points that it makes is also the negative aspect of the Barbados' tourism product. It talks clearly, Sir, about the positives that Barbados has a good tourism product, that

Barbados' people are friendly and that the Bajan's attitude in terms of welcoming people is 100%.

It also has its negatives. Value for money: They believe it is too expensive. They talk about the serious problem of harassment which I am going to deal with in regard to the Vagrancy Act of this country. It talks about the humiliating attitude of the Immigration and Customs personnel when they reach Barbados and it talks about road conditions and garbage and litter.

Sir, what is important and what we need to bring into play is this. The way forward for Barbados' tourism product must be totally in the restructuring of the Barbados Tourism Authority which is something that the Minister of Tourism has constantly said. The repopulating of the Barbados Tourism Authority, wants those at the top, because over the years, I will not even talk about the disrepute in which we brought the Tourism Authority and other administration. What we need to do is restructure the Tourism Authority. That is going to cause, Sir, any time you are receiving the kind of money that you are receiving from the tourism product, it means that it needs proper management from the top therefore a proper CEO who is familiar with the management and marketing of it.

It also calls for two international marketing directors at the top, one in Europe and one in North America to deal with the tourism product. It also calls for a marketing concept approach to how we market the product that is Barbados. DMB&B the advertising agents, for the Barbados Tourism Authority, were very clear about how they looked at the Barbados Tourism Product. During the time that they were dealing with the product, Barbados never once put forward to the public, during the past 5 or 6 years, the things that were positive about Barbados. We have used 6 different campaigns during the past 6 years culminating in 1994 with one called "Barbados the Best it can be", and when BNB&B went to the market place to sample how Americans particularly responded to Barbados they got words to the effect that Barbados lacked top of the mind awareness as opposed to other Caribbean destinations, that there was a lack of significant product differentiation between Barbados and any other island, lack of awareness, price and value and benefits. They said that Barbados was thought about as too aspirational, that people thought it was out of reach and therefore Barbados had concocted and created an advertising campaign which was centred around the Concorde in the ad, which was centred around polo, which was centred around cricket, which the North Americans do not at all deal with or understand. Sir, I am trying to make this point, that Barbados' tourism product, rather than focussing on all the other markets like South America and Australia. They went all the way to Australia to look for tourists and we have North America right

beside us which continues every day to push out the kind of figures that we want for tourism in this country. We ventured all the way to Australia to look for places when what is clear is that North America beside us has the kind of airlift out of the major markets to produce the kind of tourism numbers that we want, but we ventured all the way to Australia and to South America and up to now if they have produced 200 tourists out of Australia they have produced a lot.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, I suppose before long you are going to tell us how this relates to the Estimates debate.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Of course it relates to tourism, because all of this makes the point that the Barbados Tourism Authority voted the \$32 million and the \$68 million in the Estimates for tourism and international transport and the environment must clearly focus upon restructuring the Tourism Authority in Barbados to produce the kind of numbers that it wants; that it also must embark on the kind of marketing structure and marketing campaign that will push Barbados into the 21st century. We have constantly lost market share against our competitors and we intend to address that.

With regard, Sir, to air services, the Ministry is also embarking clearly on a campaign to bring the public sector and the private sector together to deal with the position of air lifts. It means that whenever the public sector goes to the market to try to organise or try to create air lifts out of a destination to Barbados, it is obvious that they must have with them a private sector component to be able to create the kind of seating capacity that they want to give them the kind of incentives that they want. Up to now it is clear that what we have done in the market place is that we have never brought our business and social partners to sit down with us. At the last retreat that was held only last week between Barbados, tour operators and travel agents, it is six years since they have sat down with the Barbados Tourism Authority to talk about what is wrong with tourism in Barbados and how we can get the response in the market place.

Sir, the way forward. The Prime Minister has already met with the south coast hoteliers under the restructuring programme in an effort to create one management and one marketing framework for all the south coast hotels of Barbados in which all of them can share. They are now proud to have an open door policy where they met with the Prime Minister on two occasions, and we are going to bring all the south coast hotels under one umbrella where they can share in the marketing and management expertise which can move them forward.

It is also important that Barbados looks at the sales force that the BTA is going to put forward. Reference

was made here today that this BTA sales force is geriatric and it is all expatriate. It is important to realise that the policy that the Tourism Authority has embarked on has been clear.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, I think that is your description.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: I thought I heard that reference here today, Sir. That is not the important thing, we were very clear that in the United States of America we needed people who were familiar with the market place and with the people they were going to meet to be able to generate the kind of business we wanted out of the market place. Under that mandate the Barbados Tourism Authority sought to recruit people out of the United States who were familiar with the product. Ninety percent of these people have already worked in sales and have long track records within the United States. We were also clear to choose the areas in which they were going to represent Barbados and these were areas which produced the greatest yield both in terms of absolute numbers and spending for Barbados tourism. A lot of these people came out of the market, came to Barbados and got familiar with the tourism product. I do not believe we need to make excuses for having hired expatriates to sell the tourism product, because what Barbados needs are those people who are familiar with the product, that is tourism, what Barbados needs are people who are familiar with the destination and with the market place in which they are going to work.

There is also another component of that, which means that there is another part of it, the Barbadian part of the work force is also going to be recruited. Not only that, out of the 25 that are going there, there is also a research component, that some of them will be concentrating on research within each market place so that they can produce the kind of information that one needs to make informed decisions. What is important as well is this. We need to look also at the creation of the kind of elite force that Barbados needs to make the tourism product move and not only within areas that are not productive but in areas which are going to be productive for the Barbados tourism sector.

With regard to how we deal with the areas in this same tourism survey which the visitors have said is their biggest problem, one of these areas is the area of harassment. As we are very well aware, the words that have been quoted in the Act did not address the simple things. The addition of the words "annoy" "threaten" or "harass" to the vocabulary that defines these offences are welcome additions to the tourism industry, because one of the problems we were facing was that many people were accosted but most of these crimes were never reported, because they could not have been dealt with. What we have

been able to do is to bring the vocabulary that defines these offences – and these are welcome additions – because what they are going to do is to be able to let not only tourists, not only visitors to Barbados but Barbadians themselves enjoy the luxury of walking on the streets and beaches of this country without being harassed. It is important that that comes in.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think you must go fairly carefully on this. If a matter is before the Other Place it is likely to come to this Chamber. We cannot anticipate that discussion. The Standing Orders are very clear on this. I think it is 36(3).

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Thank you, Sir. I understand that a lot of people are interested in the fact that we need to create within the Barbados tourism ambit, and that is why Senator Mascoll should get out his pen and paper at this point to be able to deal with how we deal with the revamped marketing mix of a Barbados Tourism Authority.
6.20 p.m.

It is obvious that what we have concentrated on in the past with regard to marketing Barbados' tourism has been the product. The focus of the Barbados Tourism Authority as mandated by the Ministry of Tourism will now be on the consumer. We have gone away from the product mix and we are now going on to the consumer.

I will leave Senator Mascoll with this: we have stopped to concentrate on the price. It is important that we shift from price to cost because what is happening within the market place is that there are many other destinations which are able to outsell Barbados but what is interesting to note is that we are going to put forward value for money and through our own sales force and marketing force and through our own advertising and promotion we are going to bring this point home.

We are no longer, Sir, going to concentrate on promotion within the market place. We are going to concern ourselves with a system of communication that deals not only with promoting a product or service but deals with the kind of feedback that we want on a consistent basis which is going to take us on to database marketing which I am going to explain to Senator Mascoll in a minute.

In terms of placement, Sir, we are no longer interested in placing the product where the consumer is, but we are looking at a system of convenience because we want that consumer to understand that Barbados is accessible to him through any of the inputs and any of the places that can bring up Barbados in terms of tourism.

We have moved away from the 4 Bs and we have brought in the 4 Cs. We have come into a different

range of marketing with regard to the tourism product and once we understand that the Immigration Department has been computerised, because what we intend to do is to do 2 things... One is database marketing which goes specifically at target markets.

When a visitor comes to Barbados, he will be able now to be whisked through the Immigration Department but not only will he be given some kind of ID card and some kind of return card; but once he is whisked through, that information would be readily available to all of the agencies within the Ministry of Tourism so that we can now do strict, sensible database and target marketing which means also direct marketing in terms of mail outs and in terms of getting him through. The Democratic Labour Party never thought of anything like that. It is clear, Sir, that they have not thought about the things to move Barbados forward.

We also concentrated on cruise conversion. There is going to be a booth set up within the confines of the Barbados Port where cruise ship passengers will give us the kind of marketing information that we need to be able to make informed decisions. What we are going to do is to use that as a database for creating the kind of direct marketing and target marketing that is necessary for the tourism product to move forward.

Sir, I also want to say that apart from the 2.5 that was spent in 1993, the 1.1. in 1994, that the Barbados Tourism Authority intends to spend a substantial amount more. The percentage of the vote, the Government is going to spend a lot more with regards to the promotion of Barbados in the market place. We are clear as well that talking to airlines in and outside of Barbados that we need to create the kind of... We are not the Democratic Labour Party, we understand clearly the only way to create air lifts for Barbados is to create generic demand for the product. It means that you cannot run away and just believe that you can talk to airlines all over the place without creating the kind of generic demand for the product that you need to put through.

Sir, that is why when in the Barbados Tourism Authority the Minister created what he called the Blue Ribbon Team that it involved a lot of private sector people and hoteliers because he understands that the Government must co-exist in an environment with the private sector which is something that the Democratic Labour Party never understood.

It is clear that we exist in the same environment with them and that is why as we speak now that this Blue Ribbon Team is in Miami with American Airlines talking about a core advertising programme for Barbados. We are

also clear that when the Minister has talked with the emphasis on air lifts and he has met with LTU and BWIA and Condor and Bergen Air and Maarten Air and all of the other agencies he is always there with a private sector component because he understands the kind of fiscal incentive that is needed to create the kind of airlift that we want for Barbados. It gives him the kind of leverage he wants with which to negotiate. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party clearly never will be able to understand that. But we took care of that on September 6.

Sir, a fundamental part of the programme that the Barbados Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Tourism will also put into place is the system of education. It needs to change the way in which Barbadians look at tourism. We understand that Barbadians must be educated and it must start from the primary level where Barbadians understand that tourism is our business and the Barbados Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Tourism is clear. They have already embarked on a programme.

The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Education have already created a programme and are in discussion about creating a programme for the primary school with regards to tourism education.

Aside.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: They have not yet been able to understand that.

It is also clear that we have sent people to the market place to represent Barbados over the past 8-10 years and one of the things that we have never done is give them the kind of collateral material that sells Barbados. A whole family of literature which points at things that are important. Sir, it is clear if... Collateral material has never been given to the hands of the people who actually sell the tourism product.

Sir, there is an important component as well and that is the component of training. Most of the people in Barbados within the tourism sector and the hotel sector need to be trained. It is obvious what we need to do. Training can be enhanced by freeing up the work permit regime to allow persons for specific positions not impinging upon local jobs but allowing permits for specific purposes of training expansion of horizons.

It is clear, Sir, that within Barbados we are lacking seriously in the total framework of tourism as it relates to marketing, training, air lift and international transport. The Barbados Labour Party Administration has been able to bring all of that into context this afternoon and is going to continue to do it in the future.

The \$32 million that has been voted for the Barbados Tourism Authority, I can assure you that more than \$1.1 million will be spent in terms of promoting Barbados externally and that is what was done under the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, it is also interesting to note – we are going to make this a document of the House too – that when there is private sector involvement with the Barbados Tourism Authority that while people sat there and did nothing to create the kind of airlift for Barbados that the Government has been able to sit down with a private sector body and create the kind of airfare that we are receiving here this afternoon with Miami Air International – return US\$285 out of Newark, New Jersey. These are the kinds of incentives that Government understands that we need to deal with when you deal with the private sector to move the product forward.

I say here this afternoon and I don't care who disagrees with me that the Tourism Development Corporation has its place within this tourism make-up. The Tourism Development Corporation must play its part because they are the ones who also receive benefit from the tourism product.

Sir, it is important that we realise as well...

Aside.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: I am going to close on tourism and give somebody else a chance to talk.

Senator Mascoll does not understand anything about tourism or about marketing. What is clear is that marketing is the fundamental plank upon which this tourism project is going to move forward. Unless we can concentrate on it, on revitalising the marketing of the Barbados tourism product, we are all going to end up... I, Sir, give my wholehearted support to this Bill.

Thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the suspension of this Sitting until 10 a.m. tomorrow March 28, 1995. Whilst I am on my feet, I will also take the opportunity to inform Senators that dinner is served downstairs.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I rise to speak primarily on the matter of Health under Head 36 of the Appropriation Bill. It is the Head that is at the moment standing for the highest amount in the Estimates in the sum of \$137 541 843. This is to go to service the management and implementation of health care in Barbados. The now Government believes that health care is more than just the absence of disease. Good health must be sufficient to enable persons to lead socially and economically productive lives. This is one of the reasons that I have elected to speak on this particular area exclusively because I think it really speaks to the development of a country. I would like to spend some time going through from area to area.

The Ministry of Health employs approximately 4 000 people, a third of which are employed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It also owns a fleet of vehicles through the Sanitation Service Authority and the Ambulance Service. As far as the Ambulance Service goes, when we took office in September the Ambulance fleet was sadly lacking and in a state of disrepair. Most of the ambulances were broken down and were not available for use by the public of Barbados to facilitate their health care. I would leave it to your imagination to imagine why something as viable as an Ambulance Service would have been left dormant for so long with vehicles untended. Since taking office we have acquired two new vehicles and two more are on order.

The objective of the Ministry of Health is the provision of comprehensive health care for all Barbadians. It covers many areas. Today I will seek to cover and show what the plans by the Ministry of Health as far as the implementation of health care and as far as this Government is concerned, but I believe there are probably more than I can even hope to cover in the time allocated to me.

The general management of the Ministry of Health is incurring an 11.19% increase for General Management. This relates to the increments for staff plus \$300 000 which is Barbados' contribution to the new PAHO building. We know that PAHO, WHO and the UN organisations altogether as far as health goes really have done a lot towards the development of health regionally and Barbados being one of the stronger beneficiaries because today we are proud to say that there has been the eradication of certain diseases in this country. We are fortunate because there are other areas in the region, not so far away like in the Latin Americas, where situations still exist because of the lack of potable water, *et cetera*, where health is really not in good shape so we are fortunate because of the help from these organisations.

The services delivered through the Ministry of Health administrative offices include Project Development and the Implementation Unit, Technical Management Services and General Management and Administration. This is where quite a bit of the money will have to go to make sure that these areas function adequately.

We also cover many areas, one of the most important being the disabled persons who for a very long time in this country have been neglected. Through the Elections, and in our Manifesto, which is a document of this House, we speak to the issue of creating better environment for the disabled persons of this country. At the moment the disabled persons of this country are serviced through the St. Andrew's Childrens' Home, the Childrens' Development Centre and the Hillside Home. I am not going to go through the Estimates piece by piece because there are a lot of figures in there. Each of us has a copy and would have already perused these and will continue to do so over today and the next year as these Estimates seek to take us to year end March, 1996.

The elderly also, a forgotten area. We are all going to get there one day. This administration believes in taking care of the elderly to ensure that not only when we get there, but that pride can be maintained through all areas of life, and that you can look forward to an old age where you would not be shut away or shut in when your family no longer wants to have responsibility for you. This is carried through by a series of geriatric hospitals and district hospitals island wide, St. Thomas, St. Philip, St. Lucy, St. Michael and Christ Church.

There are a lot of elderly people who live at the Psychiatric Hospital principally because their families have no time for them and could not care less. Of course, this puts a lot of pressure on the Psychiatric Hospital because these persons are not ill. They are just there because they were, perhaps, emotionally stressed because of the lack of attention from the family unit and this is why they have been put there and simply forgotten about.

Primary health care, maternal child health, dental and other services are provided through the Polyclinics. I think most of us in this Honourable Chamber are well aware that the Polyclinics were instituted by a former Barbados Labour Party Administration. The first of these Polyclinics was in Speightstown, which is now what is called the Maurice Byer Polyclinic. They comprise eight Polyclinics throughout Barbados catering to the primary health care, maternal and child health care, dental and other services.

The Polyclinics were designed specifically so that all Barbadians would have access to good health care. Notwithstanding regardless of their economic situation it is there for all of us to take advantage of. There are three in St. Michael, that is, Black Rock, Warrens and the

Jemmott's Lane Polyclinics, one in Christ Church, the one I mentioned before in St. Peter, the Maurice Byer Polyclinic and one in St. George at the Glebe. St. Philip, St. John and St. Joseph have medical care facilities, though they be old and small.

I would like to put in a bid now to see a return to the expansion of the hours at the Polyclinics as it used to be in a former Barbados Labour Party Administration. When we lost Government the Democratic Labour Party Government compacted those hours and therefore made it more complicated then on the service of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Polyclinics used to be open as late as 8:00 o'clock at night in some instances and you could go there well after work or whenever. You did not have to take time off from work to take your children to the Polyclinic or to take yourself. That no longer is available and I would like to put in a bid now to see these expanded once again, principally to give people a wider opportunity and also to take some of the pressure off the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

It would most importantly take the pressure off the Accident and Emergency aspect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because very often individuals go there for a minor complaint because the Polyclinics are closed and have to wait hours upon hours because, of course, if it is not a major problem, or if accident victims come in whilst you are waiting, you had better believe it is going to be a long, long wait. This could so easily be alleviated by the broader use of the Polyclinics.

It would also give a lot of the young doctors who have just trained abroad and regionally in accidental and emergency health care the opportunity to do the work they were trained to do, to create the facility for them to work to their fullest potential if not we stand the chance of what another Senator raised in this Chamber yesterday, losing a lot of our qualified young people to other areas. One Senator mentioned yesterday, I believe, that Atlanta in the U.S.A. has the highest rate of West Indians employed in all areas. I would hate to see our quality people leave Barbados simply because they did not have the opportunity to practise their skills.

This is something that speaks to me very deeply because I am in a position where I had a relative, my sister to be exact, who went abroad and studied remedial education through a scholarship, lived in Canada, came back to Barbados to fulfill the role here and there was no place for her to work. There was a need but it had not been identified and this is under the former Administration. To me this makes no sense because we spend money educating our young people and then when they come back and are ready to take on the mantle of providing for the people specifically in health care, as my sister was in terms of where remedial education is concerned, what option does

that leave them? I would like to see a change in this. Expand the polyclinic hours so that we can get all areas of Barbadians facilitated within that area.

The Ministry of Health is also responsible for the Sanitation Service, the collection of refuse, the disposal of refuse, street cleaning, the cemeteries service and the maintenance of public conveniences. We all have to do our part as far as refuse collection goes and disposal of refuse. In Government we know that it is our responsibility but we the public, all of us in this Honourable Chamber, and all Barbadians out there, also have to play our role. Gone are the days when you could just dump everything in one garbage bag and put it down beside the road. This creates problems. I think we are all sufficiently well read in this country because we certainly have had opportunity even though Senator Davis alluded to the fact yesterday that we have a large percentage of young people who are unable to read and write, but I think the understanding is there that in 1995 it is high time that we look at the separation of garbage. This is one of the initiatives that the Ministry of Health is going or will be looking very strongly at, the separation of garbage and then the adequate disposal of.

There has been, through the initiative of the Ministry of Health, a clean-up campaign just this month and so far 288 loads have been removed by the Sanitation Service Authority. There are still more loads to be removed. Again, perhaps, we could all be active in this and do our part because it speaks then to the cleaning up of Barbados generally to help eradicate that horrible *Aedes Egypti* mosquito where we have all the old metal drums, *et cetera*, that we have sitting out in our yards collecting water.
10.20 a.m.

These are the sorts of things we would want to put out to be carried away by the Sanitation Service Authority, minus the water, of course. There is a landfill, and we know that Barbados cannot succeed without landfills of one sort or another and there is a landfill area at the back of Christ Church Foundation School – I nearly said Christ Church Girls' Foundation School because that is what I called it for all the years that I went to school there – where metals can be carried. At the weekend when school is out they are then compacted providing a reclamation of land so to speak.

I want to pay compliments, at this time also, to the Minister of Health who, through her initiative, had to rid this country of a terrible, terrible problem and I think we all know what I am speaking of and that is the problem at Mangrove. The Democratic Labour Party left this problem to fester which is the only word I could use for it, and so it did, festered and created a stink in that part of the country.

When we took over the Administration we had no choice but to rid Barbados of this problem. It was

expensive but because this Administration always has the care and concern, the creation of a better life for our people at heart, we made sure to get rid of it, at great cost \$1 335 000 to bring what was commonly called Mount Stinkeroo to Mount Pleasant. Money well spent. I think this quantity of money could have been far less had the former Administration taken the initiative and seen about reducing that atrocity at a much earlier stage.

This Administration speaks, as I said, to protection of the environment and the protection of our people. It goes back to way before I was born when this Barbados Labour Party, of course, a different Administration at that time as I said brought the polyclinics, was always instrumental in the provision of health care to make sure that we can have a better life because life is no good without health, we have nothing at all. People think that wealth is everything but without health, you cannot acquire wealth. Without health, you cannot learn. Without proper management of a health care system, such as this Administration is going to be doing, by your permission through these Estimates and then with the approval of the Budget to come, we can only continue to make for better health care in this country.

I need to touch too on the cemeteries because this comes under the Ministry of Health's portfolio also. I should like to say, at the outset, that I personally prefer cremation and should like to put in a bid to see the formation of a crematorium in Barbados soon, because I do not know when I am going to pop off. I primarily prefer cremation because I think it is less aggressive on the family members. I think the days are gone when you dig a hole six feet, drop people in it and all of this soil dropping down. It really wrenches the hearts of people. Added to which on a real and environmentally safe footing, do we really have the land space in Barbados to accommodate all these dead bodies? I think cremation is healthier and it speaks to better using the limited land space that we have here in Barbados. We would be saving space.

Within the Ministry of Health, there have been since we have taken office, proposals put forward by several sectors, the private sector as well as the religious sector. But of course it would be safe to say that we cannot allow Tom, Dick and Harry and everybody to put up a crematorium wherever and whenever they feel like. It is under consideration, at this point for a crematorium.

It had come to, I believe this Honourable Chamber and to the electorate of Barbados before but because of lack of funds – not under our Administration, I do not believe – it had to be put aside. With the introduction of a crematorium by the private sector I believe this would take some of the burden from the Government and, at the same time, provide a facility that I know for sure I would be leaving in the Will and Testament and amongst my

friends that that is what I want for my mortal remains. Not to dwell on this because we all know that in life, there is death. I speak about it frequently because it is something that is going to happen and I prepare myself from all like now for the passing of my family, well you cannot prepare for your own passing because when you are gone, you do not even know. I am looking forward to this initiative by the private sector. The private sector has made a proposal. Just as the Administration gives a hearing to other areas, I am sure we would be willing – I had better not say that because that might sound like a promise that I might not be in a position to fulfill, since I am not the Minister of Health. I will leave her to deal with that, in the Other Place.

The Psychiatric Hospital also comes under the responsibility of the Minister of Health. The Psychiatric Hospital accommodates more people than the QEH. I think when we pass and look at the place on Black Rock, we would never imagine that this place is so large. It comprises 59 acres of roof space alone plus land. I was never aware of this until the Minister brought it to my attention. Because as we drive along, we do not even realize it is as big a place as it is. The patients comprise a mix of persons, of course, psychiatric, disabled persons and some institutionalized who are not ill as I said before because there are no relatives who want to have them back at home. This is utilizing space where it could better be spent dealing with persons who have a psychiatric problem or who need to be absent from society to rehabilitate from other substance abuses, *et cetera*.

By the time the National Assistance Board and the other relevant agencies – I can speak for the National Assistance Board, it ties in with health as well – who are at this point creating a senior citizens village for geriatric persons, for old persons and it is a very nice plan. It would be completed under this Administration because it was on the drawing board for a long while. I cannot say exactly when it was conceptualized, so I am not going to stand here and give the Barbados Labour Party credit, though I should like to do so. But I would first have to check and see what date and when it was first conceptualized. I am still checking to make sure that there was an adequate study done. We all know that it seems that our senior citizens need somewhere to live. But if you do not do an adequate study, a lot of things that seem to be needed in the country and are built up, we then realize, after the fact, was not a real need. I will be addressing some of those at a later date.

The Ministry of Health is also responsible for the Environmental Engineering Division – I am just going to go through this – the Nutrition Centre and I will pause on the Nutrition Centre because nutrition is something without which we cannot hope to have healthy lives. There will be a study done and, amongst the documents that I was

researching, there was a Conference in 1992 with suggestions made at a very high health level and I should have brought them with me but I have not done so. None of the suggestions that they made were implemented. A survey will be done to look at how Barbadians eat, what we eat and the quality of food that we eat which can impact seriously on the quality of life that we hope to achieve and the length of life. The study will look, principally, at the 0 to 5 age group. Because we all know, as it came up yesterday, basics are the most important thing. If we do not lay a good foundation, we cannot build a house, we cannot have a healthy life and we certainly, as was mentioned yesterday, cannot hope to have a viable education system.

The AIDS programme and I will elaborate on this later on, the Public Health Inspectorate, the Drug Service, and I will most certainly be elaborating on that, the Animal Control Unit, the West and South Coast Sewerage Project, Subventions to local NGOs and international organizations which I have already spoken of the \$300 000 that would be going to PAHO for the new building. The maintenance of cemeteries which I have already covered and last but by no means least, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

When we took on the Government in September of 1994, this Administration inherited some major projects that we will no longer be carrying forward as is. This is why I thought I would introduce this now having mentioned, just a few moments ago, how important it is to make sure that adequate studies and surveys are done before projects are implemented to make sure that you do not waste the taxpayers' money, as we have seen happen over the last 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, even 8 years.

The first one I want to speak on is the St. Joseph Hospital. I think we are all aware now that the St. Joseph Hospital will be closed at the end of this month. I should like to bring some facts to bear in case some of you were like me, two months ago when I was not aware of some of the atrocities that took place at the St. Joseph Hospital. But I took the opportunity to go down to St. Joseph and have a look and see. This was covered by the media and I think a lot of people still did not see it. I did not see it myself on the television. I should like to take this opportunity, in this Honourable Chamber, to bring some of these things to light.

10.30 a.m.

The St. Joseph Hospital was purchased in 1988 by the Democratic Labour Party administration for \$6 112 760, an astronomical figure. There was refurbishing. I would like to choose my words carefully and say, alleged refurbishing because on my visit I really could not see where the \$9 411 861 was spent. On arriving at the hospital a beautiful site to look on, on the exterior, but having entered into the foyer that was certainly refurbished – an excellent

entry way and wonderful administrative offices. But as we continued the tour it went from bad to worse is the only way I could put it.

We started at the morgue but I am not going to dwell on that. I have already spoken sufficiently about death and cemeteries. Nobody was present. I am not surprised because there is hardly anybody in the hospital far less anybody to be in the morgue. The hospital had a maximum on that visit day, seven people. The average occupancy of that hospital is no more than 10 persons at any one time with 5 long-stay persons in the form of senior citizens, geriatric.

The tour continued. I went into a gym which had been estimated to cost \$40 000. Since this administration took office we have received a bill for \$294 707.13 for the completion of this gym. The gym was far from complete. But I will say this to you, no expense was spared on the set up of that gym and this administration finds itself in a position where to cut the contract, the money has already been spent so we have no choice other than to pay the bill and with that amount spent I would imagine that we would probably have to conclude. I will say this, the flooring for the gym had some of the most beautiful tiles I have ever seen and I cannot even begin to imagine at what cost. The gym was estimated to accommodate 15 people. It was supposed to be state of the art. I must say I did not see any gym equipment but I understand it is housed in another area of the hospital and on hindsight I wish I had asked to see it there and then because one never knows if where a thing is supposed to be if it really is there. What is even worse, the space for this gym was ... Perhaps I should say is because the hospital is still there it is not going to be closed until the end of the month and we do not know at this stage because a survey has to be done to see exactly what would be the best use of this hospital.

The gym is encroaching on the space close to what was supposed to have been the Accident and Emergency Department, which is to say that should this hospital remain open or be re-opened certain changes would have to be made because there is no room now left to facilitate the accident and emergency unit which is in the other place, and suggestions come from everywhere else too, that that would be an alternative to the Maurice Byer polyclinic for the ambulance and emergency service. Well where is it going to be put because it is now housing a gym.

The outbuildings for this hospital were not touched at all. Now we are talking about refurbishing and \$9 411 861 ...

Aside.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I cannot stand up in here and say that. I really would not say that. I cou'd go on

and on but I have to tell you one or two more things and I wish I had the figure for the water bill. It was in the thousands and I am talking about double figure thousands. Because there was a leaky pipe that could not be found and because of that several areas of the flooring have been dug up to try and locate this burst pipe. Well it has been found but if you could see the amount of flooring that has been dug up I would say that speaks directly to the weakening of the structure of that building so whatever happens to this building which is another area that has to be seriously considered, more money wasted, spent, it boggles the mind. I was quite distressed at the conclusion of that visit.

The kitchens: It is just as well that they do not have more than 10 patients at any one time because the kitchen could not hope to feed any more than that because of the lack of equipment, the broken down equipment but I must say this, they have two wonderfully large walk-in freezers which on the day we visited had in a couple cartons of juice, a couple veggies. But I say to you, what kind of wastage would it be, two walk-in freezers both having to work at the same time because of the way the equipment is set up. I cannot even begin to imagine the electricity bill at that institution because we know where at home we have a no frost fridge what kind of dollars we are talking about. Imagine two large walk-in freezers to keep juice. We have to cry because I believe our personal budgets must work just as adequately as the Government's budget and this is why these Estimates are here so that we can all be aware of how we propose to spend this large amount of money in the management of this Government.

Before I leave the St. Joseph Hospital I have to tell you that for those 10 patients, we are talking about approximately 100 staff including gardeners 7, maintenance persons, of course Chief-of-Staff and nursing staff. Of course the hospital could not function without nursing staff and it goes on. Approximately 100 persons with an average patient occupancy of 10, and 5 resident geriatrics.

On the day of the visit the Chairman of the Board could let me know that no real funds had been received for these permanent geriatric residents who had been living there up to that point for the past 3 months.

So to date I want to let this Honourable Chamber know that \$34 million has been spent to keep the St. Joseph Hospital open. The revenue earned since this hospital was officially opened in 1992, and listen to this carefully, is \$602 766. The projected expenditure to keep this facility open would be in the region of \$3 million to \$5 million per year. Should we keep it open, which we are all clear it should not be kept open, a tremendous amount of expense would be incurred and there is no figure for that but if based upon what I told you and I was very brief in what I told you, I urge each and every one of you to take the opportunity to go down. I do not suppose you

could just go and have a visit like at the Q.E.H, but I think it incumbent on every Barbadian to really be aware of how the former administration spent more tax dollars in the St. Joseph Hospital and would then want to cry down this administration for closing an institution which would cost this administration in excess of \$3 million to \$5 million per year to maintain and we all know that money could be better spent in other areas of service in this country and I would have to mention at least one and that is housing because we know how terrible the situation is for housing in this country today.

I am not going to be talking about housing but we all know why because sufficient houses were not developed over the last 8 years. Yesterday it was mentioned. Only one project was developed as far as housing goes in the St. Philip area. Today many Barbadians are out there without adequate housing but I will leave another Honourable Member to deal with housing.

That money could have been put to better use. It could have been put to better use at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because that too is in need of certain refurbishment in certain areas. So there is no way that in our consciousness this administration could seek to keep the St. Joseph Hospital open.

The case has also been put that there is need for more bed space in Barbados but the facts speak to this and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as far as the private wards go, only 67% of beds are utilised and at the other private hospital only 50% usage so clearly there is no need for more bed space in Barbados.

10.40 a.m.

Even if it means that the QEH has more private space than is needed, some of that could be utilised for the public ward area. I just have to say that based upon some of the research which has begun into the St. Joseph Hospital, there is no need, based upon the material available thus far, for another hospital until the year 2020 in Barbados. The purchase of and the spending of the funds at this time was certainly wastage and lack of foresight and vision on behalf of the last administration.

One of the other projects we will not be carrying through – one of our inheritances, let us call it – at this time as is would be the Lions' Eye Care Centre. The Lions' International were invited to build the eye care centre on the compound of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It occupies three stories and has two surgeries. The then Minister, Taitt, was responsible for this invitation. At that time approximately \$2 million was promised to run this facility. There was no needs analysis to determine whether the services to be offered by the Eye Care Clinic were needed in Barbados and in the Caribbean. It was assumed

that there were. No marketing was done or has been done to date to bring revenue to this eye care institution. The Caribbean Association of Ophthalmologists has not been involved in the project. The construction and the model and design of the Eye Care Centre is along American standard style, which is very labour intensive. There is a series of small units, which is labour intensive. In Barbados our floor plans are more open and this lends itself more readily to the servicing of patients and there is less need for such a large amount of staffing. Added to which, in this climate, it speaks better to ventilation and again to improvement of health. The result of this exercise is that it is not going to cost the \$1.5 million to \$2 million projected by the Dems to maintain this institution, but Bds. \$5 million. I am no mathematician, but those figures just do not tally.

The action plan then, this administration will seek to approach the private sector to carry it. I have had a telephone call from a Barbadian ophthalmologist just completing studies outside as to what is going to be its use and if there was any possibility to private doctors who could perhaps have an opportunity to have some input and perhaps to be instrumental in the functioning of it. That is the direction in which this administration is planning to go. We will now approach the private sector to carry it, but nothing is complete at this point. It was spoken of as being opened by the Dems in 1995. We are already up to March now and we know they lost the Government, but no financial provision had been made for the opening of this establishment or the functioning thereof.

The third project we have inherited which we will not be carrying through as is, and I would like to stress that "as is", because I do not want to leave the impression that we are just putting a full stop and cutting here, but this is the taxpayers' money which has already been spent and it is incumbent now on us to see how best these facilities could be utilised and therefore certain surveys and checks and balances have to be done before progress can continue. I speak of the St. John Polyclinic. Construction started on October 8, 1990.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, try not to respond to asides and keep your remarks addressed to the Chair.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: The work was suspended on February 25, 1992 as the Ministry was unable to meet the financial commitment on the project. I do not see how it would be possible to conceptualise a polyclinic, not provide for it and then after one and a half years, or a year after construction, just have to shut it down. This never happened under the Barbados Labour Party when in Government before and will certainly not happen in this administration, because when we begin things we try to conclude these things, and particularly as they relate to our health care.

In the financial year 1994-95, \$1 million was allocated to this project. It was not adequate to complete the project or indeed to take it to the end of that financial year. This administration has decided to determine the contract and to rationalise the need for this particular polyclinic and to use the structure perhaps after checks and balances for other aspects of health care before it is restarted.

I want to pause now for a while on the Drug Service. Again, as I said before, the Barbados Labour Party always looks after creating a better life for our people and the Barbados Labour Party administration started the drug service in 1980 primarily to reduce the cost of drugs and related services to the public and to promote the quality of pharmaceuticals at an affordable price. There are several diseases on the formulary already and to be added to this would – and I want to be exact, so I will read for you, if I may, and if I must make it a document of the House... A proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the addition of glaucoma as a full benefit category, systemic lupus, sickle cell disease, prostate cancer and benign prostatic hyperplasia have been recommended for special consideration. So we are looking to expand the drug service, which was one of the promises under our Manifesto.

As far as the drug service goes, I feel I would really like to make a bid at this time for the private pharmacies who participate in the drug service. In 1980 a contract was set up between the Government and the participating pharmacies. This has not been reviewed since 1980, the same terms of the contract exist and I have been told by some of the participating pharmacies that should you seek to come out from the service – and there are reasons which I will highlight as I go down – you are then victimised in part. I would like to put in a bid that the contract be reviewed. I do not think there is anybody who signs a contract for 15 years and then does not have the opportunity to have changes. I think contracts will run for up to five years, but 15 years is a long time for any one contract to stand as is, so, Mr. President, I would like to make that suggestion.

The other thing is that the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society has no member sitting at the decision making level for the special benefit service, which is what they are called, the ones who take care of the drug service. I think it would make good sense to have a technocrat from the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society involved at that level.

The other thing that I find a bit of a problem, and I believe that this administration will deal with, is the long delay that it takes for the pharmacies to receive their monies after they have dispensed the drugs.

10.50 a.m.

I understand it can be as long as 3 months, granted I am sure that there are some who may not submit their

claims early; but my information comes from several pharmacies which do submit as soon as they can. Remember they would have already dispensed the drugs so it means that they are carrying the overdraft for the drugs already dispensed and on occasion have had to wait for as long as 3 months to receive the reimbursement.

I don't think there is any business in Bridgetown or Speightstown or Oistins that gives any business 4 months credit on goods already delivered without their having to pay some sort of interest on that money. So I would like to put in a bid, and have already spoken to the Minister. I am sure that it will be given favourable consideration because it is incumbent on this Administration to make sure that we keep our pharmacies happy because we want the Drug Service to continue to ensure that persons who fit into the specific category for receiving different medications from the Drug Service still have that benefit available. We would not want to alienate any specific group.

This is its 15th year – April 1st. That's a Saturday. It's my birthday so I remember very well – of operations, and the thrust for the Drug Service through the Ministry of Health is going to be public awareness and education, our role in the management of our health. There is going to be a series of ongoing lectures and I think we can all agree that education plays an important role in every aspect of life, health being no different.

The clinical health of this country is running again through the polyclinics in the most instance and this relates to dental care and to pregnant mothers and the elderly. You will see in this year's Estimates there has been an increase of 5.56% to facilitate a fluoridation unit plan and we will be looking at preventative.

In 1995 you don't just pull out teeth anymore. We look at keeping all the teeth in our heads. If we look at preventative measures we can all use our own teeth as we get older. This increase will also seek to cover other equipment as laid out in the Estimates and, as I said, preventative is the way to go. You spend far less if you look at preventative rather than corrective. I think we have to be pro-active rather than reactive and we try whenever possible on this side to do so.

I want to touch now on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital's main thrust is going to be the collection of revenue. The problems the Queen Elizabeth experiences is the collection of funds and this has led to massive arrears dating back since 1990. We are talking about a debt of \$2 228 695. That is a lot of money to be in arrears. It has to be collected. We are not going to be insensitive about it. But the goal is to ensure that private patients make the necessary deposits prior to admission and within 6 weeks after being discharged from the Hospital to pay the rest of the funds.

I would like to suggest at this stage that companies in Barbados, the private sector, look within their organisations towards more medical group health plans. This will seek to work as an incentive to their staff because if people can work under good conditions they are going to be loyal and therefore more productive. Small businesses do it. I myself as a small business person have for a long time enacted this within my organisation and it works very well. The system works in such a way that if they have to go to the doctor at this point they have to pay but they are then reimbursed after the fact.

I would like to see the situation arrive in this country – I understand having spoken with an insurance person, and Senator Thompson might be *au fait* with this, working in that industry herself – where you can present your medical card at admission and then it can be directly billed to the insurance company. This will take the burden off the individual to look for that cash at the outset.

Of course, this would apply to individuals who are having to pay for their medical service at the Hospital. If all or more companies could be actively involved in creating this comfortable environment – now of course each party would have to subscribe towards the plan, then it would seek to take some of the burden off the Government in terms of providing the expense of certain aspects of health care.

Suffice it to say, should that go through, the payment then would be guaranteed by the insurances and take away the burden. When you are ill, you really don't want to have to start thinking about, "My Goodness I am too ill even to think about whether I am going to have the money to pay for the deposit on this bed, or there is no room or whatever". So I would like to make that suggestion as well that the companies play a more viable role in that and therefore alleviate some of the pressure off the Administration.

The HIV and AIDS control prevention also comes under the Heading of the Ministry of Health. There will be an AIDS Hostel set up at the Hillside Home. In the Estimates, you will see figures to cover. The Hillside Home formerly was a leper unit. Now there are only three burn-out lepers and by "burn-out" we mean that they no longer have the disease. They just live there and they are just "ordinary" people who had a disease in the past.

This building will be used to accommodate ambulatory AIDS patients. The Estimates provide for community disease control and this is important too. As far as education goes, with this service it is very important that we spend time educating the public about this. It has happened before but a stronger thrust is needed because the facts and figures are there to show that the HIV/AIDS virus is on the increase. We need to go in at the primary level

with our education and we are intending to do so because it has come to light, when you talk at the community level with young women particularly young girls, that they are becoming sexually active far earlier. Sometimes as early as age seven and they are using alternatives. Anal sex is becoming more popular as a form of birth control. That is the only way I can put it because we are all adults here and this is what it speaks to.

Because of that – this is what they tell you – you don't get pregnant if you use this route. Of course, we can see why the AIDS/HIV will become more rampant. Now I think this is a very serious thing and it is something that people in this country don't like to talk about – sex. We talk about sex education. It is happening and therefore it is incumbent on us and we have already started and we will be pushing that thrust very strongly to get into the schools as far as the education on HIV/AIDS goes.

There are service clubs out there which also offer that because I myself belong to an organisation and the President at this time just happens to be the person who is now in charge and has been appointed to the head of the AIDS Committee. There is a video put together by the service club to attack and address the question of AIDS and we go all over the island to community groups. This is a thrust from a private sector service grouping to see what we can do to make a difference as far as the education of our young people go. If we do not educate our young people about this disease they will not become old people and therefore our society is going to dwindle. It really is something that is very sensitive and terribly important. We must educate our young people in order to protect them.

Our AIDS programme is going to be community based and this is the only way to go. You have to attack your friends, your children at the street corners and in the schools with adequate information. The television thrust will be picked up again because having the television advertising against AIDS helped at one time but now those ads have been reduced and it is on the increase again.

I think I touched on just about all the areas I had planned to and I would just want at this time to put out a bid also to the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners who have a social responsibility to health care as health care providers in this country to educate our people and advise our people to be more involved.
11.00 a.m.

I would want to end by saying, a wise man should consider that health is the greatest of human blessings. That is from Hypocrates.

With those few words, Mr. President, I would like to support this Appropriation Bill and commend it to other Senators in this Honourable Chamber.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I would first like to start by looking at the role of agriculture in the economy. The Statistical Services looked at the formal side of agriculture and this ignores the very relevant and huge part played by the informal sector which produces food for a large number of our people.

In order to get some kind of idea I did an exercise where I discussed, with the Barbados Hotel Association, the country of origin, the number of man days for each area and came up with the total number of man days for tourism. Then in discussion with them we came up with a figure that the cost of food to the average hotel was about Bds. \$50.00 a day. That gives us about \$196 million which is spent in the tourist industry. If we look then at the local population taking 260 000 and the number of man days for the whole year, we come up with 94 million man days. If we use a figure of \$5 a day for local people, now that is a seemingly controversial figure, because when I first mentioned it to a lot of people they first felt that it was grossly underestimated. But even at \$5 a day that comes up to a figure of \$474 500 000, a very large sum. If we know that we import about \$200 million, the total consumption is then somewhere in the region of \$670 million in food of which about \$470 million is produced locally. If you say that \$5 is too low then we can get a figure that is far in excess of that. It does then highlight the important position of agriculture in the economy.

The economists use GDP and all these other factors to show that agriculture, relatively, is a very small part of the economy but this is based on the formal figures. I know, for instance, I have had arguments with the Ministry of Agriculture. They keep saying that we produce only 1% of the lamb consumed. That is based on what is slaughtered at the BADMC. They claim that 75% of the lamb is slaughtered at the BADMC. We claim that 5% of the lamb is slaughtered at the BADMC. That fits in with the sheep population. The rest is slaughtered in people's backyards. The production that we would expect from the Barbados Black Belly sheep shows that we would have that. If you take their figure of 1% and divide it by the number of lambs produced you come up with a lamb weighing less than 1 kilogram. It is obvious to me that those figures are grossly inaccurate. Therefore, we should accept the fact that we have a very much higher production.

It therefore also concerns me, that, from an economics point of view we are talking about the removal of all licences and removal of protection for farmers and local production. Now, if that happens, what will be the position? I would think that agriculture, with the exception maybe of sugar, which is an export crop, but generally speaking agriculture will collapse in Barbados and Government would then be looking to find \$500 million more in foreign exchange which I am pretty sure is not a

desirable thing. We have to look very carefully at this threat to remove all licences as rapidly as possible.

One asks what is the position with the rest of CARICOM? The other day, immediately after the Prime Minister made this promise in Belize that we would remove licences, I had a visit from the Marketing Corporation of Guyana and they came and talked to us about things they could sell us. We were very interested in fruit because fruit production in Barbados is still well below consumption. We agreed that we would import certain fruits from Guyana. I said, "What can we export to you?" Right now we have a glut of sweet potatoes. Sweet potato prices have fallen from an all time high of \$5.00 a pound down to 25¢ a pound. I thought, maybe at 25¢ a pound I could interest these people in importing some sweet potatoes which are really staying there and rotting in the fields or being ploughed out and fed to pigs. I said to the Guyanese "What is the position? Could you import?" He did a little calculation in converting Guyana dollars to Barbados dollars and said, "Well, unfortunately, sweet potatoes are for sale in Georgetown at Bds. 6¢ a pound. We could not harvest them for Bds. 6¢. It would cost us nearly 20¢ a pound just to harvest them. This is the problem that we have.

An agricultural worker in Guyana works for $\frac{1}{15}$ th of what an agricultural worker does in Barbados because in Guyanese dollars he or she works for between \$100 to \$120 Guyanese a day. It sounds a lot but that is less than U.S. \$1 a day. Less than U.S. \$1 is what one agricultural worker works for in Guyana. How are we ever to compete?

Senator Mascoll in his presentation talked about the cost of energy. If you look at what is put out by the Organisation of Latin American Energy, Oladé, which I am sure Senator Barker is aware of, Barbados stands out as having the most costly energy in this hemisphere, not just CARICOM. It is a situation that is totally aggravated by tax. One does not know whether one should remove the taxes or one should look to subsidize those industries and agriculture that use energy because also high energy costs have tended to push us towards using alternate sources of energy which is something that we must address.

However, what is the situation? In the previous Government I know for sure that if you wanted to import a windmill or if you wanted to import photo electric cells you paid a high tax. I think this is the only country in the world where alternate energy sources are taxed. Mostly they are subsidized. It came to me as a horrific thing during the United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development when we wanted to bring in some solar panels we were told that duty had to be paid. We had a windmill and solar energy working on the Eco Farm. We actually ground cane with a mill driven by solar energy.

When I went to the Ministry of Finance I was told that the duty was like 130%. Eventually they saw the sense and allowed us to get that one shipment in duty free. Now, I do not know at the present moment whether these duties have been removed but I now call for them to be removed.

I would just like to look more closely at the Ministry of Agriculture and the role that it plays in Barbados. In 1989 the last census was done and for political reasons they decided that we should define a farmer as somebody who owns any one of the following: one cow, 12 chickens, 10 pea trees, one beehive or two sheep or two pigs. That is what makes you a farmer but that then makes us have 17 000 odd farmers. This was to be able to make the political statement that 90% of the farmers in this island own 10% of the acreage, or the other way around, 10% of the farmers own 90% of the acreage. It was purely a political thing.

Now, if one looks at those farmers who have just one acre or more, and these are the people that should be serviced by the Ministry of Agriculture, in spite of the fact that their census says that they have 17 000, there are actually only 1 700, since only 10% of the farmers own one acre or more. If one looks then at the \$32 million that is put in the Estimates for the Ministry of Agriculture and you divide that by the 1 700 you get \$18 500 per farm. That means that it is costing the taxpayer \$18 500 for each farm. If you look at the 240 employees, the direct cost of these employees is about \$17 million. There are 7 farms per employee or 35-man days per farm, per year. This is assuming that they visit all the farms. We know they have nothing to do with sugar. The Ministry of Agriculture has nothing to do with the sugar industry. They do not provide any extension or research or development for the sugar industry. They never have. They used to have a part to play in the Variety Cane Testing Station. They gave up that 3 years ago. Incidentally, from the minute it was privatized, it has taken off and we are now getting new cane varieties that we have not had for 20 years.

11.10 a.m.

They do not deal with chicken. There is nobody in the Ministry of Agriculture dealing in Research in the chicken industry. The chicken industry has gross sales of nearly \$90 million a year which is now like two and a half times the size of the sugar industry. It is the largest sector in agriculture. The Ministry has no contact with these people, other than the Vet Pathology Laboratory which does a good job and a Committee which looks at the marketing of chicken. This Committee has recently begun to meet again. I do not know if there has been any change in the last 6 months but it had not met for about 3 years previous to that.

When one eliminates those, one then sees that the impact of this \$32 million on the agricultural industry is

very, very small. The cost benefit of this \$32 million is just not there. There was a Jacobsen Report that was written, I think, when Minister Cheltenham was Minister of Agriculture. At his request, there was an Israeli consultant here, and I think he finished his Terms of Reference and had some days left. He was asked by the Minister to look at the Ministry of Agriculture. He published a Report which, in summary said, take the money and give it to the farmers and close the Ministry down. The Report never, ever saw the light of day. If one did not have a copy that "fell off the back of a truck", one would not even have known about it. In fact, for many years, the Ministry of Agriculture denied its very existence but I think they now have accepted that it does exist.

What is the position up there? What is happening at the Ministry of Agriculture? CARICOM funded a World Bank Study in 1992 where they asked this team of experts, very highly qualified people to look at the operation of Ministries of Agriculture, throughout CARICOM both in terms of their research and development and, also, in terms of their extension services. This Report looked at it and it came to the conclusion that, in Barbados, as in several of the larger countries in CARICOM that the cost of extension and the cost of research per farmer and per worker was higher than in the United States of America. It is an amazing fact. Neither one of these things was shown to be beneficial and they strongly recommended that both of these services be privatized.

We at the BAS have looked at the question of the extension service particularly because we are not into research, because we have no funds to do that. But we think that the privatization of the extension services is a must because we feel we can do it so much more efficiently. Not to be very critical of the present extension services in the Governments which are, relatively ineffectual, but they are ineffectual because of governmental controls and governmental rules and regulations and the bureaucracy that is there that smothers the efforts of the extension officers.

We think that we can take these people, we can make them productive. When they go out on a farm they would have to take a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a form and give it to the farmer who would evaluate what they are doing, how much help they have been to him and post it back in to us. The farmer will not get any further extension service unless he complies with this regulation. Therefore in this way, the extension officer's productivity would be constantly under review.

We also feel that extension officers have to know that the farmer is there to make a buck. The extension officers in the Ministry know their technical stuff, how far apart you plant something, how much fertilizer you should use. However, if you ask him what is the price of

fertilizer, he does not know. Our extension officer would not only know the price, he will have a bag in the back of his truck and he will say to the farmer, put on this fertilizer. Here it is. Here is the credit for it. When you sell that crop I want to be paid. He then helps the guy to market it because we have a marketing outlet. These are the things that can only be done by the private sector. It cannot be done in the Ministry. Therefore, we feel that the sooner we privatize the extension services, the better.

Similarly with the research, there are research organizations CARDI, UWI and the Sugar Technology Research Unit. These are 3 organizations that are continually working on research in Barbados. Why do we need to have an arm in the Ministry of Agriculture, *per se*? The bureaucracy, the decisions. We feel that in order for research work to be done, it has to come from the farmer up, not from, some bureaucrat. I have been very critical of CARDI for this same reason. Because you will get some academic who will sit down and think, I like to do a project in pure research.

I saw a proposal the other day. I will do a research project on *Xanthomonas Campestris*. You probably never heard of this. This academic wanted to get a sum of money from the BSTA to do work on *Xanthomonas Campestris*. After all, the farmers out there are the ones who will tell them what the problems are. This is the area that should be addressed. The extension officer is aware of the farmer's problem and if he has not got the answer, he brings the problem to us and that forms the basis of the research and development that we need to do. This is hands on. When he gets it, he hands it back to the farmer and says, that is your problem solved. This is the only way it can be done. It has to come from bottom up, not from top down.

I should now like to move on to a very sore point, the BADMC. This organisation has become a disgrace. It started off with some very good ideas. The Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation, if one looks at the statutory law that created it, and its objectives are very good. If one looks at the Barbados Marketing Corporation Act, the people who put these things into place had very good objectives, if they had only followed them. In neither case did they make any attempt to follow the objectives, as laid down by law.

The result is that we have this mish mash. Right now they operate Spring Hall, Fairy Valley, Spencers, Coverley, Turners Hall and Bath, a total of nearly 1 800 acres and then they have 3 estates which they owned but are operated by the BAMC, that is, Dodds, Belle and River and then BADMC also owns Bawden and River. Haggatts, Greenland and Bruceville, Pine, Joes River and Mellowes for another 4 154 acres giving a total of nearly 6 000 acres of land that comes under their control.

They presently have a debt of about \$10.4 million. They owe GUYSUCO well over \$1 million for sugar. They owe Customs \$837 000. The NIS nearly \$1 million. Inland Revenue about \$550 000. They have an overdraft at Royal Bank of nearly \$2 million. Besides owing all around Bridgetown, whoever would give them credit, they owe again, as I said, a total of \$10.4 million. They are involved in a lot of operations that need privatizing. They are competing with the private sector in areas which they no longer can hope to justify. If one looks at the Hope Dairy, the Hope Dairy has 173 head of cattle. Now if this was a private sector dairy it would produce about 800 000 kilograms of milk a year. In actual fact its production is about 200 000. It has a quota which is holding back production in the private sector. We are calling for the Hope to be completely closed as a dairy, the cattle sold off, the quota that is there should be distributed among the small farmers so as to allow them a chance to get into a position of viability.

11.20 a.m.

We see the Hope Dairy as an area that should be producing hay. It is actually in a very bad place for a dairy in that it is at sea level. One wants a dairy to be in as cool a place as possible and the Hope is quite hot and dry but it does have irrigation facilities and it can produce hay which it could sell to the farmers, not only to make a profit which it should do, but if we do have a drought year we would have irrigated land that would produce hay, which would keep cattle alive. Last year we lost a lot of cattle due to starvation.

They still have, through the BMC side of things, contract growers growing chicken for them, competing again in a very highly sophisticated area and of course needless to say they lose money. They have airport shops. Some of the supermarket type shops up there constantly lose \$20 000 to \$30 000 a month. The liquor shop, I believe, is very profitable.

They have other things. They have a food promotion unit. Now that one is a very strange food promotion unit because when it started off it certainly did promote food but in recent years it has not and I heard there is an executive there who has a chauffeur driven limousine 24 hours a day which not even Ministers in Government have and one wants to know how this can continue.

Senator Odle mentioned that there is a nutrition centre in the Ministry of Health and maybe that is doing a better job than this food promotion unit and I think, perhaps we should close it down.

The raw sugar imports: I have said already in this Senate that I think that the profit should be used to support the sugar industry and not BADMC. The raw sugar

imports for 1994 generated sales of \$11½ million. They made a net profit of \$600 000. Granulated sugar had sales of \$6½ million with a net profit of about \$350 000.

There is an export packing unit. They compete with private sector people and farmers in export operations. There are some very strange figures in that export unit. There are things like the rental of a forklift for \$143 000 a year and the rental of a building for \$63 000. The transport of the stuff cost \$137 000 a year and one has to question who owns this transport that is rented.

There are legal fees of \$91 000 a year just for the export packing unit. How could they possibly need legal fees of \$91 000? The emoluments in ...

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I think one of the lawyers went overseas.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. Order.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: The net loss in January of this year alone was somewhere between \$25 000 and \$75 000. Now one of the big problems with this Corporation is that one cannot really get the financial data. One struggles. I sit on the Board, at least I am appointed to the Board, and I am represented on the Board by the General Manager of the BAS and we are constantly asking for financial information and have great difficulty in getting it.

The Abattoir: In January alone the Abattoir lost \$44 000. This is a horrible situation. It is clearly known that it is very badly operated. We had people visiting from Trinidad. It is said that they put in a non-tariff barrier to stop us from shipping any processed meat to Trinidad based on the operation of the BMC Abattoir. We know also that it is strongly rumoured that a lot of the staff in that operation are never there because they are off working as private butchers all over the place.

The cold storage part of it is not shown as part of the Abattoir because that would make the losses even more horrific. There is a cull cow programme which is something that we got them involved with. This is for small farmers who have cattle who are five or six years old and because they have not been able to feed them any concentrate they go into starvation during the dry season so they take 5 or 6 years to get them up to slaughter weight so the quality of the beef is not very good. But the idea was that we would get the farmers to sell to the BMC, the BMC would slaughter and cut up the meat and then sell it. We know that in one particular period last year we sold,

through the BAS, \$250 000 worth of cattle. During that period the abattoir sold just under \$84 000 in beef from \$250 000 in cattle. Now, this is kind of mind-boggling. We know that also in that time they dumped 6 000 kilograms. Six tonnes of beef was dumped because it was put into boxes and stacked in the cooler, one box on top of the other and of course all the meat in the center rotted and they had to dump it.

There is a motor tractor cultivation scheme. In January I had a look at this motor tractor cultivation scheme. They had expenses of \$40 000 and they showed no revenue, not one cent in revenue.

There are other areas that I would like to touch on. Meteorology comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. Now, as we have moved from sugar cane, a crop that is not very sensitive, or relatively insensitive to short term fluctuations in weather, we have moved from that into other areas of crop production which are extremely sensitive to weather problems and therefore what are we at? We say this Meteorology Department is in the Ministry of Agriculture. Can we get some agricultural information from the Meteorology Department? The answer is no, absolutely no. This information is actually passed through a computer from their radar and the agricultural information is screened out by the computer so as to give them information for aeronautical meteorology only. Now, for years we have been saying, for goodness sake let us create inside there some kind of position of agricultural meteorologist so that the farmers of this country, can on a morning at six o'clock hear what this day is going to be like. Should they spray? Is the rain going to fall today? They can do this because they have a radar there that has a range of 200 miles so they can look to the East and tell whether rain is coming and they can forecast fairly accurately what that day would be like.

We also need to get medium-term forecasting so that we know a month ahead what is going to happen. We know it would not be accurate but at least we can get some kind of feel. We can get nothing at all out of this Meteorology Department on which we are spending \$1 119 194, according to the Estimates. This also needs addressing in a big way.

11.30 a.m.

I would like now just to move on to the Environment under Head 43 on page 265. It is very interesting that when one looks through these Estimates one comes across several Ministries of the Environment. At the present moment the Ministry of Health, on page 162, Head 36, has something called Environmental Health and, like the Abattoir, they have a Health Inspector. The Ministry of Agriculture also has a Health Inspector in the Abattoir. The two Health Inspectors stand up side by side and nobody knows

for sure whose real responsibility the Abattoir is, so I think probably neither one takes the responsibility. We have on page 163 the South Coast Sewage Project. That is an environmental matter, it also comes under the Ministry of Health at the present moment. We have the Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Lands dealing with coastal conservation. We have the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment and they have an Environmental Unit at this particular time, we have under the Ministry of Tourism another Environmental Unit.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on a point of elucidation. The Estimates reflect both the Ministry's name this year as well as what it was in the years gone by, so the Environment Ministry prior to September was Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment. The Environment Section is now transferred to the Ministry of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment and the health aspect of it is still under the Ministry of Health. It is just a case of renaming of Ministries which causes the confusion.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Thank you, Mr. President. Anybody reading this document will find it very confusing, because they have an Environmental Unit in both the Ministry of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment and also in the Ministry of Tourism, so it is very confusing.

I think we have come to a stage in Barbados where the environment is very, very important. It is becoming even more important. Senator Odle referred to this in the Sanitation aspect of her address. It is very, very important that we have a Ministry of the Environment set aside that will take on all of these things that have an environmental aspect and take them away from these other large Ministries that obviously do not have the time to deal with them. It is mind boggling to me to think that the Ministry of Tourism can do anything with the environment. They are the engine of growth in this economy, they are saddled with a very large responsibility and surely the environment is going to suffer just because they are too busy to deal with it and I am formally calling on Government to look at the possibility of setting up a Ministry of the Environment. I am sure there are very capable politicians in the Government who will be happy to take it on.

I would like also to talk a little bit about these environmental problems we are having. There seems to be all of this rhetoric that goes on about the Greenland landfill. The landfill is a minor part of the whole environment. There is no necessity for a landfill in the first place if we tackle the environment properly, if we start to reduce the amount of garbage that we are producing, if we start to re-use and recycle. It came as a shock to me to go to a meeting the other night and understand that after I heard this Government saying they are going to support recycling,

that there are recyclers in place who have been there for a couple of years who are trying to get some kind of help from the Ministry of Finance on this recycling issue.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: On a point of elucidation. The Ministry of Finance have in fact given concessions to a private person to operate a waste disposal facility in the old Coca-Cola building on Roebuck Street. I know that for a fact, because I was involved in it, so since we came in we have in fact started by giving concessions to certain individuals.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Well, I find that very strange, because the same person was present at this meeting and he did not volunteer when the other people involved in recycling were saying that they had got a letter. In fact, this entrepreneur called me and said he wrote to the Ministry of Finance and he got back a letter which said for one aspect he had to go to the Ministry of Agriculture, for another he had to go to the Ministry of Health, and another the Ministry of Finance. He was just given a total run around. I think in this day and age we have to be serious about this. This particular person has put like \$1.5 million investment into this recycling thing and he cannot even get his piece of equipment which he brought in three years ago duty free. He has been waiting for three years to get it and this sort of thing must not continue. We must go ahead and do something about recycling. If we do that, if we help to establish rendering plants, which would incidentally take all the stink out of Stinkeroo, these would take all of the organic matter and either put it through rendering into animal feeds or into a composting heap for manure, if one does this and if you read the BSTA concept that was published the other day, it is a very holistic look at the whole problem. If one removes all of this, then what you are left with is inert material which nobody has any objection to put into a landfill. In fact, in agriculture we have been strongly recommending that we have many landfills using this material which would tend to level the sugar cane fields and the other farmers' fields that have dips in them and are difficult to mechanise. We would just move the soil out, have a mini landfill, fill it up within two or three weeks, put the soil back and we would have a level field.

Some recent work done by Dr. Colin Hudson shows that if we use all the compost as fertiliser it is equivalent to more than the fertiliser being imported into this island. We can produce locally from garbage all of the fertiliser requirements that we need to run agriculture totally in this island, and we are not doing it. We are looking at waste as garbage, but it is a resource. That is the way we must tackle this, not to say that this is garbage therefore, we have to find a landfill which has all sorts of problems. Start at the beginning. I believe that out there people are ready to start sorting, there are people who are ready to get involved. I believe the goodwill is there. The

people of Barbados are tired and sick of this big argument and confrontations that are going on. I think we should address it and go down this line as quickly as possible.

I would like to finish by saying I heard some things here today. Senator Odle, for instance, said you cannot talk lock up in here. Every now and then I hear remarks both asides and so on that infelicities. . . .

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: On a point of elucidation. I did not say that we cannot talk lock up. There was an aside about lock up and I said we cannot talk that in here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We will treat that as an explanation, which is in order.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I think the average Barbadian is just sick of hearing about these infelicities that went on and that nothing is being done about it. What are we going to do about it? Somebody told me I am naive, that I cannot believe politicians will lock up politicians. I want to be naive. If we are going to say things about people, if we are going to say there were infelicities at the St. Joseph Hospital, we should find out who is responsible for these things and who benefited from it and lock them up.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I want to start my contribution this morning first to look at why the Estimates have been prepared in the way they appear this year. My fellow Senator, Senator Mascoll, concerned himself about figures and balancing the budget. I have been in politics since 1966 and my understanding of Estimates, or even budgets, is that they are documents put forward with a hope that the Government of the day will work in such a way that would benefit an entire community, and that it is rarely any Estimates I have ever seen that came out at the figures which were in the Draft Estimates by the end of the year. 11.40 a.m.

If Senator Mascoll would forget the theories of words and numbers and look at the relationships of human beings he would understand what Estimates are all about. It is about time that we stop the foolishness of looking at figures and thinking that figures influence man's life in this world. There is a statement I have read before that there are no two economists who have ever come right on the same thing.

I do recall Guyana was a country that was very prosperous until they decided that they wanted an economist from the London School of Economics to draw up an Estimates and Budget for them. From the time the

theorist put his hands on it, Guyana has gone down hill and has not yet come back.

The Honourable Senator was hand in hand in the structural adjustment and the 5:4:3 plan and he comes in here and he throws licks in Dr. DeLisle Worrell about an unresearched document. Two economists never agree. There are no two economists I know that have ever agreed. I heard the late Errol Barrow in Parliament sit down and say - I know you are looking forward to this - that he was an economist from the London School of Economics but he does not even agree with what his professor told him because he said that in Barbados he looked at life and the people.

I remember when I qualified in Law I went into a legal chambers in England and my master asked me, "Do you want to go out there and understand life and work with people or do you want to be in the entire precincts of a university saying you are writing for a degree and do not know how the other side lives." I took the hint early. All of those who get up in Cave Hill and in the Central Bank and pronounce, I do not know of one who has ever been involved with a business that succeeds. That is the hall mark of the economist. Not even a rum shop by the corner has one of them been involved in and they come out and tell you, "It break good on the bottom line." If you want me to call the names of them up there, I will call the names because I know about them.

The Burger King Shop at the corner of... All of them in Eagle Hall. They can pontificate on numbers and this doesn't balance with that, but in the end they do not say anything that the man in the streets or the businessman will appreciate.

Another thing that bothers me is that all of the advisors of the last Government talk about how the country was progressing and the economic growth. Now I read in the newspapers that one of the Governors of the Central Bank resigned on the basis that they sent a message to the then Prime Minister telling him that the country is in trouble and it took a year before he did anything when we were right down in the pit, in the bottom. This is one economist who sent the message.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I know I am confused because you have me confused. You have everybody confused.

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

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The Honourable Member even has those people in

the Constituency in which he ran confused. They were so confused that they put the X the other place. So who is more confused now? I send in my returns in time. I don't know about you.

Mr. President, these Estimates had to be prepared in this way because of the mess which was left behind by the Democratic Labour Party. Everything they put their hands on turned out to mess and, as the Honourable Senator Laurie has said, "infelicities".

Mr. President, this Administration has to look at Barbados and look at every avenue and pull it back into reality where people can begin to enjoy life in the society. The others are talking about 30 000 jobs but there is nobody in this Administration who is a magician because you cannot start to do things unless you first lay a foundation and if your foundation had been damaged when you come into possession you have to fix the foundation first before you start the construction of it and that is exactly what we are talking about.

There are lots of areas I want to talk about today, Mr. President, and I am going to be switching through the Estimates. I want to talk first about the Ministry of Transport and Works. The present Administration is looking at tourism and informatics as two vehicles which can push people forward in this country. Both of them can create a lot of jobs but the foundation must be laid. The Post Office comes under the Ministry of Transport and Works and in the last year or so the Post Office has performed badly. Even in Barbados, it takes 5-6 days to deliver a letter and if you ask my friend Senator Workman if I put a letter in the post office box by the Courts to send to Mr. Workman a week passes before he gets that letter. If you want to post to anybody in Barbados you consider it takes 5 days before they can deliver it. When we come to overseas... I have told the Post Master General – and I called him in advance – that I would be talking about it today, so be prepared.

They are in something called express delivery. The Post Office's express delivery takes a minimum of 10 days to delivered. We cannot masquerade as a country looking for international business and bringing it to Barbados and then find that mail is one of the greatest deterrent factors in this country. It takes 10 days at least to have an express delivery mail sent abroad either to the States or coming from.

The Post Master General told me that he is having problems with the airlines, that the Americans would only put mail on an American airline and that they do not patronise BWIA. I am asking the Government to look into that quickly because if we are going to have BWIA as the airline of the Caribbean and we are going to recognise

American Airlines as the United States airline there must be reciprocal agreement. The Americans must not be able to put their mail on their airlines to make the revenue and BWIA flying in here four times a day from Canada, New York, Miami and we cannot get mail from out of the United States here. The Government has to look at that. Our international business will be hampered as soon as our communication lines break down.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden, try not to be distracted.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I cannot be distracted today Sir.

I move now to transportation. There is a lot of talk about ZR vans on the road and let's go down the road how this began. There was a certain doctor man who was the Minister in Transport and Works and it was such that every time you go and buy a particular brand of vehicle it came out with a ZR licence. Now this man fanned around this country on political platforms and talked about white shadows running black people but at the same time every ZR van that came out on the road came out with a Z licence. Now the Government of the day could not touch their man but it seems to me that they gave instructions to the police to harass the drivers of those vehicles.
11.50 a.m.

I am saying something here now and I want everybody to hear what I say. It grieves me every day and there is no other attorney in this country that has done more traffic cases than me. It grieves me every day to go in court and find only a particular set of people in court before the Magistrate, forthwith fines, Glendairy, *et cetera*, when on the other hand I have a paper in my bag that I have been collecting the numbers of vehicles that belong to policemen and the people in the Licensing Department at MTW that do not get touched. If a police ever dares to report one of those belonging to the Superintendent of Police he gets transferred next day. At night you go and see who is driving the vans.

The system is that people have licences for vans. They rent them at \$120 a day to one driver and \$80 a night to the next driver. Check who are driving them at night, a multiplicity of policemen.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: You know what I am talking is true. If you want me to call the names and numbers I will call them too. Therefore, it cannot be fair to the other poor people out there

who are trying to make a living to be competing with policeman owned vehicles and vehicles owned by members of the Licensing Authority. It cannot be correct. This Government must move very fast because quite recently the Commissioner of Police sent around another memo telling people that they must not be engaged in other business which conflicts with their duty and asking them to dispose of these other interests.

We talk about unruly ZR van drivers but it is the man who is not protected trying to compete with the protected man. Then he is drawn before the court and he is penalised daily. It cannot be right and it is not fair.

We have the Road Traffic Regulations. I hear the insurance companies crying out and writing reports every day that these vans are being overloaded and suppose something happens; but nobody looks at the Transport Board buses. The Transport Board buses travel every day with 90 and 100 passengers in them. They stop where they feel like and nobody touches the Transport Board buses. I never see a Transport Board driver in court yet. I never saw a conductor reported yet for carrying excess passengers. Now we must be fair. If the Road Traffic Act and Regulations are made to regulate traffic, it must catch the Transport Board and everybody irrespective of who owns the vehicles and the Government must do something about it quickly.

Now, the same Ministry of Transport. I spoke in here about how they are carrying out their work. I do not know who the draughtsmen are up there. I believe Senator Bernstein agreed with me at the time when you go up Worthing, you get to the bottom of Rendezvous Hill next to Plantations Supermarket, they have suddenly put in traffic lights. At the same time they put wall structures in the middle of the road. They have reduced the amount of road space available to traffic.

Now, we spoke of that in here and I would have thought that when these things came up in here that those in the Ministry of Transport and Works would have taken note of it and see what was wrong. But no. They now go up to the corner of Goodland and Gibbons Boggs and put in what they call a roundabout so that however you are going east you have to be cocked up on one side of the roundabout out on the other side of the road to get back on a straight road.

Now, I read in the paper last week that there is some man down here to do a traffic survey and he has said one problem is that in his country they do not have to shift lanes to go around a roundabout. I have been saying that for the longest time but if you are a Barbadian and you say anything, nobody takes note of you. You have to come from over and away and they would pay them a lot of

money to tell them the same thing that Barbadians have been telling them everyday, like the ABC Highway.

I read in the newspapers when some engineers walked the street and said it was properly done, well done, but not one of them would come out and tell you in public that that is a badly constructed road. The markings are bad. The corners are bad but the engineers in Barbados tell you it is good because they do not have the guts to talk out and tell people who come from abroad masquerading as experts that they do not know what they are doing. That is what has happened. Once you come from away they sit down and tell us so it is true but not where I am concerned. If it is wrong, it is wrong.

Mr. President, I move to another section. Yesterday I heard and we read in the paper that at least 70% of our school children are coming out of school uncertified. Now, about 5, 6 years ago I met a gentleman called Dennis Difley who came to Barbados and started a project of constructing computers. He set up a school across the road here to teach Barbadians free in computers. We agreed that we would have brought from England training tapes. We went to CBC and asked CBC if they would devote a programme on a Saturday morning and we would supply all the material. The only thing Government was giving us was the time. The first thing CBC wanted was for us to pay for the time. They said they could not use the tapes because they were in the PAL system. We agreed that we would convert them into the NTSC system and give them to them. We never got another answer. The man has left Barbados and gone back abroad. He told me that the stage of education in Barbados is such that it is just right for the computer industry. You do not want Ph.Ds and these sort of people writing computer programmes. They never come to an end.

Now, the Dems have a funny way of dealing with things. They came out and said they would give personal computers duty free and you have to be very careful when the Democratic Labour Party and the Senator says things. You have to be very careful. They said duty free. You know what their duty free means? If the duty was 20% or 40% you do not pay the duty but they use that figure to work out a consumption tax and a stamp tax and you still have to pay for it. They take the duty and see what it would be, multiply the stamp duty and the consumption tax and you pay.

I am saying to you, we are in a position that we must get into the computer syndrome early. There is something now called Information Super Highway. This is another thing I want to say. I want the Government to have a serious discussion with BET and Bartel because we must have access to the information Super Highway. We cannot have the sort of access that Bartel and BET have been offering because if you have a computer you

must get through what is called a provider to get on to the Highway. BET at one time had a system where you had to pay \$70 for a telephone which Bartel was saying belonged to them. You had to pay for another charge, log onto a switching system before you could get in. That is not the practice today.

We must look at how we are going to use that 70% of our children that come out of schools uncertified.
12.00 noon

They are the right cream for the computer revolution. The multi-millionaires in the United States who made money out of computers never finished university. The boy who started the Apple, the man who wrote Lotus 1, 2, 3 never finished school. They are multi-millionaires out of the computer industry.

I can say this. I have a little girl 7 years old and she can manipulate computers better than me and I taught her. But those people come out of school, have not got the opportunity to learn the computer and I am asking this Government when it says free, it means absolutely free. Do it like you give the people who get tax free concessions. Let them pay a stamp tax of \$20 on the documents and give them the computers. It will come back to us. We have to develop this. I am asking for it.

Then we want BARTEL to provide 800 numbers in Barbados and not to have them limited to a few hotels, around the country. The United States now work, exclusively, on 800 numbers. I think that we must fall into this, if we want to push forward. I will go further and tell you something. I negotiated with some people to do data entry in Barbados of the law books. When we had everything set up – I went to the Church rented a building from them in Belleville. I went to Light and Power and had the stand-by generators and, at the last minute, do you know what the gentleman told me? He told me, unless we can upload our data every evening directly into our main frames in Britain, we cannot risk it.

I can tell you about the banks. I went to IBM, Royal Bank, I went to several people around here who are in computer and would you believe that several banks in Barbados are still moving their data on discs that come through the airport as cargo.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I am under education and I am all around you. The Democratic Labour Party did not know what they were doing. They were confused. This Government must now look at the informatics in a way that we merge in with all the other countries. Because, as I said, under the information super highway, there is something called WW WEBB that once

you get in there, you can contact every computer all over the world. But we must have the facilities here and the Government must make sure that BET and BARTEL provide us with the linkages and not cause us to pay too much.

Also, they must begin to charge us for precise time. BARTEL is the only place that charges you for a 5-minute and one minute message when you are only on the line for 15 seconds. Most other switching offices packages charge you for precise time. If you are on the line for 20 seconds, you are charged for 20 seconds. You are not charged for a minimum of a minute. Because you may go over a minute and a quarter and you would have to pay for 2 minutes. I think these are things that must be done now. The billings must be exact. They cannot say they are not able because they have computers up there and the computers can do everything that is necessary.

I turn to tourism. Yesterday, Senator Mascoll made hue and cry about the Public Enterprises Investment Fund. He said it was intended for it to be used...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: He said it yesterday. He said it was intended to be used in the small hotel industry. I got up and I said that the Act under which it was passed did not speak as to how it was to be used.

The Dems never, never cared for the small hotels. You do not know anything about that. I told you already, you have to learn. Because if you follow the method that the last Government dealt with the small hotel industry, you will find that what they did was to put in receivers in the small hotels and set them up for sale. Check any of the small hotels. Ask how many have in receivers put in by the Barbados Development Bank? How many were put up for auction by the Barbados Development Bank.

I went to a party one night and I saw the then President. I asked him: How could you, as a small man be thinking of developing the small people in this country when you are, as Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank, putting up hotels for sale? He said, not me. It is the executives in the office. Everybody in the crowd laughed.

But their method of dealing with the small hotels was to get rid of them. I have had experience in dealing with several of those hotels. People have sacrificed a lot to put them there. One of our problems as I see it is this. We went into the hotel industry earlier than any other Caribbean country, except probably Bermuda. When these places were built, they were regarded as top notch

tourism projects. As time went by and as the visitor shifted from destination to destination, they took lesser revenue and, therefore, refurbishing of the buildings suffered.

I remember the Tourist Board started out something about registering hotels. I had a dispute with them. One of their inspectors went in a room of a hotel and told my client that he will not be listed because you must now put a shaver plug here, you must put this there and put that there.

He called me up and I said to Madam, I am sure my client has no problems in carrying out your wishes but tell us about the money. The BDB is not lending any more money to him. I said, let me tell you something, you will list him or otherwise we will meet in Coleridge Street. Because when this building was constructed, it passed everything it should pass and it had a BDB loan and it was done in accordance with the status of everything at that date. You are telling him that he must go into further expense, but you are not going to lend him the money. How is he to do it?

I got a call from somebody saying, I am encouraging these people in keeping run down businesses. I said, I am only encouraging them to do what is right. If you will do what is right, we will do what is right.

The south coast hotels need financial help. If the Government has to forego certain receipts from them, over a given period, I would recommend that that be done. Otherwise we are dividing Barbados into a two-tier society like there is in Jamaica, like there is in Venezuela. The rich on one side and the poor on the next. I said openly, I fear that the young people today will not be very tolerant. You drive your car along the street today and a fellow saunters across the road and asks you, can you not wait? He is ready to fight. They are not tolerant because they are seeing that they are not in the scheme of things. I get worried when I read that the voluntarily idle in Barbados have gone up. Those are people who have given up hope, who feel that there is nothing in this society for them. We do not know what will happen to them. We have to look at these things.

The same Tourist Board had a peculiar concept of what tourism was. I believe you need a good pruning in the Tourist Board. I am in contact with quite a number of people in the United States on a project which I am doing. Every time I call people they ask where is Barbados? And the Tourist Board is spending millions of dollars and, generally, people in the United States do not know or hear about Barbados. The method the Tourist Board is using is, in my view, giving away money. They had a programme called Fam Visits. They will agree with the airline and they will agree with the hotels that the airlines would bring down so many travel agents to hotels and put them up in Barbados for 7 or 8 days. It was used in the United States

for those travel agents who wanted a week away from their job and a little vacation in sunny Barbados. There were no records as to who came and how much work was generated out of each person who came on the Fam Visits. You cannot attach your point to nothing because you were in the Central Bank, you should have the figures. You cannot find anywhere in this country a name of a travel agent who came to Barbados and then relate it back to the work generated by that person or that firm in the next 6 or 8 months. There is nothing about it. I say it must stop.

Recently they brought down Dinkins from New York. They say he teaches tennis to little children. But do you think when he gets back in Brooklyn that Dinkins is going to tell people go to Barbados? They brought down the lady who comments on the fashion shows Elsa Klensch of Style. But what is she going to do? They paid to bring these people down here at the taxpayers' expense. What do they get? They brought down a British MP that the hotels got vexed with and had to throw him out. That is not all. I should like them to tell me how much they paid to Trump Airlines, an airline that everybody in the States knew was folding up?
12.10 p.m.

But they paid Trump airlines to come to Barbados and Trump airlines flew in here a Saturday night with a crew and one passenger. They also made an agreement with Club America. I want to know how much they paid Club America. Club America started something with a company called Private Jet. I sat down with the people of Private Jet in Atlanta and had a discussion with them. They told me, why should I discuss with you running an airline when your Government is paying us to fly down there for nothing. Go and check. They brought two sets of people to Barbados and the third time they went to St. Lucia and sent up here and said put the people on a plane and bring them to St. Lucia and fly back. They did not come back to Barbados. How much did you pay them, Private Jet and Club America? And then my people around the world keep asking me what is Barbados.

I went down to the Tourist Board, I asked them for a brochure. They have envelopes. I said I have people in Michigan, I have people in Forsythe Georgia, I have people in North Carolina, I detailed what I wanted and they gave me a package. The package contained about 12 pieces of documents. One concerned the whole of Broad Street selling rum, duty free rum, duty free watches and I did not see a site in Barbados. There wasn't a book with the Parliament Buildings of Barbados, with Sam Lord's Castle, with the Animal Flower Cave, nothing, pure advertising of rum and hired cars and duty free shops. That is a Tourist Board that caused so much confusion in this country that three Ministers had to resign from. I would like to know how much money was lost in the last two years by the Tourist Board in its campaign of this nature.

Now, Mr. President, that is enough of that. I will move now to agriculture. Senator Laurie has an idea that a lot of the present services carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture should be privatised. Now, I am a little bit wary on that. I will tell you why. In 1976 I was Minister of agriculture. When I became Minister I wrote to the Barbados Agricultural Society and I said I would like to work closely with you. I want you to submit to me, each month, the documents showing what you plant, how much you plant, the date of expected reaping and the expected returns because agriculture and consumer affairs were linked in one Ministry and I also controlled the issuing of licences.

I said what I wanted to do was to make sure that we do not import into Barbados things that you can produce and at the time you are producing them. I had Dr. Attlee Brathwaite with me as an Economist and I had a French Economist in the Ministry and we sat down and worked out a programme.

I delivered my first speech to the BAS and I outlined my programme. After time went by and I did not get any returns from them I wrote them a second letter. I got no return but my internal source told me that there was a woman called Ms. Glenora Slimmon whom I had met in 1975 in Barbados. She was from CIDA and she was a 4-H expert. By 1976 she had gone back and come back as an Agricultural Marketing Expert. Ms. Slimmon told the BAS that they must not cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture because all over the world agriculturists control the Government, do not let the Government control them and that body called the BAS, man they ring some bullets in me. The second year they never invited me to make the speech in agriculture, they invited who is Sir Harold St. John now, he was the Minister of Tourism.

Ms. Slimmon boasted so much that when she went back to Canada one night a Canadian MP called me. He said, "Minister Bolden, it grieves me to think that we sent an officer out to you and last night she was at a party saying she had the farmers of Barbados in her hands, that even now she is back they have to call her every morning and ask her what to do". You cannot deny that. The BAS was opposed to Government and its programmes in agriculture from then. So now I hear Senator Laurie say these things must be privatised I would like to hear him say that the BAS is now prepared to work with Government because this Government must always have a hand in agriculture. You cannot give it up exclusively to private sector because we have a history in Barbados where the plantations were owned and operated as the same companies that own and operate the import businesses in this country.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The associations are still there and the Government must take a careful look. Yes, they can privatise some of the aspects of agriculture. Yes they can.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: On a point of elucidation. I think the Senator should know that the BAMC, which is a Government controlled organisation, has leased over 40% of the plantations and between that and the BADMC they control by far the majority of land in Barbados so I cannot see that there is any longer any consternation. One of the things that the BAS has consistently been against was this. I remember very clearly at a meeting with a Minister of Agriculture saying, we have got to get Bridgetown out of agriculture and the sooner we do that the better. We have done that effectively.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The question of leasing only took place two years ago and I know a lot of people still have not seen the lease agreements and a lot of people do not know what is in the lease agreements because I am working very close in there and you know that too, Sir.

Now, Sir, the question of agriculture is also bound up in our waste disposal and I am going to make a proposal now. I will ask the Minister of Finance to do that same thing to householders as the Late Tom Adams, when he was Minister of Finance, did to them in terms of solar water heaters. I believe if householders are given a rebate on their taxes for a limited time or grants and each one of them should put a small mulching machine, you can mulch 60% of your waste yourself, you can set up a composting ramp in your back garden, and you can use it for flowers, you can use for everything and then you will reduce the amount of waste that has got to go to any landfill. What you will be left with are your tins and your plastics which could be dealt with by a commercial enterprise. I believe that could be done.

12.20 p.m.

High energy source is another burning question with me and I think we need to look at that. We need to analyse the cost of our raw materials in terms of oil which we use in this country. I believe a reduction in the cost of energy, which would cover your gasoline, light and power and those sources will make a tremendous impact on businesses in this country. That has to be looked at, because solar energy has gone past what it was when the last BLP administration experimented with the Graeme Hall building for cooling with solar energy. I have seen reports out of North West Territory in Canada where whole houses are now serviced by solar energy, and they have now developed a new type of battery that will hold power for 12 hours when the system shuts down. That is if you have snow for three or four days and you get no sunshine, the battery will still give you some sort of auxiliary

power for a little while. I believe it is time we look at that, because our energy cost is exceedingly high and that impinges on every aspect of life in this country.

I run an incubator in my house, because I have a project with game birds, and last month I got a letter from Barbados Light and Power telling me they are going to put me on demand charges. My rates will jump from 17 cents to 22 cents per unit just for running an incubator in my house. How could any farmer out there hope to get anywhere when Light and Power is carrying away from him, because the bulk of that is in taxes being paid to Government and there is no return to the farmer? It is a quiet circle that is detrimental to the farmer if we need to progress and if we need to have small farmers having a niche in this society.

Mr. President, I move to the Judiciary. For the last five years I believe we have had Acting Judges operating in the law courts and it is about time that Judges are appointed. Something has to be done.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Well, if they have just appointed Mr. King I am very happy and thankful, because that is one of the things I have been talking about. You cannot keep a man acting all his life as if he is in Hollywood. Then we have to look at the courts. Between 1977, 1978 and 1979 the Ministry of Communications and Works allowed two architects to work for a year and produce a Supreme Court building. The last BLP administration cleared James Street and across Coleridge Street for that building, we left the Synagogue there because we recognised it was sacred to certain persons in our community and everything was designed to go. Unfortunately, the BLP left office, the Dems came in and let me tell you what they did. They decided they did not want that, but they went at the corner of Country Road and bought a big piece of land from one of their bosom supporters for a lot of money and said they were going to build a new court, without even understanding the logistics of how the court works. The land is still open there, but it was one of their supporters, one of their key men who had land for sale, so they bought it off him and the land is still there and the Judges are in little cubby holes. I fear that if by chance a fire or something takes place they cannot get out of the little cubby holes. You are in Court 3 upstairs, the door over the other side is locked. The door to Court 4 is locked, one entrance in, same entrance out, and every day Judges, officers, clerks, everybody complaining and the Democratic Labour Party sat down for the last eight years with plans from which they could have built the courts. They could have taken the money that went down the drain in St. Joseph Hospital and built a proper court, but they have not. When the Honourable Senator and the Leader of the Opposition say these Estimates show nothing, how can

you show something when you have to correct the wrongs that were done over eight years? You must build a foundation before you start.

In order to get a court for a Judge they moved the Civil Court from down town and put it at St. Matthias. I really do not know who to blame for this. When you go in there, if you whisper it reverberates all around the room. The presiding officers cannot work in there for more than two hours, because your ears get deafened and your head hurts and they moved a court in there and say they will come back and see how they could remedy it. That is the way they plan, they do not think about human beings at all. Even there where it is supposed to be a new court cars are still being parked on the road. When you go into Bridgetown there is no room in there even for lawyers to park. They have the whole of Bridgetown marked out, but they have juries, staff and judges, so the attorneys who have to practise there cannot park in the yard, because Waldo Ramsey got arrested for trying to park in the yard, but this is how they operate. And they are criticising Estimates.

The Attorney General has just taken office, and within a few days he has moved to do something about the conditions which exist. Do you know that if an attorney or a litigant falls down sick in the courtyard in Bridgetown there is not one room to put the person in? When we, the attorneys, want to answer the call of Mother Nature we have to borrow a room down there, and eight years with plans on the drawing board which were finished and the Dems never took one minute to try to implement any of those plans, and are talking about Estimates.

I go further. Take us, the parliamentarians, in Parliament. There is a standing rule that as soon as you become a parliamentarian you are given a set of law books, because you cannot expect to come in here and debate laws and amend laws unless you know what the law was. Not one of you have received a set of law books yet. Do you know why? Those that were stored in the basement at Marine House were flooded out, washed out and gone, so when we pass laws in here we do not even know what we are amending. That is how the Dems operate. Those are expensive books that should have been properly secured, but they are gone. Every new legislator who has come to this Parliament since September 6 is without a copy of the Laws of Barbados. They do not know what they are doing. These are the things that must be looked at.

The Barbados Labour Party Government now has to lay a foundation and put things in order before they can go forward, because there is no way you can jump over that wide gully that is left by the Dems and go forward. You must build a bridge to get there.

I move to another point, the Ombudsman. That is a post which was created under Cap. 8A of the Laws of Barbados, but I want to know what has the Ombudsman produced in the last eight years, because I know who was appointed and I know who is in the post now.

Aside.

Certain remarks made by His Honour SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN were ordered by Mr. PRESIDENT to be expunged from the record at this stage.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, this Government has to look at what is the true role of the Ombudsman and how we are going to utilise those services, or we should abandon it. Every lawyer in Bridgetown has a claim before the Ombudsman and we hear nothing. What is the sense of paying an officer a high salary with no results to satisfy the public, when the role of the Ombudsman is to be the link between the public and the administration and to create justice? If I may read what his duties are:

"(1) The purpose of an investigation by the Ombudsman shall be to ascertain whether injustice has been caused by improper, unreasonable or inadequate administrative conduct on the part of a government ministry, department or other authority subject to this Act."

12.30 p.m.

The Ombudsman will tell you that I made a report; and that is the end of it. It is like the Cooperative Society, the Registrar of Cooperatives. The Government must look at that now too, because the cooperatives in this country were the vehicle to break the stranglehold of the banks where they had their preferred customers as against the ordinary man in the street.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: When the DLP members wanted to go and spend the least money and join in a broken processing plant, that was the beginning of the break up of the co-op league. Every time you ask for an investigation... You must ask for an investigation one day because the way the Co-op Act is written a member cannot get into the Court. Any dispute at all they must go through the Registrar of Cooperatives and the Registrar does not carry out investigations. If we are not careful, we will destroy the very thing we built up to help small people because of inefficiency and unwillingness to move in the head department.

It was I who started back credit unions and cooperatives in this country in 1976 and the Government

must take a very serious look at the co-op department. There are several of them out there with problems, major problems, money gone all the time. You cannot get through to them. You lend to your friends and then you will hear how good these people are but once their friends are at the top they don't touch the department.

I am asking this Government to do what is just. Look at the Ombudsman and see whether he is producing. Look at the Co-op Department and see whether or not it is carrying out the functions that were intended for that department. We must do that.

I move on to trade and industry. The IDC has been building buildings for a long time and these buildings are made available to industrialists; but there is something that is wrong. This country lost, to my knowledge, at least 3 good businesses in the last 2½ years. You see, the Democratic Labour Party is a strange party. It is a great party in some ways but it always appoints its cohorts and its members to top posts in Government in the shortest possible time. Different to my Party. That is true. I agree with you.

I know at least 2 persons who came here to Barbados, were allocated factory buildings and then could not get electricity turned on in the building because the then Government Electrical Engineer who worked for a private firm had wired the building and when he became Government's Chief Electrical Engineer he condemned them.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: You want me to tell you? Come. I have the information. I know what I know.

One man after 18 months said, "Look Mr. Bolden, we are shutting down. I can't take it any longer." Between IDC and the Government Electrical Engineer arguing about what the current should be and how it is to be done and his saying it has to be rewired and by a certain firm.

Then the fellow who came here to make surgical instruments could not find a place because the same problem arose. The IDC said the building was there and already wired down to the meter and "you have to extend the wire", and the Government Engineer said, "Oh No. We don't want that wire. You have to start fresh." The people took up their feet and left.

This Government has to look into these things. You must make sure if you are going to invite industrialists to Barbados that when they come that you have whatever you have to provide for them ready that they can start business. I have said it before. People will no longer

spend 18 months knocking about Barbados waiting for approval to do anything. They owe Barbados nothing and they pick up their feet and go.

That is what we are talking about when we come to these Estimates.

The IDC has another policy. Even those who are in their buildings, when they raise their rents, the IDC goes down and puts a lock on the building and the building is shut down for a year and a half. I want to know who absorbs the loss in that shut-down period. What is the loss of the IDC in relation to this shortage of activity? The IDC also needs to be investigated and when I get to the Town and Country Planning Department... It has no moral duty to tell anybody in Barbados what to do and the Government can take it as they feel to take it. I say so.

The present Town and Country Planning Department has not got the moral right to tell anybody what to do. A would apply for permission to the Town and Country Planning to do something and a year and a half would go and you don't get a reply. On the other hand, B would apply and the next week he will have about 9 permissions in his hand.

On the other hand, Sir, go up by Wildey Gas Station and you will see a massive building built right on to the sidewalk, pulled down and put back up on the sidewalk and gone through but then take another little man down the road who tried to put 2 steps on his building and an enforcement notice comes up. I am speaking very frankly this time. Very frankly.

A, will get change of use or overnight without anybody knowing...

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I know it is illegal, Man. Go down now in Brighton...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden you have about 3 minutes.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: All right, Sir. ... in which a rum company is trying to set up a booth as a visitor booth and the Town Planning is now down there with his officer asking everybody if they approve or disapprove. A gets one treatment and B gets the next. I am not talking about mine yet. Mine is *sub judice* so I can't talk about that. We are going to be in court for a long time.

I am saying that this Government has a lot of damaged work to be repaired and therefore the Estimates as are presented to this Chamber could not be presented in

any other method. These Estimates are presented to give the little businessman and the man in the street a toe-hold into Barbados but the Democratic Labour Party never thought about those people. They don't care about them.

The question is if you read these Estimates carefully you will note that what the Minister of Finance is doing is hauling in the reins giving a little leeway here so that everybody can start back fresh. We cannot produce 30 000 jobs in a year but by the end of the 5-year period we will leave a happy Barbados rejoicing under the wings of the Barbados Labour Party. Thank you.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the suspension of this sitting until 1:45 p.m. today.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, the Estimates are exactly what they say, estimates. It is a guideline and must be respected as such, deals with the life and people of Barbados. It touches every single person throughout Barbados. On reading page 8 of the Estimates, Table 10, you can see clearly that the Government is relying on foreign financing as opposed to domestic borrowing. Government intends to borrow (a) \$10.4 million from the Inter-American Development Bank under an Investment Sector Loan, (b) \$43.8 million for Project Funds, also from the IADB; and (c) \$80.9 million in Foreign Loans.

Sir, if this can be achieved, then all of Barbados, including myself would be extremely happy. Let me caution the Government that if they fail to raise the required amount of funds in the foreign market then they would have to turn to the domestic market for borrowing. The commercial banks are experiencing low liquidity problems and then they will have to turn to the Central Bank for borrowing which is not a good sign and it would send a negative vibe to investors. If Government were to fail to raise the foreign loans we would be in a serious situation, perhaps, worse off than before we went to the International Monetary Fund.

I think everyone agrees that despite some capital projects in this fiscal year, it is the private sector who will do the majority of employment and it is they who will provide the jobs for the unemployed. Government

must send the right signals to the private sector who will, in turn, invest or expand only if they can make a proper return on their investment. It is vital for the Government to encourage the private sector to invest. Even though the foreign reserves were under pressure, the raising of interest rates towards the end of last year certainly sent some negative vibes to the investor. Even mortgage interests on houses went up by 1% which lessens the amount of money available in the market so everyone will feel the pinch.

I may add at page 27 of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto it says that it will keep down the mortgage interest rate. I was told that the Prime Minister said he was going to look at the interest rates again and I hope it is reduced. Recently the United States dollar has been under severe pressure and has weakened. The United States authorities do not want to raise interest rates because that would push up prices but the dollar is under so much pressure that market conditions may force interest rates up. We in Barbados usually tend to follow this. This could also have an effect on our foreign borrowing as well so the investor will adopt a wait and see attitude.

Now, I made some notes yesterday before Senator Barker spoke and I am going to read these note but I will preface them by saying that I am happy to hear Senator Barker say...

SENATOR THE HON R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member but I think I must remind him of Standing Order No. 31(6) which indicates that – as you are quite well aware, Sir, but for the benefit of Honourable Members – a Senator must not read his speech.

Mr. PRESIDENT: In essence you can refer to your notes.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Thank you, Honourable Senator but I may add that there are others in here that also read their speeches.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think that is a reflection on the Chair. If they are reading their speeches the Chair may not be aware that they have been reading their speeches. In your case it has not only been drawn to my attention but you have actually suggested that you are going to break the rule and we cannot permit that.

SENATOR S. P. BERNSTEIN: Thank you, Sir. Yesterday Senator Barker said that the increase in land taxes will be from the arrears. This is not the budget and we are going on the assumption of what Senator Barker said in here, if we were to get an increase in land tax coupled with the high insurance premiums that business houses have been asked to pay recently, we would certainly

find ourselves in a serious cash flow situation and unemployment will be affected.

Again, it is the private sector that is expected to find jobs for the people of Barbados and certainly the business sector does not want to be over-taxed. In the meantime you have to remember that 30 000 jobs continue to haunt this administration not to mention that 4 000 to 5 000 school leavers and university graduates will be in the job market in June of this year.

Sir, the business sector needs more financial incentives in order to expand. I may add that the manufacturers are happy that the Government will be addressing the unfair situation that they are experiencing in CARICOM at the moment and, certainly, particularly from the LDCs.

Sir, the manufacturers would like two areas addressed as soon as possible: (1) They are hoping that the cost of energy be reduced in order to make their products competitive. (2) The consumption tax that is charged on locally made goods, that is, garments, draperies, printing products, etc. In some cases it is as much as 29% and this certainly puts a burden on the manufacturer because the manufacturer is asked to act as an agent, even though they do not pay it directly, they have to pay the consumption tax around the 15th or 20th of the following month.

In some cases, this puts a serious effect on the cash flow of businesses and I will cite an example. If in the month of December, that will be a busy month, a business sold say \$500 000 in merchandise. On the 20th of the following month they would be asked to pay, say, 29% in consumption tax. That would mean that the manufacturer would have to fork out \$145 000 where, in actual fact, he may not have received more than \$100 000. What is more, he would have his rents to pay, all the various expenses that a manufacturer would have and it would affect his cash flow and he would be unable to buy raw materials.

I am asking, Sir, that the Government ask the manufacturers to pay not on what is invoiced but what was collected for the previous month because you could invoice as much as \$500 000 and only collect \$100 000. In some cases the manufacturers do not even get paid at all so this is an area where manufacturers really get hurt.

Sir, I am going to speak under page 61 on agriculture. Again this affects some 80 retailers or so. I am delighted to see that \$1.4 million will be spent in this fiscal year for the improvement of the markets, Cheapside Market, the Fairchild Street Market and the finishing of the Palmetto Mall on High Street. It is time Bridgetown and its environments get cleaned up and the vendors be given proper facilities in the markets. Swan Street should return to what it was nine years ago. It is the

narrowest commercial street in Bridgetown and really is not suited for a market. That is what I am touching on in agriculture because it affects the business community.

Under Housing, Sir, it is time the Government housing units are sold to the tenants. They have tenants occupying the housing units now for some 15, 20 years and more and at the end of the day they have nothing to show for it but rent. I believe that at some time they should be given the opportunity to buy their own place that they can have something to call their own.

The Barbados Labour Party Manifesto on page 26 says:-

"It is not our policy, however, that Government should become a landlord forever and the units will be sold to their tenants at their request. This is in keeping with our well established policy to sell both terrace units and separate houses to their tenants with rent being credited back against the purchase price."

It is hoped, therefore, that the time will soon come where tenants in the housing areas will have the opportunity to buy their own properties.

Sir, the Ministry of Health. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is run by a Director, an Assistant Director and a Deputy Director who report to the Permanent Secretary who in turn will report to the Minister. The way this is structured there is a lot of red tape and decisions take too long to be made in a modern hospital. I think the time has come where we can look at a Board of Directors but there is a feeling of thought out there that a Board of Directors could be too partisan and a lot of political victimisation could take place. Perhaps the Government could look at appointing a few directors from the Government and a few directors could be appointed by the Opposition. This Board of Directors should be established where doctors and other personnel in the hospital who are familiar with the hospital could run the hospital so that it would be more efficient.

The new building called the Lions Caribbean Eye Care Centre appears to be a white elephant.
1.55 p.m.

It is not functioning. Government has a golden opportunity to have primary, secondary and tertiary level of eye care done in Barbados. It can be done in conjunction with the University of the West Indies where training and treatment can be carried out at the highest level. The University of the West Indies can be involved in collaboration with an American university similar to the open heart programme at the Hospital right now which is a highly successful programme where the Northshore Hospital of Long Island in collaboration with the Cornell

University has set up this unit which is working successfully.

Sir, the effects of this, in the long-term, would save Barbados quite a bit of foreign exchange. I think we could become the Caribbean eye care centre and a lot of people would come here for treatment and it will save people from having to go overseas.

The St. Joseph Hospital. Money has already been spent on this hospital and to close it would be a shame. I think that Government could look at leasing this property for a peppercorn rent to doctors and/or businessmen who could make it work and hold a share of whatever is negotiated, 15%, 20%, 25% of the profits of the hospital. With the way that the health insurance in Barbados is expanding, we can have a hospital similar to that like the Bayview Hospital for the people in the north.

Government can also work out a detail where you can have an outpatient or emergency centre in the same hospital. It will not be a burden to the Government. It will be run by the business/doctors, if you have the right mix of doctors. But you have to give doctors an incentive. If you give them a cheap lease, they will probably invest heavily, because to run a hospital, as you know, takes millions of dollars, and if they are given an incentive, they can keep the hospital. But if you shut it down, you have nothing.

Finally, the Government and the private sector have to work together in order to achieve maximum benefits. But Government must send the right signals to the business sector. Confidence too has to be restored in order to get the wheels of economic motion moving again in this country.

I support the Bill and eagerly await the Budget.
Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge and welcome the increased allocation of resources to the Ministry of Health. In fact, it has been allocated a large amount of resources for this upcoming year. I also acknowledge that this Administration has only been in office for approximately 6 months. However, I should like to say that all the Administrations have technocrats and they have advisers. If they feel that these technocrats or advisers are not giving them the correct advice, they should seek to change that. I therefore should like to contribute to these Estimates and look at some issues that would affect the efficient allocation of scarce resources to the health care industry.

Mr. President, for some time now, the health care industry has passed the point of diminishing returns at increasing cost. We all know how health care industries can become bottomless pits. We just have to look at

the UK and the talk that was going on in the United States of America. In order to maximize the benefits of the allocation of scarce resources for the health care industry, I should like firstly to suggest that a council of health advisers be appointed. This council of health advisers could draw on resources from the University of the West Indies, from the private sector, from the professional associations and from persons employed in the Ministry themselves. This council of health advisers would, of course, need to be fed with up-to-date information from a research centre which should be attached in the Ministry of Health.

I am saying this simply because in 1995 we should not be listening to rhetoric about whether ads are doing any good or not. We should be hearing that a survey has been carried out and it has shown that the ads are not as efficient as they should be. Therefore we need to change them or we therefore need to supplement the ads with face to face education.

Another issue that I should like to comment on is my favourite pet topic of a health education unit. The spokesman for health talked about preventing waste and about prevention and education. It is very disturbing to look in the personal emoluments page 161, No. 38 and to see that not one cent has been allocated to the post of a Health Education Officer.

Mr. President, the Ministry of Health and the people of Barbados cannot get very far without health education. You would be spending more and more money. You must educate the public. What is needed is a health education unit. You should be seeing posters everywhere. We should be seeing booklets. The public health nurses should be able to go to the Health Education Unit and get simple information so that when they go out into the community, they would be able to give them to the members of the public to read.

When people enter the QEH to have operations, they should be given a simple leaflet about the operation, what to expect and what not to expect. I could go on and on and on. The social groups that are involved, the Government and non-Government agencies that are involved in assisting with AIDS and other conditions should be able to get or to work with the Health Education Unit in order to get simple information to use for the educational process.

Mr. President, I should also like to say, and to make it very clear that we know that the mass media and the electronic media tends to be one way communication. It is not very effective.
2.05 p.m.

What you need is face to face communication by a cadre of people attached to the Health Education Unit, not just one way communication. These one-way

communications only reinforce the face to face education and change slightly held attitudes. But with deep-seated and entrenched habits and attitudes, the media which is one way cannot change those attitudes. You need to sit down in the rum shop, you need to sit down on the porch, you need to go into the community, you need to rap with the people in the community and you need to explain to them why you want them to change their attitudes and that is what is called face to face education. You cannot rely on the media. You need the media to reinforce the education given and that is why I am asking for a Health Education Unit to be set up immediately.

Again, one of the reasons I am calling for a Council of Health Advisers, is because in 1995 we should not be hearing about anybody begging for people to donate trucks to pick up garbage. When you plan a campaign you should plan the campaign knowing you have 2, 3, 4 or 5 trucks. You should not ask people to put out their wares *et cetera* and then go around begging people and waiting for people to donate trucks to remove the public health hazard you have created by asking people to put out their wares. That is why you need a council of health advisers. You need to sit down and plan programmes. It is good.

We are worried about the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito and we should not be in this position in the first place because there was a department in the Ministry of Health concerned mainly with the eradication of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito. I do not know what has happened to that. Very seldom we see public health inspectors or people coming around to our homes anymore and looking into the flower vases and looking to see where the water is and showing you, saying if you need any advice where you can get it. We need to look at that system and see what is happening.

In other words, health education has to be included in planning, in epidemiology, in administration, in preventive, in promotional, in restorative and the curative aspects of all of our health programmes if not you will be spending far too much money.

Mr. President, I would also like to speak to the area of maximising the allocation of scarce resources to the polyclinics. Knowing the polyclinics we have very highly qualified nurses. They do 3 years general training, one year in midwifery and most of them go to Jamaica and do their public health. They return to Barbados and they are given, for example, just one day to go out in the community. In Jamaica, during their training, they are out in the community all the time, educating the public and they only go into the clinic if they want to bring the mothers or a group into the clinic to talk to them. When they get back to Barbados you can see the misallocation of these resources. You can see sometimes even the Manager of the polyclinics calling in patients to see doctors. These are

only need nursing assistants who have 1 year training to be calling in patients and babies. You need to get those highly qualified public health nurses where the taxpayers' money was spent to educate them, out into the community, educating the public. They should be down in St. Andrew, they should be all over the place. No Minister or anyone had any right going down there to explain to the public, when and where they are putting a dump or a sewerage. You have personnel employed in the health care system who should be doing that, public health nurses, public health inspectors and I am afraid I am going to speak up today because too many things are going wrong. We seem to have lost our sense of direction and we must come back on track.

The polyclinics: I agree with the spokesman on health, that they need to be open. It does not matter how much money I have, if at 5 o'clock I am sick I have to end up in the accident and emergency unit. Some of them need to be open 24 hours so that you can go to the polyclinic and let the accident and emergency unit function as an accident and emergency unit. That is what it is supposed to be. You are putting a lot of money into that accident and emergency unit and it is just functioning as a free clinic at night after 4 o'clock, bank holidays, Saturdays and Sundays. You cannot waste money like that anymore. You have to open up the polyclinics, put nursing assistants and staff nurses to work in the polyclinics. Take the highly qualified public health nurses and let them get out into the community. Give them an area. This is your area and you are accountable to you for what they are doing. Make them send in reports. You do not have to be peeping behind highly qualified professionals to see if they are there. They are to go into the community. If they cannot get the people because they are working during the day, well they should go at night. It happens in Barbados in the Psychiatric Hospital. There is a district psychiatric service where the psychiatric nurses sometimes go 5 or 6 o'clock into the people's homes. The people have their numbers, they know how to contact them and then they go into the hospital for short periods of time to meet with the doctors and consult. We need to reorientate our health care system because as I said, it has passed the point of diminishing returns at increasing cost and it does not matter how much money you pour into it, it is not going to get any better unless you do something about it.

You cannot go on training and training and training people when they are in their forties to give how many years, Sir. Train the younger people. Do not wait until they are about to retire and then send them to train to come back and give two years service. These are things that you need to look into and stop. These are things that are happening. They are very glaring and it is a waste of the taxpayers' money in this country. It does not matter whom you train, but train them and make them accountable for what they are doing.

Another issue I would like to touch on is the freeing up of the nurses at all of the health institutions. At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, at the Psychiatric Hospital, at the Geriatric and District Hospitals, stop them from doing maid's work, Mr. President. Mr. President, you can see the nurses making tea, serving sandwiches, some of them are still making tea in this 1995 for doctors.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Yes, mopping floors. Some senior nurses sending nurses into the kitchen to make sandwiches for patients. These are very expensive maids and when the nurses start acting like maids you say they are piggish. They are treated like maids, they have to be doing maid's work, they have to be mopping the floors and have no time to give the nursing care. This must stop. It is not only unfair, it is not only undignified, it is a disservice to the people of Barbados who require proper health care that is what it is.

2.15 p.m.

I would also like to speak about a double track for nurses and other technocrats. They should not have to go into administration in order to receive remuneration and benefits. Our highly qualified nurses should be able to stay on the wards where we want them to nurse our patients and teach our young people what nursing care is about. They should not have to put on white boots and a white hat and go around making trouble in order to get more money because they are frustrated and that is how they can get money, they should stay in the specialty areas where they have worked and where they have specialised and they should be able to get remuneration up to the value of the Chief Nursing Officer, because of their specialty, but they must study and they must work. It must not be through political affiliation, it must be very transparent. They must study and they must show that they can do the work, not have 20 years' service in one day. That is, you do the same thing for 20 years that you do in the beginning and you have not grown and you have not progressed.

We need to look at young people and appoint them to head our institutions; people with vision, not people who tell you: "Well, I only have two years, I am marking time to my pension" and come and mark time and do nothing in the institution. That QEH has been at a standstill for several years, you just bring people with no vision whatsoever to mark time. That must stop. In 1995 the people are not very tolerant any longer, Mr. President, they are demanding accountability and they are sending the complaints to the Ministry, but they are going to the wrong place.

While I am talking about complaints, we have a statutory body called the General Nursing Council which was set up to regulate nursing in Barbados, and it

is not functioning properly. All of these complaints should be sent to the General Nursing Council which has the authority to censure nurses, to counsel them and even remove their names from the register for two years. It has that authority and it is not done, so we need to look at the legislation for the General Nursing Council and if necessary make it a body to regulate nursing. No Minister or Permanent Secretary or Chief Medical Officer has any right dealing with all of these complaints when nurses go on a whole lot of sick leave, they should be forwarded to the General Nursing Council which is headed mainly by nurses. That is what happens in the world today. When you are worried whether they can function as nurses they are sent to the General Nursing Council which makes recommendations. It is the only body that can remove the nurses' names from a register for two years. There is no political affiliation of anyone who can stop you from removing the names from the register. That is what we need to get back to. The nurses must know if they do not behave they will be sent to the General Nursing Council for help, and if they do not improve they will be censured. If they still do not improve, their names will be struck off the register. Pure and simple. It has no right in the public domain, nursing is a profession and it should be dealt with by the professional body. I would like us to get back to basics and let the General Nursing Council do what it is set up to do so that other agencies could get on and do what they are supposed to do.

Another issue I would like to talk about is health care records. I would like the computerisation to be extended to the health care industry. It is time in 1995 that every man jack, every citizen walks with his health care records. When they go to their doctor or nutritionist or physiotherapist, take along their health care records with them so that you do not get the situation of people jumping and going from one polyclinic to another and from one doctor to another and just stocking up the medicine. It is time people in this country accept responsibility for their own health. That is the only way you are going to reduce costs in the health care industry. They must start accepting responsibility. Unfortunately, we have created a welfare state in this country and everything is given and people do not seem to think that they have to make sacrifices and work hard. We need to get back to basics. My parents always told me "I have no money to give you but I am going to educate you and you are on your own". We need to tell people that they have to work hard and they must not be looking for handouts all the time.

I would like to repeat to make sure that I get this straight, Mr. President. I would like to see the health care records put in the hands of every single patient so that when they go to the hospital or doctor they take their records so that they also know what is wrong with them. The spokesman for health has called for the medical fraternity to accept their responsibility and educate the

public. Well, when you have the health care records you can go and look up and ask a doctor why did he give you A, B, C and D and what it is going to do. In order to progress we need to start going towards that. It is not difficult, because the babies have to have theirs. The mothers carry the babies' health care records with them and they are kept right up to university, because when they go to the university overseas they send back and ask about their health care records of the immunizations, so they have to keep them for life. So all we have to do is to take that system and extend it to adults.

Another issue I would like to contribute to, Mr. President, is our aging population. We have an aging population and not enough provision is being made to prepare us for the aging process, which is a shock, believe you me, Mr. President. We need to start preparing our people for the aging and for the dying, and death. The Health Education Unit could help co-ordinate this aspect and also work with the geriatric institutions. I know some people would not like what I am going to say, but I am going to say it nevertheless. The St. Joseph Hospital could be used as a hospital for the aged, the chronically ill. It could also be used as a hospital for the diabetics. If you ever work in the QEH you will find that a lot of our acute beds are held up with the aged, with diabetics who have lesions that take months to heal, therefore the waiting list for people who need operations has to be extended. There is nowhere to send them. You cannot send them home, because there is not a proper community health service where a team of nurses work in the community and go into the homes and change the dressings. They are right there in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the beds where people with acute conditions have to wait simply because there is not enough bed space. I suggest, when you do the survey, you ask for the professional views of the various health professions about the use of that St. Joseph Hospital, whatever it may be used for.

Mr. President, another area I would like to see introduced to cut down on the road accidents – because if you go to Accident and Emergency it is like a battle ground, you will wonder if there is a war on in Barbados. If it is not the road accidents it is the gunshot wounds, so something needs to be done and fast.
2.25 p.m.

I would like to see the introduction of seat belts, and this should not be difficult. The Ministry of Trade could tell whatever manufacturers that bring cars into Barbados that they are not allowed to come into Barbados unless they have seat belts. Then that should be enforced through health education which should educate the public about the use of seat belts.

I would also like to see the introduction of the breathalyser. People in Barbados must learn that

they cannot drink heavily and drive because their reflexes are slowed. We have far too many accidents. They must learn that they must take someone along with them to drive. If there are two people going to a party one must not drink. It is high time in 1995 that we have the introduction of the breathalyser because you would be horrified to see the repairs that the surgeons do and the hours they have to spend mending back broken bodies as a result of road and vehicular accidents.

The Psychiatric Hospital, Mr. President. The Psychiatric Hospital has a district nursing service. I am not going over that. It needs to be expanded. We are aware that there are several people who are in the Psychiatric Hospital who just require to have their medication but, unfortunately, whether we like it or not, Mr. President, for both the elderly and the persons in the Psychiatric Hospital, in Barbados, you must work. If you have to go to work and your husband, or your boyfriend, or your spouse has to work, there is nobody at home to look after the person who is sick, be it the elderly or the psychiatric patient. We have gone towards the nuclear family and I don't know if that could be reversed.

In the meanwhile, I would like to suggest that you do what is done in England; that you offer to give a stipend to one family member to stay at home and look after the sick or the aged. It would be less expensive than putting them into an institution.

As far as the psychiatric nurses are concerned, it is very sad to note that at some times 1 qualified nurse is responsible for a ward of about 60 patients with about 2 unqualified nursing assistants. Now psychiatry is a specialty and, Mr. President, I would like to see us return to psychiatry as a specialty and use the psychiatric trained nurses not only in the Psychiatric Hospital and in the community but also in our penal system. I would also like to see them used in the penal system simply because of the type of crimes that are being committed and the drug abuse that all need rehabilitation. They are just locked up virtually and then sent back to do the same thing. I would like to see you thinking in terms of appointing fully trained psychiatric nurses to the Prison and also to the correctional institutions.

At the Psychiatric Hospital there is a nursing school and, unfortunately, it was started back even though throughout the region and everywhere psychiatry is a specialty. What Barbados has done is to turn the clock back and is using a 3-year programme. I would like to see us resort to psychiatric training as an 18 month to a year's programme. I will tell you why. What is happening.

At the moment, there are 3 training schools in Barbados. One at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 1 at the Community College and 1 at the Psychiatric Hospital.

Anyone could tell you that setting up 3 plants and equipment is more expensive than having one training institution. It is time we have 1 college of nursing where all the training of nurses takes place in Barbados, both the in-service education and the psychiatric training and the midwifery and the general training and the public health training. We have people who can train these people here. But it needs to be in one place.

What is happening is that people are pulled through the back door to go into psychiatric training. It was started in order to have a lot of male nurses, but if you look at the people going into that training programme, they are mostly females and not males. Having finished a 3-year programme in the psychiatric nursing school without even giving them time to practise what they have been taught, they are catapulted into a shortened RN programme at the Community College for another 2 years. That is 5 years. Some of them haven't given any service yet. That is 5 years you are spending paying them to be trained. Now this is wrong.

Psychiatry is a specialty. Let us have the general basic training 3 years and in service all the health care institutions. If you want to go into psychiatry – a 12 to 18-month programme. Let the psychiatric nurses function as a specialty. The same nonsense is going on at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. You have the Community College training nurses but you have the QEH training the same nursing assistants and all of them for the same enrolment and conflict between the 2 sets of students. They are not speaking to each other. None of the tutors are talking to each other. You need to look into this and rationalise the training and education of the nursing personnel in Barbados in order to improve the health care system.

Head 25. Mr. President, quite a lot has been said about refuse and sewage recently. I am not an expert, but what I know is that anytime you are trying to make a decision about something you have the community development division, you have the public health inspectors and you have the public health nurses. Give them the information and let them go house to house in the community and let them know what is happening. The Government has the resources. No one should be able to mobilise people better and faster than a government that has all the resources. Use the resources to mobilise people so that you can get them to accept what the decisions are.

By the same token, Mr. President, you must listen to the residents. I am from St. Peter and when they were building that road they would not listen to us about the flooding. The experts went ahead and did what they felt like doing and now it cannot be undone. You must listen very carefully.

I would like to support the spokesman on health about the crematorium.

2.35 p.m.

Quite a few people would like to use a crematorium. Some people feel it is a more dignified way, but there are some people with other attitudes that one has to respect. At least in 1995 we should be able to have a choice.

Mr. President, another issue I would like to touch on is water. In Barbados there was a plan for water that by 1990 – now, this is 1995 – 96% of the homes would have piped-borne water 24 hours per day. There was a reason for that. The reason for that is that it has been demonstrated worldwide that by having running water in the homes and teaching the children and the adults to wash their hands after going to the toilet and in certain areas of cleanliness, it reduces the diarrhoeal diseases.

I would like, Mr. President, for us to have a look at what is happening about the disconnections. I would like not to disconnect people's water because of the long run cost to the Government because if they get out of the habit of being clean, the diarrhoeal diseases are no respecter of persons. If you feel that you must cut them off, please replace the stand pipes so that people could have access to water. You have to make a choice. Please replace those stand pipes. If you must cut them off because of the IMF, or IDB or whoever saying that you must cut them off, please replace those stand pipes.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: You cut them off because they do not pay but they were put there for a purpose, 24 hours, in order to control the diarrhoeal diseases. What is needed is a programme of education. Here again the Health Education Unit is needed in order to teach our people to conserve water.

When you go to the United Kingdom and elsewhere, they are taught to wash up in a bowl of water. In Barbados you just turn the tap on and splash, and splash, and splash. We need to teach our people to conserve water, to take a bowl of water to wash and one bowl to rinse. The best place to start is in the schools. The children will teach their parents. Don't you worry about that. Once you can get to those children before the age of 7 they will do the rest for you.

Mr. President, another area I would like to touch on is the area of AIDS and HIV. Now, as you know, there is no cure for AIDS, none whatsoever. The Government cannot afford the price of AZT to give people who contract AIDS. People are not going to stop having sex so there is no point to start going through that avenue. The only recourse you have is to educate people to use the condom.

People seem to express horror that 7, 8 and 9-year olds are having sex but if you grow up and you sleep in the room and see your Mummy, Daddy and everybody having sex you are going to try it too.

People seem to forget that we have come out of the age of slavery where we were taught that to produce is good. The more children you have the better. You only have to go back to your grandmother and great-grandmother and ask them at what age they started having children. People are horrified that teenagers are getting pregnant. Of course, teenagers are getting pregnant because that is the norm. It is we who want them to be in school at the moment so we must therefore educate them that that is what we want. For us here sex is something natural. It is like drinking water.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: No. It is not television. It was always so. From slavery days it was handed down and we have no inhibitions about sex.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: How you mean you do not see sex? You sleep in one room and you watch them having it, close your eyes and open one half of your eyes and you watch them having it and you go and try yourself.

Mr. President, I knew someone who is 8 years. I went and saw her with her panty off lining up for her turn. I said, "What are you doing?" She said, "Well, we do it under the cellar at school." You therefore have to get to the kindergarten. From the time they are in your arms you have to start talking to these children. They are very intelligent. They are more intelligent than you think and you have to start talking about drugs, sex and certain values that you have to instill in them.

My parents instilled a lot of values in me and even I cannot go to sleep without saying my prayers because I had to do it. That is the way you do to bring up children. We have to get back to those days. We have lost several generations. We must get back on track.

Mr. President, regarding the attrition rate, or the lack of certification for the school children, it is not only happening in the secondary school system. It has happened with our nursing personnel. We have had a class of 60 and ended up with 20 qualified. Now, something is drastically wrong. No. 1, as far as nursing is concerned, I cannot speak on behalf of the teachers but I can speak on behalf of nursing education simply because I was in nursing education.

You cannot train a class of 60 nurses however good you are. Nursing is a hands-on profession and when you put 60 people with varying abilities in a classroom of nurses in a hands-on profession, just because you have made conditions so bad that the nurses have left and gone to America, Canada and elsewhere, and you want to replace them, that is wrong. You cannot train 60 nurses in a classroom no matter how hard you try. It is not nursing you are training them for. You are getting the results. The Ministry is getting the complaints. They are not behaving like nurses simply because we did not have the time to train them as nurses.

2.45 p.m.

That is the outcome. You have to have an investigation and look into the whole nursing personnel system. You need, immediately, to set up a committee or task force and examine nursing personnel system as a matter of urgency. We do have, in these Estimates, quite a lot of money paid towards the World Health Organization. That World Health Organization is not fully utilized. They have several highly qualified nursing consultants at the World Health Organization that Barbados has been very, very reluctant to utilize their services, yet, you can see in our Estimates a whole heap of money in there to pay towards the World Health Organization. We need to get our money's worth.

I should like to advise that, immediately, you invite the World Health Organization to assist you in looking at the nursing personnel system so that we can know what step to go towards or get them to send persons who know more about it, if they do not know about it.

Mr. President, I should like to say a word about University education. I am not in full agreement that everybody should pay. It is my view, and it is a personal view, that the Government of Barbados should look at the skill requirements for the development and growth of Barbados and look and see how many teachers, how many doctors, how many lawyers, how many nurses, *et cetera*. And then make those places available, free of cost, at the University of the West Indies with a few extra because you would have some that would fall along the wayside. I should like to see that the remainder that you do not need for national development and growth, ask them to pay for that education. That is the way I should like to see us go.

Mr. President, as far as drug abuse is concerned, there was an Advisory Committee on drugs, drug abuse and misuse years ago. I can say that because I was Secretary to that Committee. We spent many, many hours looking at the drug situation. We sent in a report and it was put on the shelf. Nothing was done. I would suggest you dust that Report and have a look at the Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse, the Ministry of Health. It was a Committee

set up with the Ministry of Health, the Police Force, *et cetera*. It was an excellent Committee. It made excellent recommendations. Nothing has been done about it. I would suggest that you look at that.

Another area I should like to see amalgamated into one area is the environment. There are too many bits and pieces regarding the environment spread around. It is worth it to have one Ministry of the Environment.

Another area I should like to touch on is jobs. I should like us to see jobs as a measure of social control. If people are put to work and you go to work and work for 8 hours, by the time you get home, you go to sleep, wake up and you do not have time for mischief. The work ethic is a form of social control. I should like to see us get some form of work – I do not know how it is going to be done – but I should like to see us look at work in those areas.

Teenage pregnancy?

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Teenage pregnancy is not a problem. It is because we want the teenagers to be in school. If we want the teenagers to be in school, we must educate the teenagers that it is worth it to stay in school and not get pregnant. But some of the teenagers are allowed to go back to school after they have had the baby.

Mr. President, I should like to say a word about fluoridation. It was mentioned this morning. I should like to advise that, if we are thinking in terms of using fluoridation, I was under the understanding that there were fluoride rinses and the reason we had to resort to fluoride rinses is because of the public outcry about fluoridating the water. There are people for and against fluoridation and, as soon as you mention that word, there is going to be all sorts of talk about it. In the end, what we had to do was to recommend the use of fluoride rinses for the school children. But if you are going to get into fluoridation, I suggest that you educate the public very well in advance.

Another area I wanted to speak on is that we are hearing that people are going out into the community to educate. You have to be very careful who you send out into the community to educate. You have to train people properly. The people who should be out there are the Public Health Nurses educating the people because they are properly trained, and the Public Health Inspectors. Other non-Government organizations can help but you need to be very careful because of the misinformation that can be given.

Another thing I should like to speak on is the St. John Polyclinic. Mr. President, I have been very concerned

about the building of white elephants and monuments. We do not need these big, big things that are not hospitals.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: I do not know the St. John one, but I know the one in Black Rock. The one in Black Rock is so big that it has all these rooms. You do not even know which room to go into and you have the nurses wandering around rather than being out in the community. The nurses have no right in there running around in rooms. They should be out in the community going into people's homes and educating them. That is where the Public Health Nurses should be. I sincerely hope that you can get back to that.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: The Black Rock Polyclinic?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, do not be distracted, please.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: The spokesman for Health spoke about the public awareness and education programme for the Barbados Drug Service. I was involved in the setting up of the Barbados Drug Service at the time when I was Health Education Officer in the Ministry and we did launch a public awareness programme. You had somebody then but now there is not even money in the Estimates to have a Health Education Officer.

I suggest that you get that Health Education Unit going and, I should like to support the Pharmaceutical Society on the Special Benefit Service because you cannot give everybody benefits. The Government does not have unlimited amounts of money to give everybody benefits. These drugs are very expensive. I suggest that we not only have a pharmaceutical society on a Special Benefit Service but also, some of the other professions.

There is nothing I can say about the Eye Care Centre at the QEH because I really do not know anything about it. But it seems to me that it is unfortunate that a centre like that where so much money has been invested in a building like that, that cannot be opened. I should like to suggest that avenues be explored to see where one could get funds to open, at least, part of it. I know we do not have any nurses because there is an acute shortage of nurses in Barbados which has not been addressed, and they are still leaving because the conditions of service for the nurses are poor.

Mr. President, I did not want to talk too much but before I sit down, I should like to say a word or two about the nurses. The time has come for us to ask people to look

at the nurse/patient ratio to see how many patients should be allocated to a nurse. We need to look at the total patient care and allocate. If you are very sick well, of course, only 2 patients could be allocated to a nurse. If you are not too sick about 8 or 10 patients could be allocated to a nurse. 2.55 p.m.

You need to look at the nurse/patient ratio because people in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the only acute hospital for Barbados, are very ill, they are very sick. They need nursing care and if you put one nurse on a ward with 30 patients, what do you expect, that would drive a saint mad, Mr. President. Mr. President, they cannot expect the nurses in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in particular, and the psychiatric hospital and other institutions to be overworked and exhausted because, Mr. President, it does not stop there, it breaks up their home life. It mashes up their social relationships and it turns them into human beings that they cannot recognise themselves, the nursing profession cannot recognise and their families cannot recognise. They are treated like beast of burden and all we are getting is rhetoric, rhetoric. Some of the nurses have reached the stage where they do not care and they will tell you they do not care because if night after night they have to nurse 30 patients and they do not know where to start ...

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: The patients are sick and they are calling, they want attention and something needs to be done and done urgently and the way to do it is to look at the nurse/patient ratio and what I call the skill mix. You do not need all highly qualified people on one ward. You can mix them with some nursing assistants. It depends on the illness of the patient. Some wards should have less nurses than the others and that is the way to go. If you need help, call in the World Health Organisation and get them to help you.

Mr. President, I think I have said enough and I would like to say that I am grateful for this opportunity to voice some of my opinions. I have more. And during my time in this Senate I will bring them out, one after the other, and hope that people do not take what I am saying as criticism. I am saying it so that you can make the most efficient allocation of the resources. People who are sitting at their desks do not know what is going on. You need to be fed with information about not only what is going on but how it could be remedied.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, in joining this debate I would like, first of all, to remind certain of my fellow Senators what is the object of the debate. The object of the debate is about the

Estimates and in addition it must be recalled that this is the first set of Estimates being brought by a new Government. When we came into office in September, the previous administration had consumed 6 months of that financial year, so basically over the past 6 months we have been running through with their Estimates, making the necessary corrections. There were several of them as we went along to bring us to the point where we are now embarking on our own programme.

Apart from that, Sir, it seems to me that lots of people who have spoken before, particularly Senator Mascoll, have sought to treat the Estimates debate as though it were a budget. It is not a Budget and it therefore leaves to wonder what will he have to say in a few weeks time when the Budget comes, because he has spoken all that he has as if it were a Budget. I know he will have a lot to say in the newspaper but he has said it all already and all he could probably do is ask you to draw out the old files.

In addition, it is neither a Budget nor a mini-Budget because it seems to me that that side would like us to follow their trend. I recall, Sir, when the DLP came to power in December 1961 they had a crash programme. They have been complaining that this set of Estimates does not create jobs. They came to power in December 1961 and had a crash programme where people were paid to pull pangola grass, where people were paid to dig holes and fill them up. I know people who worked by the Harbour would go to the Airport and register to pull grass, and catch a bus to go the Harbour and work and still draw money from the Airport for that. That is the sort of unproductive, wasted activity that they liked to indulge in on those occasions.

Then in 1986 they also went into another gimmick, the giveaways and we paid the price for it. We are busy now trying to recover from that state of affairs. So therefore one has to see these Estimates against the background of what we have inherited, all the mis-spending, all the financial disorder and mismanagement and irresponsibility and this is the first step by which we are trying to bring things back to order and stability and bring a semblance of respectability and accountability to the management of our financial affairs.

Apart from that, Sir, I wish we could proceed in this debate seeing that it is for us, I think the Latins called it a *tabula rasa*, or a clean slate. I am afraid that we cannot because one has to, in light of their behaviour, in light of the narrow perspective they sought to put on things, one has to remind them of their record, their record of shame, their sheet of shame.

I had listed in my mind, the St. Joseph Hospital, Sherbourne, St. Thomas school, *et cetera*. Then after I listened to Senator Laurie I have to add BADMC. Thanks

for drawing that to our attention because you unearthed some scandalous situations in dealing with that corporation that even I had not been aware of and I am eternally grateful to you for it, Sir.

Sir, we have to see the 1995-96 Estimates as part and the first step of what we are elected to do, bring change to the country. The BLP Manifesto says it quite plainly on the front, "Choice for Change". If we had not been elected for choice for change, if we were supposed to retain the methods of the past government, there would have been no need to change the Government. We could just have kept them on. We were elected for change and we are changing so therefore if you cannot comprehend the way we are doing things in our Estimates, do not worry about it. We will bring it all home and to order, especially when the Budget is coming in a few weeks time.

Sir, among the items I would like to talk on Head 16 which deals with the Civil Service. A song and dance was made by Senator Mascoll who made repeated allegations in the newspaper and elsewhere about layoffs in the civil service simply because he did not comprehend what was being done, because the method was being changed. We are seeking to bring a tidier arrangement to managing our finances and what we have done is, rather than have all the categories of temporary staff falling under the Head of the Civil Service in a lump sum where the Ministry would have to bear the financial burden, all we have done is divide them out and let them be carried by the specific Ministries, so therefore to say that there is going to be a layoff in the Public Service is quite wrong, particularly when he does not understand.

If he turns to the Estimates and there is a \$7 million increase for temporary staff, how can you therefore regard that as a recipe for laying off staff. It only makes me understand that Senator Barker did not quite achieve the full effect of his teaching on you because this fundamental principle which seems to be a very simple one, you are failing to grasp.

Sir, apart from that, one has to recall that as we set about implementing our "Choice for Change" one has to recall what we inherited under Head 16 which deals with the Civil Service. Sir, we inherited a Civil Service which was disheveled, demoralised, which had been beaten into the ground, in which officers lacked confidence in themselves because of the bludgeoning that they had received from the last Government with an 8% cut and we sought to reassure them on several fronts, Sir.

3.05 pm.

One was that well-known constitutional amendment that made it possible for future Governments not to be able to change and cut Civil Service salaries willy-nilly,

for political expediency. That reassurance has also been further reinforced by the reassurance we have given civil servants that in a few weeks' time, when a Budget comes and when negotiations are completed, they are assured of the end of their wage freeze and they will be having their first increase in salary in some years. That is all part of trying to bring confidence, stability and a sense of assuredness and security of tenure to the Civil Service again.

I can understand why Senator Mascoll might not be too partial to this kind of thought because he has been known to brag about how he masterminded the IMF programme that took such a drastic toll on the civil servants – cut of salary, mortgage interest taken away and things of that sort. He boasted during the last campaign that he was the author of that and the electorate took him to task for it and he paid the price. They treated him as badly in that respect as he did them with the 5-4-3 plan.

Apart from that, Sir, this reform programme is well on track. We are seeking not only to look at the conditions of service for workers, but we are trying to further professionalise and bring greater efficiency to the Public Service. If you look at the Estimates you will see \$100 000 to begin the computerisation programme in the Public Service in order to bring full computer literacy to Public Servants in five years' time. That is a solemn pledge. As a matter of fact, it goes beyond a pledge because, come Monday, the first set of senior Public Servants – if you go over to the Data Processing Department – will begin their training programme to give reality, a tangible manifestation, to the computerisation of the Public Service at a mass level. That is something that has stirred the imagination of all sectors of the Public Service. We have had a committee of experts made up of the Data Processing Department, the Training Division, the Ministry of Finance and other sectors of the Public Service who have devised a programme for that computerisation. They have compiled syllabuses and it will stretch from the uppermost rung of the Civil Service to the most lowly employee who has indicated an interest in becoming computer literate.

Not only will people be trained, this programme will be generating economic activity as well since several agencies in the private sector as well as St. Leonard's Secondary School, which is a highly equipped school with computers, have set forth proposals that are being considered to be used in providing training programmes for the mass set of Civil Servants. This is being examined so that it does not go into a bottleneck and has to be dependent on one set of institutions for training, say, the Data Processing Department or Training Division. It is going to be a broad-based one which will be providing training for people and also generate economic activity.

Sir, this reform of the Public Service, this attempt to bring the Civil Service back to its accustomed respectability, its traditional level of efficiency, depends on much more than even on computerisation, depends much more even than no cut of salary, depends much more even than on an increase in pay.

For a long time, one of the standing sore points in the public sector has been the length of time that several people in all categories of work have had to act in jobs 10, 15, 20 years without being given the security of tenure. That, I think, apart from the 8% pay cut has done more to damage the morale of the public sector than any other thing. We have already begun to take steps. Some weeks ago we appointed 98 Security Guards, many of whom had been acting for 15 and 17 years. That is a step that has been welcomed by the Public Service Unions.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am being reminded, Sir, that this is quite unlike what transpired up to 2nd and 5th September when certain people were selected in the School Meals Department for appointment, overlooking hundreds of people who had worked for years while they had worked only sometimes as much as six months.

This is not the kind of favouritism we are instituting, we are going on a broad-based programme where it is going to be systematically implemented. As a matter of fact, we are in the process of establishing a separate unit within the Personnel and Administration Division which will do an audit of all Government Departments to look at all categories of workers to see all of those who have been acting and who are eligible for appointment. They will be appointed across the board, done in a proper, orderly manner and not having to depend on the whims and fancies and the political favours of anyone.

Apart from that, Sir, we have also gone further, we have just appointed three Permanent Secretaries. Even Permanent Secretaries have been known to act for inordinate lengths of time. We have just appointed three new Permanent Secretaries to posts and we are in the process of appointing four or five Deputy Permanent Secretaries. These are all strong indicators that we are very serious about giving a fair deal to the Public Service and to put them on par with all others in the other sectors of the community who have security of tenure.

If I might shift from the Public Service as such to Head 13, which deals with the Government Printing Department, which has from my experience with it over the last six months done a tremendous job in bringing out the various Government publications, particularly when people are required to work around the clock in preparing these documents we are debating here today, the Estimates.

They do a tremendous amount of work in a very short period of time under a great deal of confidentiality, and they are to be highly complimented for their work.

But we are not just leaving them and leaving it for business as usual for the Government Printing Department, we are embarking on a programme of trying to make the Government Printing Department not only more efficient but also more business oriented and more commercially minded. For example, they have just increased the rates being charged for things like the *Official Gazette* and other publications, many of which had not seen an increase for 15 years or more. Meanwhile, all the inputs for printing had seen astronomical increases while they were being charged much less than what they deserved.

Apart from that, the Printing Department has also had another set of computers brought in and they are also preparing to sell, for example, some of their other services to the public. The Government Printing Department, as some of you might not know, has some first class guillotines and implements which can be used for sharpening tools and they just lie down there idle for many hours of the day after they have done the routine work of the Government Printing Department, and steps are being put in place whereby they would be providing these services to the public, sharpening of knives, scissors and other tools, which will generate revenue for that Department. So they will not only be spending, they will also be bringing revenue and contributing to the Consolidated Fund.

They are even going further, Sir. They are in the process too of formalising a programme whereby they are going to be approaching Government Departments and Government Statutory Boards which currently give out a lot of their printing to private industry. They are going to be competing on an even footing to provide some of the printing services for the Government Service which other people right now make a great deal out of doing.

If I might move, Sir, to Head 13 which deals with the Government Information Service, people who will turn to page 43 of our Manifesto will see where we pledge to restructure the Government Information Service. On that page we say:

"We will restructure the Government Information Service to ensure that it resumes its function as a professional public information agency and an independent source of untainted, timely and reliable public information."

Much preparation is under foot to bring this to realisation. Talks are going on internally to give the Government Information Service the more professional and even the more commercial orientation and training that its personnel

need to bring it in line with what is expected of it in a modern day. We would like to see the day when you see a Government Information Service programme on television there is no markable distinction except for the credits, or the theme, or the logo, from what one would see coming from one of the most highly creative commercial houses in Barbados. That is something we are well on stream with.

3.15 p.m.

Apart from that, they have just been introduced to computers. Believe it or not, Sir, six months ago they used to run off a lot of their press releases on the Gestetner machine. I believe it is one of the few departments in Barbados which still has a Gestetner where you cut stencils and you have ink and a messy, expensive, wasteful exercise is undertaken. Some computerisation has been brought to that process and it has already resulted in improvement in the quality of work being provided by the Government Information Service.

Steps have been taken to resume work on some outbuildings at the Government Information Service. There are some dark-rooms and some studios which had begun to see some wiring but then all of a sudden, for no explicable reason, except that when one remembers the plethora, the multiplicity of other unfinished larger projects that exist around the country, one would not be surprised that even something as rudimentary and as basic as a dark-room could be left unfinished at a place as vital as the Government Information Service. That process has been resumed and is almost completed.

The darkrooms are finished. The air conditioning is underway. The studios are being sound-proofed and, as a matter of fact, preparations are being made for work in the next few months for the utilisation of the \$200 000 which you will see in the Estimates that are being provided to bring much overdue relief to the Government Information Service and its personnel in terms of air conditioning, proper circumstances, leaking roofs. It will bring an end to those complaints through the rebuilding and the replacing of the roof, the rewiring of the building and other steps which have been long overdue and which are much needed in bringing them to the level of the efficiency and the creature comfort that they at least deserve at a most basic level.

While I am in the process of talking about public information service, I think I need to make clarification for some people on a matter which has unfortunately drawn some misinterpretation and some distortions, namely the granting by the Government of \$15 000 to the Barbados Association of Journalists. All kinds of sinister acts have been attempted to be attributed to this act, which was not at the initiative of the Government but merely arose

out of a meeting that I had with the executives of the Barbados Association of Journalists on January 20, when they indicated that they were embarking on some training programmes and they would like assistance in providing these programmes.

In fulfilment, in a short-term way, of our page 43 in our manifesto where we said we would financially assist programmes for the training of journalists in order to promote in our society a journalistic community whose members are well informed and highly trained.

I don't see anything dishonourable in that. The journalists did not; but other political activists have seen to give it a sinister twist. But when one remembers that the DLP has had a tradition of seeking to depressurise and to remove the Press, one can understand why they cannot appreciate this magnanimous gesture towards the journalistic profession.

These courses, Sir, are intended to be short and intensive and will cater to things like how to interpret the balance of payments, the Central Bank Statistical Report, Estimates, understanding the role of the Central Bank, trading blocs, environmental reporting, all of which are very necessary to this modern Barbados society. This is what we are seeking to do. Therefore, it indicates to me a paucity of ideas, a dearth of imagination when something as straightforward in which we were seeking merely to respond to the initiative of the Barbados Association of Journalists could be made to seem so underhand and nefarious.

Apart from that, Sir, I would also like to use this occasion to ask the Barbados Association of Journalists and to call upon the business community to respond in like manner as the Government to match these funds, either individually from each media house or collectively, so that the Barbados Association of Journalists in which I have more than a passing interest, having spent most of my working life in the profession, can help to achieve some of the means for further self-actualisation and further professional development. This will bring to it at long last some of the prestige and status that eluded it for quite too long by people who tried to treat journalists, as I said, as less than mortal human beings. I am quite happy that this gesture on the part of the Government which I understand informally has been welcomed by many of the journalists, has coincided with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Clennel Willson Wickham, one of Barbados' most foremost journalists whose 100th birthday would have been exactly today. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to be associated with such a forward looking step on behalf of the Government.

While the Barbados Government has been catering to the needs of the Barbados Association of Journalists and

our local functioning journalists as such, we have not been unmindful of the wants of the regional institutions which are associated with journalism, places like the Caribbean Broadcasting Union and also CANA, two institutions which have their headquarters in Barbados and who over the years have earned themselves well-founded reputations for professionalism and accuracy and unbiased reporting.

We have also moved to make their lives more comfortable. They had under the previous Administration been spending a great deal of time seeking to have a Headquarters Agreement whereby they can be granted certain concessions to make their operations much more economic and feasible and to make it much easier for them to attract quality personnel who can come here to Barbados with their families, make a substantial contribution to the regional journalistic profession and at the same time like any other person, earn a decent living.

We have recently signed 2 Headquarters Agreements with CANA and CBU and this is just another indication of Government's determination to do all that is possible to see that Barbados becomes the headquarters for regional institutions in the region. We already have several other institutions, both regional and international, who are headquartered in Barbados and they can all have the Government's assurance that we will do everything possible to make sure that we can accommodate them as long as it is not to the disadvantage of the people of Barbados or other institutions of like operation.

Sir, it has also dawned on me that while the Honourable Senator Mascoll was performing and speaking about – I would not say ranting and raving. That is a column in one of the newspapers. I would not like to promote the newspaper by talking about ranting and raving. While he was doing his thing on business, it seems to me that for a man who represents a Party which likes to talk about being the representative of the small man and the little fellow and the poor man and how they are doing so much for small business, that he never once gave any mention to... He never even criticised. When he said we have granted millions to some institutions, he never once mentioned – and I do not understand this neglect, this oversight, this callous indifference – the \$75 000 we have given the Small Business Association. Not only the journalistic association has benefitted from government's progressive outlook.

We felt that how can you seriously implore a sector and say in your manifesto and your campaign that small business is going to be a central focus of your government's operation to the point where, for the first time in the history of Barbados, we have had a Ministry whose names specifically enunciate business development, how can you do all that in words and then do

nothing possible to provide the wherewithal to make it possible for small business institutions to exist.
3.25 p.m.

Sir, we have provided the \$75 000 to the Small Business Association to provide for a Secretariat at its headquarters and at least give them a jumping off point. This is the first time ever it has happened. We are sure that the Small Business Association, unlike the previous Government, will put it to good use and that they will not have unfinished projects at the end of that time.

Sir, we also have to be sure that we use the rest of this sitting to try to drum into the head of Senator Mascoll what we mean by rural development. He complains that \$3 million is not enough.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: You try hard? You have failed, Sir. He either fails to appreciate or understand that this is merely a jumping off point for the rural development programme. We are not trying to equate rural development with stand pipes, street lights, and tar roads. That is as much as you can conceptually accord to rural development to the point where nothing much has even been done in St. John for all these years. Now they are screaming out for their tar roads to be fixed. We are giving it a wider dimension. We are giving the same kind of dimension that informed our last administration during 1976 and 1986 when we talked about developing Oistins, when we talked about building a second town in St. George and they were dismissed out of hand as the "Tale of Two Cities".

Right now we have the "Tale of One City" in Oistins, a modern semi-metropolis. Of course, your Government did nothing more to add to it. In fact, you ran it down by not even allowing the ice machines to work. Apart from that, you failed in eight years to carry on the work we started.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray, when you say "your Government" and "you failed" presumably you are not referring to the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Of course not, Sir. You have no Government, Sir, and you never failed.

Sir, we laid the foundations. We laid the beginnings of modern development in St. George at the Glebe but they failed. We were going to build a post office, a police station and a fire service. The polyclinic which they failed to even formally open after inheriting it, was one of the centerpieces of that part of that development. We should not be surprised at that.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I can give it to you from the Manifesto, if you want me to. We are going to eradicate poverty. We are going to have a rural Enterprise Fund.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: This is how long it is going to take. I cannot say 7-8-9. Mr. President, Senator Mascoll last time tried to give in concise form an economic programme in numbers: 5-4-3. I am not going to try to do such injustice to the intelligence of the Barbadian people by trying to just say 7-8-9 for rural development. We are going to pursue certain basic functions like pursuing a land use policy that will protect arable lands against the depredation of greedy speculators. By that we mean we will not allow good, fertile, arable agricultural land to be sold off to henchmen, or cronies, and all sectors of the society as has happened all over Barbados under the DLP.

Whenever the Democratic Labour Party is in power we see a syndrome where some of our best agricultural land always ends up under concrete and then they talk about they are supporting agriculture. They talk about they love the small man and what's not.

We recall that one of their illustrious leaders had said he looked forward to the day when we would never see another cane blade in Barbados. Every time they are in office they set out to bring that to realisation. Thank God, whenever it gets to a critical stage, the Barbados Labour Party always comes in riding like a knight in shining armour to rescue this country and we will do this for the rural parishes. We will, among other things, create a Rural Enterprise Fund to assist in the financing of a new project aimed at generating new businesses and jobs in rural Barbados. Why you cannot envisage that?

Sir, we do not regard the rural parts of Barbados, as was most infamously regarded when again that same illustrious leader of the Democratic Labour Party said in speaking about St. Peter – You would recall that this Government built a modern fishing harbour in Oistins, to which I referred. We built the one in Bridgetown, and we had plans for one in Speightstown. Everything was on the drawing board ready to go, but then there was a change of Government in 1986 and when that leader came into power he went back to his old dictum, his old political philosophy that "Boscobel is off the map and Black Bess is behind God's back," so he had nothing at all for St. Peter. We do not treat it so. That is why we are now engaging and we have programmes in place involving not only Government but also the private sector, who are seeking to

resuscitate Speightstown and bring it back to some of its former grandeur when it was known as "Little Bristol", whereby it will become not only a thriving fishing centre but a centre of tourism and heritage tourism.

There have been also strong possibilities, as has been said elsewhere, of a jetty being rebuilt at Speightstown so that cruise ships can come and nestle off Speightstown for people to enjoy the attributes of Speightstown, St. Peter, and the north in general. That is what we call rural development.

I hope, therefore, that in some way I have enlightened Senator Mascoll as to what he will be seeing over the next few years. We are moving from street lights to an age of enlightenment in rural development. We are going to enlighten in every sense of the word. When your party as a party that never did anything for rural development, as a matter of fact it would rather have tried to give them a push into further darkness, how can you then say that \$3 million is enough? It is enough to start. This is an ongoing process.

The Estimates, as you would know, Sir, are not cast in concrete but they are meant to be revised and supplemented as the need arises from time to time. But we want to be sure that this sum is put to good economic use. When the time comes for more, I can assure Senator Mascoll that his concerns will be set at ease. That is why we have \$200 000 in the Estimates for studies regarding the development of Speightstown which, as I said, will be undertaken by the private sector and the Government sector.

Sir, I could not conclude without making some mention of employment, or unemployment, whichever you want to call it. A great deal was made by Senator Mascoll and his side about 30 000 jobs which the Barbados Labour Party is engaged in providing over the next five years. They are saying there is nothing in the Estimates that moves towards these 30 000 jobs.

Sir, something like that would have been contained in the Estimates if all we wanted to do was to hire 5 000 more people at NCC, 200 more at NHC, *et cetera*, for crash programmes. As I said before, we are not a crash programme party. We are in the process of long-term productive sustainable jobs which can provide productive employment and inure to the long-term benefit of the society.

For a party, Sir, which had no shame on leaving office with the sorry record of 30 000 people unemployed, and all they could offer to cure that ill was 5-4-3, and for them therefore to accuse us of not doing anything in six months, they had eight years and they brought unemployment to 30 000 and then to say we have done

nothing in our first Estimates after six months, completely ignoring the fact that at least by the way we treat Estimates they are not intended to be budgets.

In a few weeks time your heart will be gladdened, Sir, with the creativity which will be manifested in also our first Budget, the vision, the action. I am sure it will make a lot of difference to Senator Mascoll because he would have grown up in a political culture where 22% unemployment was put into their Development Plan as a centrepiece of how they are going to treat employment. 3.35 p.m.

Why should people be shocked at that? For one, because the very first Budget Speech of the second, but last Minister of Finance when he was dealing with the question of unemployment and I can give you a very precise summary of it. He said:

"Unemployment remains an intractable problem. something must be done about it. But what?"

And he left it there. We are not in that business, Sir. We are in the business of providing programmes that make sense, programmes that are attainable, programmes that are sustainable. We are neither going for 5, 4, 3 neither are we going for bus fare and lunch money.

Our philosophy is grounded in a speech made yesterday, Sir – I can make it a document of the Chamber – by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance when he delivered the feature address to the Caribbean Symposium on Social Development at the Caribbean Development Bank on March 27, 1995, yesterday, Sir. We did not feel – as the last Government felt – that it was enough to create a Minister of Unemployment, set up a Task Force on Unemployment and then nothing happened either with the Minister or the Task Force. We are informed by a different philosophy. We think that, as the Prime Minister said, this Administration has accepted the challenge of treating the education of unemployment as one of the highest purposes to which public policy can be put.

I will go on. He said:

"We believe that we must not carry with us into the Twenty-first Century levels of unemployment which consign large sections of our people to material and social deprivation of hopefulness."

He goes on:

"The solution to the problem of unemployment will not be easy nor will it be secured over the short-term like in crash programmes. But it is worth pursuing. And if I have a contribution to make to the Governments of my generation."

I am quoting the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Sir:

"it will be to cause our people to cross the psychological barrier which presently stops them from accepting that grinding poverty, as expressed in high levels of unemployment is not something to which we have become consigned by fate."

Five, four, three fate, lunch money and bus fare fate. But we have our own programme, the first signs of which as regards further stimulation of the economy, further opportunities for generating employment will become even more manifest.

It bothers me, Sir, and it bothered me, Senator Barker, how a previous student of yours could spend so much time, in talking about the Estimates, in treating interest rates as though it were a Budget. Interest rates is something in which you deal with in that kind of context, in the sense of a Budget, not in the sense of Estimates. Not only that, but the increase in interest rates that came late last year was repeatedly said to have been necessitated by a need to meet a short-term situation where we have \$120 million in debt to be paid in the first 3 months of the year, January, February and March. We have paid them and our foreign reserves are still high and are getting higher.

But it was always known to be a short-term measure that will be modified or be dealt with at the discretion of the Minister of Finance at a time when he in his best judgement sees it fit. I suspect that time will not be far off, as will also be our treatment of the arrears of Land Tax and what not. When we talk about increase in the size of Land Tax, we are talking about the hauling in of the \$60 million in arrears, not increased Land Tax, not when we repeatedly said during the campaign that we are of the view, and the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is of the view, that Land Tax should virtually be abolished for properties \$200 000 or less because people should not be penalized for trying to achieve and maintain the Barbadian dream of owning their own home.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: It has not been misguided because over the years, even your Party had seen the wisdom of it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, Senator Murray.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I am sorry about that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I would keep addressing the Chair, Sir. But the National Democratic Party which Senator Mascoll gave us some insights into yesterday used to propound that same policy and subscribed to the view that Barbadians should be allowed to own their own home until they put themselves into the clutches of the IMF. On that score, they seem to take great credit from what they have done, under the dictates of the IMF. It reminds me of a situation whereby a man will set his house on fire deliberately and then run to put it out with a hose and say, "Yes, I saved my house." That is exactly what you have done with the economy, put it in a tailspin, drive it into the ground and then try to claim credit for having done what you should not have done, in the first place. It does not make sense to me.

We have felt that that policy of giving every encouragement to Barbadians to own their houses has, in the past, borne out the fact that Barbados has one of the highest rates of home ownership in the world. That did not happen by accident but by enlightened Governments up until 1986, having seen the advisability of giving incentives for a people to buy, build, improve, *et cetera* their homes.

Our housing programme, some of which – I am not mentioning the Estimates – I am talking about \$18 million off budget for the National Housing Corporation which will all be used towards the benefit of restoring the Barbadian dream of a good education and a good home. Therefore I look forward, Sir, to the coming Budget. I look forward with excitement and interest. I know Senator Mascoll is looking forward with trepidation because he has very little to quarrel about, except to repeat himself.

With those words, Sir, I should like to give my support to this Bill.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand here this afternoon to lend my contribution to this debate on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1995-96.

As I looked at these Estimates, there is a question which kept bobbing up in my mind and I thought I would share it with fellow Senators this afternoon. Why is there a Government? I think that this is a very important question. When I attempted to answer it, I had to come to grips with the fact that there is Government because people have needs and because our resources are not adequate enough to meet those needs. Individuals recognizing that these resources must be distributed equitably determined that they need to put an institution in place which would manage these resources.

Different countries have chosen different forms of Government to manage their resources. In Barbados

we have the form of Government which has 2 Houses and I am a Member of this one. I am here to make sure that the national resources are effectively and efficiently managed by the Government.

When I tried to determine what are the needs people have, I thought I would look at a structure to which a number of people refer and which I think is used quite effectively in my workplace. Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. In looking at the Hierarchy of Needs, I recognize that our people have physiological on basic needs, food, shelter, water, clothing. Then they move on to their security needs, the need to make sure that they can keep themselves safe and secure bodily, economically. They have their social needs, their desire for love and friendship and companionship. Their esteem needs to be respected and to respect others and the ultimate need, self-actualization.

I should like to share with this Senate that I believe the role of Government is to make sure that its citizens realize the ultimate, self-actualization. I believe that the Government can do so by utilizing these resources which we have. We start today by looking at the resources managed by the public service.

I also feel, Mr. President, that we need to identify what some of these resources are because I think, as we do so, we would be able to come to grips with what these Estimates are attempting to do. We look at our natural resources which would be our land, our water and our oil and our capital resources which we find in our manufacturing sector.

3.45 p.m.

All of those things which we use to manufacture, our aids to production and of course we have our labour which is our human physical and mental talents, and our entrepreneurial ability. Those people who take initiatives, risks – the innovators – to produce things on a commercial basis. I therefore am here to make sure that Government effects proper and equitable distribution of these resources. I contend that attempts have been made by Governments over a period of time to do so. I recognise that we have achieved in many areas but we still have a long way to go. In Barbados in 1995 we still have a large number of people who are at the base of the hierarchy of needs. We need to make sure that they can live in comfort. Still too many of us have not reached the middle round or the esteem needs and I believe that is why we have so many problems among our youths. They do not feel that they are enjoying all those other basic needs which make them feel comfortable enough to socialise and to make any worthwhile contribution to society.

Now, I am not a Government Senator and I must remind Members of this House that in September 1994 when we went to the polls this Governmr . told

Barbadians that there were a number of evils in the society. This Government said to people that there were all these needs which should be taken care of and this Government promised that it would help people to deal with them. The electorate believed them and it is the Government today. The question we must ask, are these needs being addressed in these Estimates? But before I proceed any further I would like to discuss what I feel all Barbadians need at this stage to look at The National Objective.

Now, I know Members of the Government will say to me there is a national objective outlined in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. What I see there is a list of methods which a Government would employ, but I believe the national objective is something which should burn in the breasts of all Barbadians and be on the lips of all Barbadians. It is something we should all be aiming to achieve and I would like to say, self-actualisation should be the national objective of all Barbadians.

When one looks at Americans, I think from any distance one can recognise what their national objective is. We criticise the communist or the Soviets but when we look at those people I think there is no doubt in our minds what their national objective is. Can we truly look at our fellow Barbadians and say this is the national objective, based on what we are doing, how we are going about our daily lives?

I think the success of any Government can only be realised when the Government is capable of transferring to the people the feeling, that deep feeling that at the end of the day we stand to benefit and that the national objective is something which would enhance their status in life.

As a matter of fact people can only be motivated once they accept that they stand to benefit from something. I therefore would not like us to continue to debate the Estimates in an abstract fashion. It is all well and good to look at housing and to look at education and to look at agriculture and tourism and to ascribe and cast blame or praise in whatever directions, but at the end of the day, how do the people of this country, especially the people who are the most disadvantaged, how do they benefit from these measures which are being placed before us today?

I want to get back to Government because I really believe that the idea of self-actualisation can be realised, but Government must be a major contributor to this. I believe that when we discuss tourism, when we discuss education, when we discuss all these Heads which come under these Estimates people must feel that out of all of these activities, out of all these services being offered by these Departments, these Heads to which we are being asked to vote for these large sums of money, that they are more than having tourists come here, as in the case of tourism and they are more than getting to the hospital

and having beds available and having nursing staff, but that these are the means to the end which is their self-actualisation, that at the end of the day they would be better off. And it is from that perspective that I would like to conduct my debate.

In saying all of this, Mr. President, I recognise one thing, that in Barbados we do not exist in isolation and that despite what all of our goals and all of our dreams and our ideas and our aspirations are, that from time to time in this small island we are going to meet setbacks. We are going to have problems in the economies of our trading partners and we are going to have shortages in our resources and we are going to have imbalances in our economy. And from time to time we will have to institute measures in order to correct these, but I believe that at the end of the day we must not lose sight of our national objective or our self-actualisation.

I would therefore like to challenge this Government. I say this all the time. I know it is politics and we are still close to a campaign and that is why we still get the feeling that we have two opposition parties, which is unfortunate because I believe the people need leadership and if it has been mired as they were told throughout the campaign, I think it is time that the behaviour and the mouthings of the Government representatives give them the feeling that there is leadership, that somebody is in control and that there is real change. This can only be realised when we clearly define our actions and our behaviour. The delineation is clear. Here is the Government, here is the Opposition. I am still to find that. I still see two Opposition parties in both Houses of Parliament. The challenge is therefore to the Government. You are the beneficiaries of a programme which was implemented to correct several structural imbalances. You walked the streets of Barbados and you told the people of Barbados that the then Government put something there to inflict pain, it was not caring, and they believed you. They gave you the Government. I say, stop looking back. The time is here to clearly state the national objective. Stop looking back. Clearly state the national objective. The philosophy as seen by this Government, let us get ahead with the people's business. There is a whole new world around us. I do not know if we are really aware. It is all good for us to sit in this small place and continue to throw punches. It looks good, we enjoy it.

3.55 p.m.

There is GATT, all these markets, groups of people coming together and we are being marginalised. There are serious challenges to respond to and in the midst of all this we must still be able to help our people to realise the national objective of self-actualisation, so we need to get cracking. These Estimates therefore must be a step to the national objective.

I think if we look at the Departments in Government we will recognise that they were not chosen willy-nilly. I have no doubt that our forefathers, those people who served as the Government in the past, recognised what these needs are, hence we have the Ministries of Housing and Lands and all these different Ministries which directly cater to these needs, and I believe in discussing the votes, the sums of money which are allocated, we come down to the question: how far can they go in assisting Barbadians to realise the objective of self-actualisation?

Today we are looking at our Estimates and Government has told us that it needs \$1 358 099 321 to offer services to satisfy these needs. I do not intend to rehash all of what was said this evening, but I would like to touch on a few Heads to see how Government is rising to the challenge of self-actualisation. I believe it all begins in the Ministry of Education. That is the Head I want to look at, to which the sum of \$128 593 886 is being allocated.

I am placing this Ministry at the centre of our national objective because I believe that in order for us to realise self-actualisation we need to look at people's knowledge, their attitudes, their skills and their habits. Once we are able to address these areas, then I believe we will be able to realise success. We will not have so many failures. And so I ask myself a question, based on the level of services being offered to the people of this country, can we truly say that the allocation of this large sum of money is justified? I know it is a very sensitive area, and since I am one of the products of free secondary education – I should say State sponsored education – I was one of the first beneficiaries, a number of people may, and I have to be very careful here, I want to say it is a case of somebody getting up and wanting to kick the ladder down. Or to put it better, getting up and pulling the ladder up with you that nobody else can come up on it, so I am going to deal with this area very carefully.

Things have changed in our educational system. I think we have to recognise that things have changed, and the question is: Is it relevant? Are we going to be able to get what we need out of the system of education, in order for us to produce for Barbados better people at the end of the day? When we look at this against a background of the changes in our society, the changes in our family life, the lack of the extended family, those relationships which assisted in the past, children no longer go to Sunday School as they did in the past, I think we recognise that a lot of burden is being placed in the school rooms of our educational system.

I notice that the Ministry of Education has targeted primary education to assist in countering the ills in society, but I ask the Ministry to look at nursery education. I do not mind having the nursery and the primary education identified together, but I think between the ages of

one and five is a period of time when character is formed, and I think we need to look at it from an earlier stage, from the nursery stage. It is not a quick fix, it is not something which is going to bring immediate returns, we have to recognise that we have to go through a period of gestation, but I believe that we can guarantee Barbados within the next 20 years a very competent and well balanced citizen.

I also want to talk about the 11+, and again I think I need to touch on this in a sensitive way, because I guess were it not for the 11+ examination I would not be here today, and many of us who do many things in society. We must accept that there was a time in Barbados when unless you had the means you did not make it to certain schools, and scholarships were few. Thanks to the Democratic Labour Party Government of 1961 it became possible for a large number of Barbadians to gain entry into these special schools. They were special because at the time only certain people could go to them, and I am not one of those people. But one of the reasons why I would like us to look at the 11+ examination is because I believe that at the time it was introduced and over a number of years it has served a very good purpose. I notice that what has happened is that there has been a shift in patterns in Barbados, and whereas in the past you could leave a school in fifth form – as I did in the middle of a term on a Friday and turned up at a school on the Monday as a teacher – those days are long gone.

There is a strange thing happening in Barbados today. In our unemployment we have people not so well educated and people very well educated, and we have to ask ourselves the question: What has caused this? How is it that we can have people with all kinds of university degrees unemployed? They are there on the blocks cooling out with the people who we say are not well educated, and that is one of the challenges we have to deal with in this society. I know there is talk about job creation and many thousands of jobs being created and all of that, but I know what it takes. I know jobs cannot be created overnight, I do not know if the people who made the promises recognised that when they did so. Also you cannot do so unless you have a very stable foundation if these are to be sustainable jobs so I say, that is your promise and you have to deal with it.

I believe the education system must be equitable, it must provide education for all and somewhere in our system from time to time we have some young people who have learning problems. They are slow learners, but that does not mean that they do not have anything to contribute to society, and I will give you a little example. I have a brother who is a civil engineer today who left Barbados at 13 or 14. He was in Third Form at one of our older secondary schools – but not one of the accepted special secondary schools – where he was doing woodwork and

these kinds of things. He went to live in the United States and when he got there, after spending one year, we were told that he is great in mathematics. They had not seen such skills in reasoning for a very long time. He was placed in an accelerated programme and when he graduated from engineering school he had 5 job offers. He left New York and went to Canada for 2 years on a special contract. He would not have been an engineer in Barbados. That is the point I want to make, because the system would have placed him there and, having done so, he would have gone on and worked in a joiner's shop, a very noble profession, I must say, but at the same time, the system did not allow him to fully optimise his potential. Therefore, hidden in him was the ability to be other than a joiner, to build a building while a joiner would build the mahogany doors and the staircases and the chairs. We really need to look at that.

4.05 p.m.

There is need for change in our education system, change in the attitudes and change in the expectations of our people. There is a need for a change in our syllabus in our schools. If this is a charter for change, I have great difficulty accepting that technical and vocational education is for those students who are not going to be academics. It is folly.

How could you expect to break through into the big world to explore markets to which we want to export our products? How can we expect to produce good manufacturers if we keep some of our best brains away from these areas? I would like to see technical and vocational education introduced as part of the regular curriculum throughout our secondary schools. That is what the Japanese used to be superpowers today.

We need to recognise this. There are a lot of stigmas associated with this. I have a friend who told me that at what is considered as A class secondary school in Barbados when he wanted to do technical drawing, his father who was a headmaster, was called to the school, they wanted to know if he was mad. Our so-called leading secondary school in Barbados. I think we must stop stigmatising these things. We need to have some of our better brains in these areas.

I think we also need to put as a part of our curriculum business attitudes. The Government has said it is starting small business and says it wants more of our people to be self-employed. We say we want to explore economic democracy and economic enfranchisement and all these things. I want us to make sure that we prepare our people for it. The educational system is very important. It takes more than an allocation of several hundred thousand dollars or \$1 million to produce proper small business people. I deal with small business people every day. I must admit that there are not many of them who have

university degrees and all those fancy qualifications, but what they have is the spirit of enterprise, or what we call guts. They have a lot of that.

I think that we need, if we are to be successful in this area of economic democracy, to address the aspect of ownership because that is one stage of economic democracy. If we are to be successful in this area, we need to address a lot more than an allocation to the small business department. We need to put it on our school curriculum. I do not mean the subject offered for CXC called Principles of Business but I mean business in which you deal with people's attitudes through which people recognise that it is part of the national objective and they have to work towards it that at the end of the day they can all benefit and the country can benefit as a whole. I want us to address that.

I think also that.. I will be dealing with the University too. I am not going to say whether we should increase or reduce the allocation to the University. It is a waste of time to go to university to do economics or business administration but when we get into the real world we cannot relate to what's happening. That is why I like the programme that Senator Goddard would have contributed to for entrepreneurs where you actually bring practical business people to the campus to assist. I think we need to go a step further. There should be hands-on training in this thing. Unless we get people who understand what is involved in business – we are not going to succeed – in the Barbados Development Bank and in our commercial banks, these institutions in which people are making decisions on people's future in their businesses and do not really understand. They are educated and they know it from the text book but there is something else that is associated with business that is not present and it is something that we really have to inculcate and get it deep into the minds of people that they feel it, so that when a small business person approaches you as an officer in a commercial bank, you too must be so fuelled by the national objective that you do not put encumbrances, hindrances in the way.

I know you cannot just take up people's money and give it away, but at the same time we have to be able to take risks, some risks on our people. That is why I am asking the Government to make sure that it is part of our educational system, so that other people would be embarking on business, not only those people who have dropped out of our schools. The pattern of small business in Barbados has been that most of the people who have owned small businesses in this country have been people who did not succeed in our educational system, who needed to find a route for survival and who decided that they had a good idea to follow through on. I want to praise them. I want to use this occasion to really shower praises on them for their creativity and their innovation, something

that is really lacking in many of our highly educated Barbadians.

Aside.

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I am dealing with education. I am dealing with the \$128 million in education. I want to see the Barbados Scholarship awarded at a different level. I do not mind awarding our people who get 3 "A"s and all these things, but I want to see those people who have gone through our secondary schools who have done reasonably well in their "O" levels who have shown that they can be good designers, good auto body repairmen, good auto mechanics, I want a scholarship in addition to the National Development Scholarship that is as prestigious as the Barbados Scholarship, that when we put them through the associates programme – or whatever is covered under this scheme at the Community College – that they can then go on to the university either in the West Indies or overseas covered under this same scholarship.

We are not going to get people in business to help turn this country around, economic democracy and enfranchisement will not be realised unless we make serious changes in our educational system. I want to say that now.

I would like to see a marriage, not the amalgamation into one portfolio, but I would like to see a marriage between Education and Culture, Health, Labour, Community Development and Sports. I would like to see them under one network, not as one portfolio, but I would like Government to establish linkages that there can be proper coordination in these departments. I know you go to Cabinet and you discuss Heads. I worked in Government. I know files go from department to department. I don't mean that. I mean that when there are children in nursery or primary school who show that they are suffering from malnutrition or whatever, the information is collected in the system at the Ministry of Education and that can be an immediate transfer of this information and the child's needs can be looked after in the Ministry of Health.

I mean that when there is a child in the school system who has shown great sporting abilities that the Ministry of Community Development and Sports can help access areas to develop this athlete. We have to be forward looking. Change is not, as one of the Senators said earlier, about carrying on what was here before. Change is about being innovative, about being creative, about exploring other areas which look positive and possible.

4.15 p.m.

We have reached the point where we are taking stock, we say. We have reached the point where we are evaluating our performance over a period of time. We have accepted that in the system we have met many

failings. What are we going to do? Throw our hands in the air? We have to explore different avenues in order for us to realise our national objective.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order, please.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I believe that a proper networking of these four departments would give to this country a better rounded citizen. I believe that. This is a charter for change. Do not tell me about four years ago. I am talking about where we are now and how we are going to implement these changes, how under these Estimates we can begin to go somewhere. That is all I am saying.

Now, health, since I talked about education. I want to talk about this department which also got a significant vote in the Estimates. We have a report here. It is not a current report from the Chief Medical Officer but I found this report very informative. We are discussing problems with our young people. We are discussing problems with HIV AIDS. We are grappling with creative ways of stemming this serious threat to national growth to the realisation of the national objective. We need to do more than say we are going to educate people. We need to ask the question. If things continue the way they are, what are the losses which this country stands to suffer? They are significant.

When we look at a few areas and this problem of HIV and AIDS among our young people we recognise that our social security system is threatened. It is threatened because, as one of our Senators said earlier, we are an ageing population. Recent statistics from the United Nations reveal that we are the only developing country in the world with a population which is ageing at this rate. What are the implications? Of course, they attribute this to a very good health service which has prolonged the life expectancy of Barbadians. But when we lose too many of our citizens in the early age groups, like age 0-24, or even when we go to the working ages, say 16-24, it means that the social security scheme, the universal one that is, the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme is not benefitting from the contributions which should be made by these people over their working life to guarantee a pension to those people who have been in the scheme for a long time.

You could find that we would be faced with a similar problem and that which the United States Government faced some years ago when its Old Age Security system was appearing to be inadequate and the decision to extend the retirement age from 65 to 70 was very high on the agenda of that country. Our social Security Scheme is threatened. Those of us who have already made the contributions to qualify for a maximum pension, unless we

can assist in our national objective, unless we can stem the rampant increase in the incidence of HIV and AIDS among our young people, we will find that when we reach retirement age there is no benefit, or a significantly reduced benefit because those contributions of the younger people are not coming in to add to the Scheme.

It also produces other problems for us, problems in our health services and our welfare services and it puts significant pressure on the State. The State, as we have heard from our professional nurse, has to make available to its citizens all these medical services to look after this illness. I have been told that takes something like \$10 000 or so a year to maintain an AIDS patient in the hospital. That is only one aspect of it. We have also to look at these people who are not enjoying a work life. They are a part of our human resources which is so necessary for us to realise our national objective, a human resource which is being wasted.

When I look at the statistics I saw something which was a bit heartening. We have reached the point, although these are statistics for 1992, where we can deal with the attitudes of Barbadians for no longer can men walk around and boast that because there are five women to one man that they can be village rams. The statistics now show that from age 0 up to age 29 we have more men than women.

The disparity is not significant but for me what that is saying is that people can now more readily relate to each other. I do not believe women are going to go out there now and try to do to men what they did to us. I think there is now a beautiful opportunity for us to deal with our people in the area of promiscuous behaviour because the disparity in numbers is not that great. We can now talk about having one partner. We can now discuss these things. Things people did not want to accept in the past because they wanted to blame it on the fact that we had five women to one man, and six women to one man, finally we are managing to correct that.

This information has some implications for the life insurance industry also, because unless we have healthy people, and young people put into the premium calculation, the premium could be put out of the reach of Barbadians and a very vital product which allows people to provide security for their family that when they die mortgages can be cancelled, that when they reach their old age there can be a retirement benefit, that when there are emergencies they can turn to these policies for values to assist them. This vital sector which contributed over half a billion dollars to the national income in 1992, is also threatened by this serious problem we have with HIV AIDS.

The report stated that in our 25-39 age group, that is where the majority of our cases are. That is the most productive area of our population and it has

serious implications for the future, economic, social, educational, political – whatever you want to say – goals of the people of Barbados. I think we all need to join forces in whatever way we can and assist in the educational outreach programme for our people.

I think I need to look at the Financial Services sector because I believe that is the area my party has placed me here to monitor on the people's behalf. There is a lot of concern about the Credit Union Movement in Barbados. When we discuss credit unions many of us, we talk about the loans and all these things but the credit union is a significant generator of capital in Barbados and capital generation is very important for the development of businesses. There are linkages in these areas.
4.25 p.m.

I should therefore like to see the problems in the credit union movement resolved immediately, all the personality problems they have within that sector. The small people in Barbados who have difficulty obtaining a loan from the commercial banks, who have to produce their head and belly as security when they go to get monies, these people deserve the protection of the credit union.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: I have no problem.

I do not believe that the funds of the credit union are in any way endangered by the personality difficulties which are there – there is the St. George credit union that I am now in the process of housing in my constituency office – I am a firm supporter and believer in the credit union movement. Because since I represent the least advantaged or the disadvantaged in our society and since I intend to continue to be a voice for this special group of people, I must call on the credit union movement to try and resolve all of its personality problems.

I believe that this is the first time in our credit union history that we have these problems. The credit union movement has a lot to be proud about. We now see that they are owning their own buildings which is a part of our capital development in Barbados. We know that, through the credit union movement, there is access to short-term and medium-terms loans which are necessary to assist people in their advancement, the ownership of their homes, they get into businesses. It is about more than buying cars and land. I do not agree with those people who believe that is all the credit union does. I think the credit union assists a number of people in catering to the need of housing, in catering to the need of funding their own businesses. When the commercial banks turn their backs on them, sometimes it is only the credit union that is there for them. We ought to be concerned about it.

I am not saying that we need to strengthen the legislation. I do not think legislation is there to deal with inter-personal relationship problems. It is a democratic organization and they must go about this resolution in a democratic way.

The life insurance industry which is part of our financial services sector, as I mentioned earlier...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON:.. a significant...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just a second, Senator Thompson. There is too much cross-talk. The asides are becoming a bit too loud. Please let the Senator be heard in silence.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. The life insurance industry is a significant generator of long-term capital. I do not know how many of us know this, but Government turns to the life insurance with its bonds, its debentures and its treasury bills when it needs large sums of money for road improvement, for housing, for schools and, over the years, the life insurance industry has been a significant contributor to national development in this country. It has been helping Barbadians to cater to their basic and other needs. People use life insurance products for their retirement planning, something which we need to address because of our aging population.

I think, at this point, I should like to call on the Government to consider increasing the tax deductible amount, the allowable amount for pension contributions. I am not doing this because I want to be special about it. This is a charter for change.

I am therefore asking the Government to consider increasing that amount. It would assist the Government, down the road, not having to find a state pension for too many people, at the same time, it would make available to Government and other investors the capital necessary for development, because it is in the life insurance industry that significant sums of money are available for residential and commercial mortgages. But let us look at this industry, from a more humane perspective. Let us see what else it does in order to assist in our national needs.

Many people buy life insurance because they want to make sure that, at their death, they can have at least a decent burial. Gone are the days when people want to go down in a pauper's coffin. People buy life insurance because they want to make sure that if they have suffered disability, that if their earning capacity is affected that they can still realize something at the end of the day, even though they are not working. These are the benefits which are tied up in the life insurance product.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. A.P. THOMPSON: I have to talk about it because it is a very noble profession to have and which I enjoy.

It is a significant contributor to national development and, if you look into your Estimates, you will see there is a department of Supervisor of Insurance and then, if you look at the national income, you will see that, up to the end of 1992, over \$582 million, over half a billion dollars were contributed to the invested assets of life insurance companies in Barbados. We do not come and ask for concessions. We do not come and ask for concessions. We do not ask for special incentives. We have a scientific product and we have maintained our integrity. I want to commend it to all fellow Senators in here.

Foreign business. We have heard a lot of talk about foreign business. Some people believe you have to be all kinds of experts to discuss foreign business. But at this stage, I am looking at the national objective. I should like to see foreign businesses in this country as joint ventures. I want to see more Barbadians involved in these businesses, not as employees only. I want them to be part owners of these businesses. I believe they will assist us in that, there are certain skills which we do not have here, but by having joint ownership, there are some skills and knowledge in other areas which we could gain from being involved in joint ventures.

I think we have spent too much on education to be producing employees only. I am talking about the informatics section now. I believe that after we have sent our children from 1st to 5th form that there can be more than people inputting information. That is basic. That is the bottom end of the informatics sector. We have sent enough people to the university that they should be developing programmes. I think there are things that we can develop in Barbados for foreign exchange. I do not know why we would not try to explore our creativity.

I thought of Sir Garfield Sobers and I thought of Suki King and then I started looking at our human resource in this country. I said to myself, you know if we had enough creative Barbadians with the amount of education we have, by now we would have something like Nintendo all over North America and Europe with Sir Garfield Sobers teaching people to play cricket. Do you know that by now we could have given all of Suki's special moves a name other than draughts. We could even have called it Suki and probably have a home video game, cartoons and whatever of this thing going on.

We are talking about earning foreign exchange. I am looking for alternatives to casino gambling. I believe that one of the things we can do is explore the creativity of our

people and get into these areas. Nobody can tell me, that in this country, we do not have Barbadians who can do that. Maybe we have not thought about it. Maybe we can let Senator Goddard teach them, because I recognize that he likes the computer a whole lot. But we really need to look at these things. We need to change our attitudes. We do not have to be follow pattern. We do not have to do things the way people are doing them. We are not going to realize our national objective just by being another nation, another group of people in a so-called Third World just following and doing everything everybody else is doing. We have to find something, a niche. We have to get into an area which will give us an edge. People talk about the Singaporean model. I do not think they want us to be like Singapore. But what I think they are saying to us is that there must be something we can do, as a people, that can give us the edge, that can propel us so that we can be recognized once and for all out there and that we can hold our own, that we would not, some time down the road, find ourselves at the mercies of IMF, IDB or anybody, for that matter. Because we need to understand something. As much as we try to manage our resources, we have already created a certain culture in this country. I think Senator Rickinson touched on it this evening. We have created a culture in this country in which our people look to the state for many things. Although we have political independence, I think that we have to accept that the culture of dependency is still present.

4.35 p.m.

I think we have to accept that the culture of dependency is still present. It is not something that we can change overnight. We have to work at it. But I believe once we have our people where their self esteem is sharp, where they feel a particular way about themselves, where we believe that in them is the ability to realise their potential and that there is no need for any Government to do it for them. That is the stage we are working towards. These are things I want to see happen in this country.

I have to deal, Mr. President, with the boast, the loud boast about the foreign reserves in this country. I have to deal with it because on the one hand we boast about the foreign reserves but on the other hand we run down the former Government for the measures which had to be taken for the foreign reserves to be there. I have to talk about it because I do not believe you really understand what is responsible for it. It is the sacrifices of Barbadians, the many things we speak about which have been so wrong, it is the cutting back in the number of areas, it is aiming to reward people on productivity and not just to be giving out increases. It is all of these things which have contributed.

We need to recognise that the only way we can have foreign reserves is if we earn them, if we save foreign exchange or if we borrow foreign exchange and in this boast I have to ask the question: What has the

Government done so far to earn it? You cannot come in here and want to boast on the one hand that you have this amount of foreign exchange that you can pay this debt and not bat an eyelid and then on the other hand want to run down those people who suffered and the people who put the sacrifices in place and who suffered too because they lost the Government. When we boast about the foreign reserves of this country we have to be careful. We cannot speak one way with one half of our mouths and then speak the other way with the other. If we are going to boast about them then we will have to give the credit where it is due, to the past administration that was brave enough to tackle what was a never ending problem.

Problems were in our productive sectors from as far back as the seventies. There are documents to substantiate that we had problems in our productive sectors from the seventies. There are documents to substantiate that the Minister of Finance, in the late seventies, in the period between 1976 and 1978, when the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister of the day was asked to put certain things in place to correct these problems in the productive sectors; that those measures were not taken; that we continued to make Barbadians believe that we have some well somewhere in the back of Barbados; that there was no problem; that we could go and pull money and have it available to do all of these things. We never said to them that we were using other people's moneys. We never admitted to them that we were borrowing our way. We never said to them that we were having a standard of living in this country that we could not afford. We never said these things to Barbadians.

When it reached the point that we could no longer borrow we had to take measures. I am not going to come in here and cry and bellyache every day because we lost a Government. You have it, get on with the job. Boast about the foreign reserves. I am not blaming you. It is the Government of Barbados, 256 000 Barbadians.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, may I also remind you that you have about 2 minutes left.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir. At the end of the day let us all accept that we have a Barbados that we should now build on. That we have managed to correct the imbalances; that this Government has not inherited a lopsided and slanted Barbados; that it now has the opportunity to put its charter for change on top of the remedial measures which were taken in Barbados over the past few years. My challenge to this Government therefore is to go forward. Lead the way. State the national

objective. Make sure that it is communicated effectively and that Barbadians are in tune with it.

I do not think, Mr. President, that our Estimates really and truly address these things as much as I would like to see. I eagerly await the Budget. I know I am not going to get the opportunity to talk about it in here but I can talk about it elsewhere. I hope that at the end of the day we can all have a Barbados of which we can all be proud, that our children and our children's children can continue to be proud about our Barbados despite some of our difficulties. I thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move that this sitting be suspended until 5:00 o'clock this afternoon.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 5:00 p.m. today was put and agreed to.
4.44 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Appropriation Bill and to speak under Head 28 and Head 35, which essentially is the new restructured Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business. This is one of the Ministries which indicates the new thrust of this Government, which will change the direction of economic development and which will change, and has changed, the method in which the Government works.

The Ministry in which I have great honour to serve, Sir, operates very closely with the Ministry of Industry and Business Development. We also operate very closely with several other Ministries, because we recognise that in the development of business, be it the offshore business or the international business, we need to take care of several aspects to meet the demands of the international business community and that we do need to restructure and redirect our training and our education. We need to strengthen our health facilities and we need to do so in concert with those Ministries and to get those Ministries to understand how important the delivery of their services is to the clients that come to Barbados to establish international business operations.

I know that Senator Mascoll is somewhat amazed that we might be able to deliver enhanced services with the Estimates that we have produced, and he is looking at the finite figures that are in there, but I think he will have to recognise, Mr. President, that this Government is

utilising the funds more efficiently, with greater levels of accountability and we are just not throwing money at problems to solve them, but that we are making structural changes within Government to better manage those funds and to bring new technology to bear throughout the Public Service to deliver more efficient services to the wider public of this country. Therefore, Sir, this Government is about spending the taxpayers' dollars much more efficiently and with greater effect.

Senator Thompson keeps admonishing us to look forward and not to look back, and we do look forward, and I take her admonishment on board. We should not waste too much time looking back, because the future is in front of us and the past is behind us and we will not see it again. However, it is important that we know our history, or else we will be doomed to repeat it, and therefore we have to understand the causes and the wastefulness and how it impacted on Government so that we can be more determined to reduce waste, to reduce redundancies and to use our money as efficiently as possible for the good of Barbadians and for the development of our country.

Essentially what we are embarked upon is the creation of a culture of excellence using the latest state-of-the-art technology to assist us in every sphere of social and economic activity. It is a customer driven process. We are looking at the demands of our customers, that is, the people in St. Andrew, St. Lucy, those that arrive at the airport and those that come in through the harbour and the people of Bridgetown. We then collaborate and with the interaction of the other Ministries, the service Ministries, we arrive at the human resource needs that we will have to have, the development of those human resources and plan the future.

Senator Mascoll asked us where the informatics business was going and whether we understood it. Well, I have some brief knowledge and acquaintance with informatics businesses, having run one for about a year, but that was on the periphery. The informatics business has great potential for Barbados and it is being developed and it is being pursued through the Industrial Development Corporation with the assistance of the International Business Unit.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business also has responsibility for telecommunications and we are clearly aware that efficient cost effective telecommunications are essential in the development of not only international business, but our on-shore businesses we have here in Barbados. We are in constant negotiation with BET and Bartel to reduce rates and to improve systems. Once again, you must be clearly aware that we are somewhat fettered by what I consider to be an ill-considered agreement that was signed by the last Government in 1991 or 1992 when it sold its shares in BET and Bartel to Cable and Wireless.

Mr. President, we are working to make sure that Barbados' telecommunications will be state-of-the-art and cost effective and probably the most liberal regime in the Caribbean. I am convinced that by the end of the year we will see the fruits of our labours in that regard. Already telephone rates and data rates are coming down, already the technology for transmitting data has improved as Bartel has taken its modem speed from 4800 BAUD to 9600 BAUD and I expect them to go to 14.7 very shortly and shortly to be followed by 19.2 or 28, so this is moving quickly.

There are other things which are being negotiated and therefore I am not at liberty to talk about them in this Chamber today, but you will be hearing more about this.

It would appear, from the comments of the Honourable Senator who spoke for the Opposition yesterday and inadvertently or prematurely referred to his party as the National Democratic Labour Party, that he and his party have not yet learnt the lesson. They still do not understand the economic ruin that they have wreaked upon the economy of Barbados. There are several glaring examples of this and we have all heard about Sherbourne, to the point where we really do not want to hear about Sherbourne any more, but it is an instructive lesson in how not to create a project, how not to conceptualise, how not to manage a project and how not to finance a project.

Sherbourne was born without any clear objective in mind. It was born as an amorphous concept with no finite limitations. It was born without consultation and it was born in secrecy. It was then implemented and it went on in a very unstructured manner and the construction started and stopped, and started and stopped. The plans were incorrect and parts of the structure had to be demolished and started back again. The estimates for the cost of that project went from \$20 million to \$25 million to \$40 million to \$45 million. Then it went to \$55 million and \$60 million and one outlandish estimate hit it as high as \$75 million, and while these estimates were moving so were the moving targets of what the thing was supposed to be. It was a conference centre, it was an examination hall, it was to be an auditorium, it was to be a meeting place. It was unreal, it was ill-defined. Today we find that it is \$90 million and counting.

5.15 p.m.

The way in which it was financed has obscured finding out what the real figure is, because the expenditure was buried in various Heads and Ministries. Today, we have an unfinished building at \$90 million that is in a sad physical state. It is deteriorating more rapidly than any other new building in Barbados and it is still unfinished and the additional cost to finish is estimated at \$30 million more.

I go all through that to explain that in the same way that that massive project was undertaken and managed and developed the smallest projects were being managed in that same way. Whether or not it was repairing 200 yards of road where people would go and camp for 9 months and had to reel the road 3 times before the material arrived to fix the road, or the House of Parliament next door which has just dribbled on over 7 or 8 years. It is absolutely unreal.

Now I think that Honourable Senators should be aware that this is the reason why the money in these Estimates will yield a lot more for the people of Barbados under a new management and leadership dispensation. I have not even touched on the infelicities. I need not touch on the infelicities because the terrible mismanagement and the terrible planning should now be a legacy of the past, but we should also be sure that we never ever go through a period of history in this country like that again.

We wonder from where the new investments are going to come. Let me tell you, Mr. President, the new investments are going to come from a confidence and a new sense of optimism which has been so strong since September 6, 1994. It is something that has the power of that vast electric storm that greeted the new Administration of Barbados on the night of the 6th and the morning of the 7th. That is where the investment is going to come from. Business is about confidence and this Government has created the confidence, has created the openness and has created the obvious willingness to work in comfort with Barbadians in all walks of life to create a better economy for the future.

As usual Senator Davis spoke with an elegant and impassioned conviction. This time, she addressed the issue of education and the need to change the paradigms and the structural elements of the educational system. We agree with her. The Minister of Education is clearly of the view that investment has to go into the primary schools. We have to strengthen the primary schools in this country and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business is of that view as well and we will assist her in finding assets which will allow us to go beyond what are in these Estimates. We are going to be creative. We are going to find assets to bring to bear on a greater push and input into the primary school system for the future.

I am sure that the Honourable Senator would be well aware that the assets to be used for Government are not just embodied in this blue book. We intend to get the business community involved. We have already done so. We have launched a green programme with the international business community to fund various environmental projects around the country where people can see and visibly connect with those projects and identify

with those projects. It will create employment. It will beautify the country and it will add value to the tourism product that we have in this country. That is the sort of thing that this Government is involved in doing.

I understand well the comments made by Senator Thompson about the stigma attached to technical drawing in schools. In fact, in 1948 the same stigma was attached to those who went and studied business, but one must be cognisant of the fact that the best brains in a society will always go to where there is the best return or where there is the best status or a combination of the two.

When you gear your educational system, you also have to understand how people must be rewarded and how you must treat them in a society. That is the sort of thing that this Government understands well – Government by Leadership.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Business has slim resources and it has very little with which to work, but we do have excellent people and we have the drive. The rate of foreign business formation right now is the highest rate ever in the history of Barbados. What we are doing is coordinating our marketing to a higher degree than ever before so that we use our resources from the Central Bank, international business and the IDC more effectively.

The Ministers are committed to the development of this business and it has shown in the offshore business communities' acceptance of Barbados as a destination. I agree that successive governments have contributed to the offshore business, but this Government brings a greater focus, a greater energy level and a greater consistency to developing the product. It is showing in the monthly business formation in this Island.

The Estimates are very conservative about the contribution of the offshore business to the revenue of Barbados and I am sure that when the Prime Minister reviews the Estimates in September he will recognise this.

I am going to come to the area of health. Health is an extremely important aspect and the delivery of health services is an extremely important aspect to the support of both the offshore business as well as tourism. We have heard a lot about St. Joseph Hospital and I am not going to get into that one, because it has been adequately covered by many Senators who well recognise the extreme wastefulness that occurred in that exercise.
5.25 p.m.

There is something that Senator Thompson said that struck me in the area of health and it was her great concern for the level of AIDS in our society. I can tell you that every one of us is very concerned about it. I cannot

but forget who it was that unceremoniously expelled one Dr. Schlosberg, in a culture of paranoia and xenophobia, when the man stated the facts as he saw them. I now understand that Mr. Schlosberg's statistics are now deemed to be conservative. I take no pleasure in saying that. It is a terrifying statistic. But one must recognise how we accept criticism or statements from people who basically wish us well but happen not to be born here. We get so defensive that we reject the information that we are given and we do not act as we should act on the matter.

Mr. President, I must say that the Schlosberg incident was an extremely regrettable one. In time, those who were most vociferous in repudiating the stance that Mr. Schlosberg took and the statistics that he presented to the country have come to agree that Schlosberg was right, but the man has been expelled and that has gone the way of the past. What I am trying to do is to recognise how certain things happen and to recognise that while much is said in criticism which should be taken as support there seems to be an element of forgetfulness about the past which could almost border on hypocrisy. I think that we should be mindful of the type of criticism that we get.

Quite frankly, I have been very appreciative of the majority of comments of Senators who have pointed out the shortcomings of educational systems, the health system and other social services that we have. This Government is committed to correcting those deficiencies. We have specific plans in place that are yielding results even as I speak. When I get criticism I like to hear an alternative suggestion about how to fix something. I just do not like criticism for criticism sake.

I think that in this Estimates debate we have heard much about how this Government could not perform with the Estimates that we have presented. I think if you understand that we would probably get between 20% and 25% increase in efficiency on the money spent, you will see that Barbados has come a very long way indeed. In that regard I see a bright future for this country, a vision of a future with opportunity for more and more students.

We are already embarking on, and several companies are writing software, graphical interfaces, selling to the overseas market, delivering their products on time with a better quality than the standard set. They are reaching the international marketplace. These people are growing rapidly. They are getting the impetus from this Government to rapidly expand their systems. Though they did not just start, certainly the rate of growth is now on the way to truly remarkable productivity. We are talking about companies employing 100 people when a year ago they had 11 or 6 so I think you will see, Mr. President, that under this administration true growth is coming to this country.

Mr. President, I am pleased to support this Bill. I look forward to the development of Barbados in this coming year in what will probably prove to be a much higher rate of growth than what the Central Bank expects it to be.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, during the course of the last year Barbados had severe problems of the nature of a shortage of water. Since December 1993 when this problem first started, we had a situation where between January and June of 1994 we only had 6 ins. of water. This problem particularly affected areas like St. Thomas, St. Andrew and St. Joseph. They had tremendous implications for economic activity in Barbados because you will remember that farmers were in a situation where animals were dropping down not just as a result of heat stress but from a result of the fact that pasture lands had dried up. There was even a situation where the water shortage problem was so severe that some unfortunate farmer had the mishap of having a situation where a pesticide got into the scarce water resource that he was holding and that could have almost created a crisis in the public service because that farmer was in chicken farming and all those chickens that had been processed had to be pulled back from the market in the interest of public safety.

The Barbados Water Authority responded to this crisis of water in this country by putting out a number of ads on conservation on the radio and television which largely went unnoticed by the general public. The situation was that notice or no notice the situation that we were in was a very severe drought, water was scarce and people were ignoring these notices and using the water. You could not blame them for that. I make mention of that because it had a lot of implications for economic activity in Barbados at that time.

We had a situation where the Barbados Water Authority had only two tankers and help had to be sought from the Pine Hill Dairy, Mount Gay and a couple more private sector concerns in Barbados in an effort to get the people in the rural areas supplied with water. One point two million dollars has been provided under Head 42, on page 22, if anybody wants to check it, for a water resource study to be conducted in this country. This is part of a survey to be financed jointly with the IADB. I want to commend the Government for allocating these resources to this project because when we take a serious look at the water situation in this country, we would be very afraid for the future if something is not done about it in a hurry.

I want also to commend the Barbados Water Authority which has allocated out of its own savings about \$19 million for the development of water resources in Barbados.

5.35 p.m.

We are utilizing, right now, about 95% of our underground water resources. We have to look for alternatives. The experts have determined that, perhaps, the most abundant source of our water reserves can be had from damming the surface run off in the Scotland District about 24 square miles and using this water to supplement the supply in the higher districts in Barbados where the water shortages tend to hit first. But before the attempt to go on with that idea, I want to get a look at what are all the alternatives available to us and what would be the cost. All these things are important.

But the point I want to make is that the Water Authority has responded by developing a well at Buttals, one at Alleynedale. But, at the end of the day, it would appear to the experts, that when these wells are fully developed that that is the end of the underground water supply to Barbados and we have to look for alternatives. This is why I am pleased to see that these funds have been allocated for this study.

The other alternative is one which I see in the long-term which is the desalination plant. There are probably 4 options for the types of plants that can be used. I am sure that the Barbados Water Authority has been looking in that direction. But we must stop for a moment and wonder what life would be, in any country for that matter, without a reasonable supply of fresh water.

I take the point made this morning by fellow Senator Rickinson, although I do not necessarily agree that the Government should place itself in a position where individuals in the society can believe that they pay priority to a telephone bill which is, as far as I am concerned, not necessarily an essential service, that they can give priority perhaps to paying their light bills because that is a private sector company who would probably cut the electricity off, if they do not pay it but believe that they can piggyback free on the Barbados Water Authority.

This Government is a caring Government and I believe that in instances where there are genuine cases of welfare that the Government would act with the heart that they have had all the time and make exceptions to those sorts of people. I have no fear, although the point is taken, that water is very, very important within the context of a good standard of living and the health services in Barbados.

The experiences of last year have placed us in a position where we must take a serious look at what we are going to do about our water resources. As I said, there are plans for augmenting of the ground water supply. There is prospecting at Porters and there is also the proposed use of the surface run-off in the Scotland District which generate something like 24 million gallons per day on an average rainfall of 60 inches a year. There is also, as I mentioned before, the plans for desalination but that is a measure that

I believe will be taken in the final analysis when all the other resources that we have which are less costly to develop are fully developed.

The Water Authority also recognized that there was a disparity in the distribution of the water supply in this country. They have resources in place to construct 2 transfer stations, one at Lears and one at Lancaster so that water can be transferred to these transfer stations to top up the reservoir levels that service the higher areas of Barbados like St. Thomas, St. Andrew and St. Joseph. But all this effort, investment of money and time in developing water resources would be a waste of time, if the Water Authority did not put a programme in place for leak detection. Last year one Radcom unit which is a specialized piece of equipment that can detect leaks in mains, very accurately, was acquired by the Corporation. My understanding is that 2 more are on order and should be here soon. This is part of a strategy, by the Barbados Water Authority to ensure that, having spent the money to develop these water resources that you just do not waste energy and water through leaks.

Last year, mains on the west coast were replaced to rectify 2 problems at once. There is a problem, as everybody knows, in the water supply in Barbados where there is a lot of rust from the old cast iron pipes and there is also the problem of leaks. Some of these old cast iron pipes on the west coast have been replaced by PVC piping which would, more or less, solve that problem or kill 2 birds with one stone, for want of a better term.

But the Water Authority has also looked at measures like metering. It is their philosophy that metering is not so much a measure of accounting but a measure of conservation. Because research has shown that there can be about a 30% reduction in water consumption by the installation of meters.

Aside.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: I do not hear that aside. The Water Authority also proposes to continue and to develop this suppression of demand programme by promoting the whole concept of conservation, giving incentives for use of rain water for secondary purposes, incentives for people who would invest in water storage facilities and also, there are plans to set up a public relations department in the Authority to sensitize the staff on one hand and the public, on the other hand, about the needs to conserve water in this country.

I want to commend the Government and the Minister for taking these bold initiatives to address the problem of water shortages in this island. It has implications for the tourism industry because a significant amount of

our water ends up in the cruise liners that come here weekly. It has implications for farming. It has implications for industry and we have reached a stage now where we are utilizing about 98%. We are barely breaking even between demand and supply. We need and I think they should be commended on putting these strategies and finance in place to look after these problems.

Mr. President, I also want to speak to the issue of housing. Within the last 8 years, if my memory serves me right, there was only a small effort by the past Administration to do anything about the housing situation in this country. There are some high cost apartments in Church Village in St. Philip. As far as I am concerned the only thing that the Ministers were concerned with then, within the context of a situation where the Ministry of Housing was reduced, they were not involved in any house building activities, the only thing that the Minister could find to do then was to walk into the housing estates, during the height of a prices and incomes policy, to demand increases in rental units from the same poor people who these people are supposed to be the defenders of. That hurt me.

When the Barbados Labour Party came to power we found no plans in place for housing development, in this country. You had a situation under the Structural Adjustment Programmes where people lost their jobs, they had salary cuts. That is not the point I want to address. But at that point in time, there was no confidence there that people would have wanted to invest in housing of their own because they did not know if they would have had a job tomorrow. The interest rates were put up in 1989 which made loans funding for housing a scarce resource. At that time you would have believed that, in a situation like that, that a caring Government would have taken the opportunity to provide low cost housing to give people an option of rather than purchasing a house, to rent low cost housing to help them through this difficult time. Nothing was done about it. That is a serious indictment on a Party that walked about this country talking about a Party which has love for the masses of poor people in this country.

But further than that, Mr. President, we had a situation at Cane Garden where housing development was started by the Venezuelans. The situation now is that 17 houses have reached the stage of ringbeam, about 50 are just out of foundation and there are 103 vacant lots lying there, at a time when a Government could have found money to waste on the Sherbourne Centre and could not address the needs.

5.45 p.m.

People talk about the American dream, but the Barbados dream is to own your own house. Let us face it. And the priority of any Government in this country must be to provide cheap housing and affordable housing for its

people. That is our dream. Worse than that, you know what they did? There are people who paid deposits on those houses and up to today have not received one cent back. But we have good news for them.

The Government is committed. As a matter of fact they have already had talks of local private sector contractors in a joint venture with Government and the decision has been taken that rather than sell the houses as they are, they will be completed and will be made available to the 16 000 people on a backlog at the National Housing Corporation who need housing in this country. Those are the facts.

There is more than that, Mr. President. Do you know what is so hurtful to me? It is that \$16.6 million was left in the housing credit fund after the Barbados Labour Party left Government in 1986 and the former Government did not even look at it. They left it there dormant while people in Barbados suffered for housing and they say they are a caring Government.

At Maynard's in St. Peter, the Government, through the National Housing Corporation, with funding out of this same Fund that was left dormant for 8 or 9 years are building 10 units at the cost of \$1 million to be funded by this Housing Credit Fund and the phase 3 would have 15 units and 7 service lots for sites and services at a cost of \$1.5 million. The terraced units would be financed, as I said before, by the Housing Credit Fund and the Housing Service Lots would be financed by some money that is in the National Housing Corporation.

Pondside: We left good plans for decent housing development at Pondside, one that would have transformed that area to a place where people would want to live. Mr. President, they went through with it in a reduced form but I am pleased today because the Government is committed to building 50 units there – 28 three-bedroom apartments, 14 two-bedroom apartments, 8 studio apartments and more important than that, 12 shops so that people who go into those apartments can have a sphere of economic activity for their own development. That is the policy of the Barbados Labour Party.

I want to commend the Chairman of the National Housing Corporation because I understand that the houses have serious aesthetic appeal that would uplift that area. The Barbados Labour Party is also committed to a serious programme of sites and services but the philosophy of the Government is that sites and services should be placed on the periphery of existing residences, developments, villages call them what you like to piggyback on the infrastructure that is already in place in those areas. This is a sensible way of doing it because you save on all the initial development costs.

At Haggatt Hall, at Husbands, at Corbin's Village, St. Andrew, at Mount Brevitor, at Airlie in Cave Hill, at Pilgrim Place, a total of 329 lots have been earmarked for sites and services. That is my idea of what a caring Government is about.

Mr. President, I only wanted to make mention of these areas to demonstrate the sensible way that the Government intends to address the problems facing the people who are least able to look after themselves in this country and who want to really realise the Barbadian dream.

Before I sit down I want to speak a little bit about tourism on the South Coast. I am a South Coast person. I want to commend the Government for meeting with the hotel owners in the Christ Church area, St. Michael and the West Coast as a whole and putting in place a rescue plan which would seek to address the issue of delinquency to National Insurance, Land Tax, Inland Revenue and at the same time provide a financial framework at which these hotels could improve their infrastructure and place themselves in a position where they would be able to get perhaps a 25% or 30% increase on the room rate because this is the only way that these hotels on the South Coast are going to come out of the slump they are in.

The important thing about these hotels on the South Coast is that they are Barbadian owned and we owe it to ourselves, and we ought to assist them in this measure. I am looking forward eagerly to the development of the St. Lawrence Gap. St. Lawrence Gap is an area in the tourist belt on the South where there is a proliferation of very successful black businesses.

Before I close I want to touch on agriculture because that is part of my pet area of concern. I want to call again. We have been calling in several quarters for a long time for something to be done about the situation at Oistins as it relates to ice. It is a waste of time for fishermen to have to leave Oistins, Christ Church, and go down to the fishing complex at the Harbour to wait in line for 3 or 4 hours to get ice then to head to the fishing banks. It is counter productive. It does not call for large outlay in capital it can be done by the private sector and I am looking forward eagerly for something to be done about this problem.

I also want to commend a group in that area called the fisher folk who have taken the initiative of self-help to develop a situation in Oistins where they brought together a lot of communications equipment, housed in one place, where they can keep in constant contact with the fishing fleet off the coast of Barbados. This is a very valuable service and I want to commend their self-help. I want to urge the Ministry of Agriculture, they have been kind enough to give them a location in the fishing complex and I want to urge them to provide a grant for them to help

them to carry this programme that they have started down the road. It is a very good programme and I compliment them on it.

I also want to call on the appropriate authorities to do something about the stretch of area to the north of the fishing complex which has been there for the last few years in a state of disrepair. It needs paving. It is an eyesore.

Lastly, I want to urge that in the not too distant future, facilities are provided at Oistins for the repair of fishing boats.

5.55 p.m.

It is not difficult for me, Mr. President, to commend fellow Senators to support this Appropriation Bill.

Thank you.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, when the evening shadows have fallen and all of the batsmen have scored runs, it is only left for the bowlers like Curtly Ambrose and Walsh to come in and . . .

Aside.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: . . . not swipe, make a modest contribution to the runs if they get an edge. So, Mr. President, I want to be a little philosophical, if I may be, and look at the whole question of the Appropriation Bill in terms of quality life.

In the Heading of the Bill it says that the purpose of the Bill is for the grant of a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and the appropriation of the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1996. I think it is important, Sir, that we all understand not only what this Bill is about but what every Bill is about. That is the purpose of the Heading of the Bill, and in this Bill I find three main or operative words, which are the words "grant", "appropriation" and "service".

The word "grant", Mr. President, can be used in this sense to bestow a right or possession of something, which suggests that in the passage of this Bill there will be bestowed upon the Government the right to appropriate, that is, to take possession of a certain sum of money for the service of the people of this country. It is necessary for us to understand the whole question of service there, because service there suggests strongly that the Government from time to time is a servant of the people and not an owner of the people. So it is important for existing Governments and aspiring Governments, and expired Governments, to remember that their role, their function is to be a trustee or a steward for the people of the country.

It has been said, Sir, that these Estimates are about figures. That is partially true, because first of all Estimates by their very definition create the fiduciary relationship between the Government and the people, which is that same stewardship or trusteeship, and this brings accountability. It is important that every Government knows that it is accountable to the people of Barbados. Accountability brings integrity, accountability ought to cease squandermania, accountability ought to set a Government thinking wisely and having vision and having the total interest of the total people at heart.

Senator Goddard said that we should put Sherbourne in cotton wool. I do not think he really means in the past, in cotton wool. I have always refrained from making some of these statements, but today and from yesterday I felt I had to say a little about Sherbourne, because Sherbourne is planted in an area where Senator Odle and myself had our more youthful days. Sherbourne was one of those spots, Mr. President, where I fired my gutterperk to shoot wood doves. I was not from a family who was fortunate enough, as some others were in the area, where my father could give me a pellet gun. Others had the pellet gun, but I remember combing those gardens and the gardens of Ilaro Court as a boy, watching always for the two white terriers which were owned by Mr. D. V. Scott, who was then the owner of Sherbourne. So it pains me, Mr. President, where a Government can be so concerned about leaving for the people of a country a mass of white elephants, of which Sherbourne is one.

Sherbourne is one of those white elephants which the common people of this country are afraid to approach, because from the front it seems so glamorous, and they are afraid to approach it from the back because there is contrastingly the rusty, foreboding and forbidding nature of it. Accountability ought to put these things to an end.

Secondly, Mr. President, outside the question of the fiduciary relationship Estimates tell a story. They are more than figures, because there in the explanatory notes we find the terms of the trust which is created, we find there what the Government intends to carry out for the benefit of all of the people, and so these Estimates are not money, these Estimates are about life, quality life. This is what we are truly examining in the Estimates, more than a mass of figures. We are examining the road the Government intends to take and the manner in which it intends to follow that road in bringing quality life to the people of Barbados. The Government in its Manifesto, which it proudly and correctly states is a social contract with the people of Barbados, shows its intention to bring this quality life to the people of Barbados. It is replete from cover to cover with examples of its intention to bring quality life. It begins on page 3, Mr. President, with the Heading "Change and Choice" and it speaks about the people's crusade, and at the bottom it says:

"It is only through the full development of the potential of our people that we will be able to meet the needs, expectations and aspirations of all our people;"

[not some, all]

and to put our country in a strong position to compete with the best of the world, and be strategically placed for entry into the twenty-first century."

6.05 p.m.

you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly." But that requires an obligation to the people as well.

Therefore, I challenge the Government to continue to fulfil its mandate to the people in the manifesto. Quality life, Mr. President, is the realisation of the fullest expression of the whole potential of an individual, physically, spiritually academically, emotionally, ethically, financially; but only so in accordance with the several innate abilities the Creator has given each individual.

It is necessary for the people of our country to understand that every individual will not appear to have the same success in life, but there is a specific success which can be reaped from each life if opportunity is given to understand that life and to develop the qualities which are hidden there.

So, Sir, I just want to briefly speak on a few Heads which I term under the head of "Health", "Education", "Cooperation and Wealth".

Health, Mr. President is the one commodity everyone needs. Without health even if we have wealth we can do nothing. Mr. President, we can have "pre-natal health". I term that pre-natal and I know much has been said about it today so I will not dwell on it, but the whole question of birth control and family planning, promiscuity and the spread of Aids have been aired sufficiently and I think everyone understands where everybody is coming from in that sense.

I feel, Mr. President, that we publicise things rather than promote them. There is a vast difference between publicising and promoting so it is not enough

for the Family Planning Association or the Aids clinics or anyone in any act of promotion to just advertise. The essence of what we are advertising, when properly sold to the hearers and the viewers, becomes promotion; and we have been falling short by only advertising and not promoting the whole question of size of family and that type of education so that we do not have these uncontrollable families which bring the necessary burden on the family institution itself as well as upon the Government. If proper pre-natal advertising and promotion are done, we can eradicate some of the problems in our society.

Sir, then there is the "post-natal". After we are born, there is need for us to have that good health. I just want to mention the question of the Accident and Emergency Unit of the Hospital and the polyclinics. There is much criticism given to the Accident and Emergency Unit of the Hospital. It is so easy to say that people have sat there for long hours and have got absolutely no care. What is needed is for the appropriate Ministry to make it abundantly clear through education that that Unit is exactly what it says - Accident and Emergency.

It is possible that one of us may put our hand the wrong place at the wrong time and get a slash on a finger which is maybe just small. That is an accident. It can be treated there but, on the other hand, that individual may be carrying a sore foot for six years. That is no accident, nor is it an emergency. That treatment can be given at the polyclinics.

I feel that in the long-term it is necessary for us to look at upgrading the facilities of the polyclinics so that the polyclinics become better institutions than they are at the moment. It would be necessary to look at having more doctors and nurses there. It may be necessary to look at staggering the opening hours, maybe give a rest period between two and five and work on until ten and eleven at night. Eventually, perhaps 24 hours per day. But the point is that they will then be able to fulfil the role for which they have been established and ease the unnecessary congestion at the Accident and Emergency Unit.

Then, Mr. President, there is the "after life", and I understand that during my absence this morning before I arrived that the whole question of an establishment of a crematorium was dealt with. I give full support to those Senators who have raised that already. I feel that the time has come when a crematorium must be established in this country by private enterprise. I see no reason why in Grenada and other places of the Caribbean those facilities can be made available through private enterprise and we want to be governments who control everything and do everything upside down.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, on a point of explanation...

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I have not given way. I am on my feet, Mr. President.

Mr. President, the question of education has been exhausted very thoroughly and I will not at this late hour go into that in any further detail but just to say that I agree with the sentiments which have been expressed and give my full support to those sentiments.

When we come to what I call "Co-operation," that area of co-operation covers those aspects of the Government's business which are necessary for what I call the life support systems which assist us together as brothers and sisters in community in understanding one another for who we are and what we are. I would like to say that the emphasis there must be on our youth because the young people of today are the men and women of tomorrow; but we must go further than that and recognise that they are also people of today. We tend to wait until tomorrow after they have grown to try to make something of them. We have to deal with them today.

6.15 p.m.

There is need for us to bridge the generation gap. No, not the generation gap but the communication gap. That is where the problem is. I deliberately put it that way for attention. The gap is a communication gap. All of the atrocities which we are experiencing throughout the land among our youth are but symptoms of disease which exists in our country. It is the rebellious nature of youth at work in society. That rebellious nature needs to be harnessed. That rebellious nature is in every born individual but needs to be harnessed at a tender age. We have to bend the tree from early.

There is need, Mr. President, for us to emphasise the importance of the youth in our community, to understand their needs, to understand how they are crying to us by these symptoms which we are seeing. It is necessary for us to give them a sense of self-awareness, self-esteem, self-motivation, self-development and self-sustenance. Therefore we need to apply three areas of activity, what I call the "corrective activity". We need to discipline our young people from early so that we may mould their character, confidence and the control of their lives.

We need also to have what I call "collative activity" where there is opportunity for us to understand what is planted in each young person and to help that young person to understand also what is there in his or her life so that those different talents and abilities may be harnessed, nurtured and developed. It is when we can spot what is in an individual that we can groom that individual

for worthwhile citizenship rather than enforce on that youngster what we feel we want for that youngster.

To give a case in point, a few years ago in Dominica I met a lady who is now in her 50s. Her father was one of those old diehard school masters who, when she was aged 14, was telling her she had to be a lawyer. The end result was that at age 14 she had a stroke and has been impaired for life. We impair the lives of our young people with not necessarily that type of stroke but by crushing the abilities that lie there because we cannot spend enough time to understand who that individual truly is. So we need to have that "collative activity".

Then we need to have "collective activity"; activity which teaches the youngsters that they are each other's keeper; activity which teaches the youngsters that they are able now to come into the world and to compete with each other as opposed to against each other so that they learn to disagree agreeably and create a healthy and wholesome fellowship among themselves.

Then we need "creative activity"; that activity which will meet the youth in his or her talent and which will assist the youth in transforming those talents into creative activity, into worthwhile programmes and projects, into sustainable development where they can see the fruits of their labour, where their aspirations can materialise and be marketed and mastered and where they can gain monetary reward.

Where we have failed in this country, particularly among the black individuals, is what I call the "continued activity". If we look back at black history we would discover there have been several black businessmen in the 40s and coming upwards who have had good businesses. Where are they today? They have died with them. We have forgotten the process of continuity. We have forgotten that the book of wisdom, Ecclesiastes 1:4 tells us that "one generation passes away and another generation comes but the earth remains forever". It suggests to me very strongly that we need in each era to ensure that all we have earned, whether it be academically, politically or physically, we cannot carry it with us but we must leave it with the others. It is necessary for us to spend that time with the youth that they may in truth and in fact be the next succeeding generation.

Mr. President, we have dealt earlier today with the whole question of restoration of family. I just want to say, Sir, as far as that is concerned, that we need to recognise the importance of the male in the family. There are so many families with absentee fathers. This syndrome comes down and is handed down within the household because a young boy grows up, he does not see a father in the home, he has no male dominance, no male control and this becomes a recurring decimal. We have given over the past

years much concern to the development of the status of women. The time has come when we must give concern to the development of the status of men.

I turn at this stage, Mr. President, to the question of law and order. I would like to deal briefly with the question of the Prisons. Under the Head of Prisons – it is found at page 109 Subprogramme 1 – The broad heading deals with corrective and rehabilitative services. This is good but we still need in our society to overcome the stigma when an individual leaves prison. It is heartening to see on television how Mike Tyson has been released from prison into the hands of his waiting brethren to be comforted and to be restored to society. We are in a small community and we cannot go from Christ Church in the south to St. Lucy in the north and be unknown. It is more difficult for us to be absorbed into society, so there is need for us to forge ahead with the legislation which allows certain offences to be wiped off so that those persons who have paid their debt to society can be restored and re-absorbed into our community as worthwhile citizens.

Under Prisons, Mr. President, I want to touch on the question of capital punishment. There are so many views put forward on the whole question of capital punishment but I want to say that capital punishment and our criminal justice system has taken its rise from the Mosaic law at a time when the Ecclesiastical as well as the civil law were one.

Back in the Book of Numbers it states very clearly the distinction between what we now term manslaughter and murder. It states very clearly there that for the offence of murder an individual must be convicted by corroborative evidence, not just the evidence of one but two or more witnesses. It is the system we still have today but it goes further and it states that the murderer should be put to death. We have difficulty in this age in accepting the fact that the laws on our statute book relating to murder where death is the penalty that that law can be and must be adhered to. We need to re-establish in this country the absolute necessity for the supremacy of the rule of law and order. We are too fast and have too fast become an indisciplined society and the value of life has been cheapened. The average youngster will tell you, "I do not mind fixing you up and spending a couple of years up there because they are not going to hang me".

I support the Attorney General in his unstinting efforts to ensure that the statutes of this country relating to hanging are carried out.
6.25 p.m.

Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have gone so right that they have put us wrong. If I may quote, Mr. President, from Hendrickson's Pulpit Commentary, Volume II at page 453. I will

not make the whole book a document of the Senate. I need the book. But I will make copies a document of the House.

Mr. President, he states there that:

"The reason for that Mosaic law relating to capital punishment is that a crime perpetrated in a country defiles the whole country."

The whole land becomes corrupt because one individual commits a murder. He says that the second reason for it is that the death of the offender does 2 things:

"It ensures that justice is satisfied and the honour of law is vindicated."

Thirdly, he states, Mr. President, that the third reason for the law is because:

"murder is a dishonour to God for it defaces the image of God in man."

He concludes by stating:

"The true reason is neither the reformation of the criminal nor the protection of society. These are important objects and not to be overlooked. But the proper reason for the punishment is the vindication of righteousness in the land."

We need that righteousness again in this country.

And so, Mr. President, I give my wholehearted support to my friend and colleague in the profession, the Attorney General, in his efforts to ensure that, not only capital punishment, but all of the Laws of this country are carried out to their fullest.

Finally, Mr. President, on the question of "wealth". I just want to touch on the question of small business. It is a long time, Mr. President, long before September last year, that I have been concerned about small business. I think that at this time of economic decline and the challenges of world economic pressure, it is a grand opportunity for individuals to come into small business. When I say small business I really mean small business. Small business can be the backbone of our society again. Small business can be used skilfully and properly to educate our aspiring business people as to the true principles of business, management of business, conduct of business. Small business does not have to be centred around making a lot of money. Too many of us want to be grave diggers who start at the top. But we need to remind our young people that the grave diggers start at the top and they end up at the place prepared for the dead.

It is necessary for us to teach our young people that the next succeeding generation can reap the benefits of

what they have begun. Senator Goddard's family is an example of that, where families started and they grew and built on what was left by one generation. But we must start small. We must learn the rudiments of business before we can venture out into the deep. And so, Mr. President, I see that there has been some money allocated for small business. Unfortunately it is \$75 000 and I know that a start has to be made somewhere. But I hope that the day will come when a substantial sum would be made available to small business people on terms which they can easily reach and conditions which are affordable and conditions which give rise to their continued efforts to succeed in their small business.

Similarly, under the question of "wealth", the rural development programme, \$3 million have been allocated for rural development. But I notice, Mr. President, that there is a sum of \$1 million for structures. I recognize that structures are necessary. There is \$120 000 earmarked for grants to individuals. Again, Mr. President, I would wish that the time would come when those grants could be increased. I should like to urge the Government to give incentives through tax concessions to individuals and firms, corporations who would be prepared to be benefactors of rural development programmes and will be prepared to undertake some of the infrastructural areas of the rural development programme thus freeing up to Government some of that extra money which is spent in structure for the expansion by way of grants to individuals.

Just to say, Mr. President, on the question of tourism, Senator Lynch suggested that tourism should be pushed to that extent, that we need not worry too much with agriculture. But agriculture has its place and must have its place. Tourism is a more delicate industry than agriculture. For one epidemic, one disaster can sweep it out completely. We must continue on a path of mixed economy which has proven to be worthwhile and a blessing to this country over the years. A mixed economy which has allowed a variety of persons to be involved in the economic affairs of the country and to make a worthwhile living for themselves and their family, and to increase, on the whole, the well-being of our Barbadian community and the quality of life.

Mr. President, I think that, as we continue to focus on the importance of quality life, as we see that the goal of all Government is the betterment of people, as we keep our eyes fixed on that vision, then the dollars, the procedures, the experts and the methodologies will fall into place. Mr. President, I wish the Government well in its endeavours to bring back to this country stability, integrity, forward thinking and a good and better quality of life to its people.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gill.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, Sir, if I were here yesterday morning, at the raising of the curtain, gone home and come back this evening any time approaching 4.00 o'clock, I would have concluded that it was a fairy tale scene having heard the mellifluous and superfluous words of the Opposition Senators. Sir, it reminded me of a fairy tale. I have accredited Senator Mascoll with the skills of having written his symphony in C Minor not Major, Sir, with the old haunting theme that we have been hearing, week after week, the old hackneyed themes. And then, in the second half of his performance, he developed a new scale, a scale in M, M Minor. He was in the allegro mood. He moved from here to there, from agriculture to tourism to education and not giving any great thought as to what he was saying.

6.35 p.m.

Sir, so swift was he in moving that he acknowledged the formation of a new party, the N.D.L.P. And this evening, Sir, we were treated to a variation on what I call the Freudelian theme, philosophical, totally philosophical, hairy-fairy ideas and that theme was played out by none other than our good Senator, Senator Thompson. She closed, Sir, finally with an noctet, she sent us to sleep. Sir, she asked about foreign reserves, they had the opportunity to do it from agriculture, from offshore businesses, for which I cannot give them any credit. They heaped scorn upon the offshore businesses of this country. Sir, they presided over a tourism season which fell and continues to fall.

Sir, I think that the hardest Ministry, probably after Finance, this is my opinion, is probably agriculture. With so many trading blocs and with the weather patterns, *et cetera*, it is very difficult to predict and to come to any early conclusion as to how crops will perform. We heard Senator Laurie this morning in a very good display alluding to the performance of the various crops in Barbados.

This set of Estimates, Sir, as we have heard earlier on brings no frills, brings no thrills. Sir, it aims at bringing around the economy and correcting certain basic problems. For instance, Sir, we are putting a cap on the amount going into the BADMC as we have grown to call it. We will be only giving them \$1.2 million because when the two were merged it was proposed that the BMC could carry the load.

We know the amount of money that the BMC has been able to haul into its coffers by way of being the sole importer of that inferior sugar which was destined for Haitian pigs and I make absolutely no apology about it. It was brought in and after several complaints from the Barbados Labour Party we finally got a better grade from Guyana.

Sir, the people of Barbados decided to entrust the running of the country to the hands of the DLP in two time

periods, 1961 to 1976 and 1986 to 1994. That period has given us an opportunity to do both a quantitative and a qualitative analysis of what has gone down in the country during those years and we have noticed, the facts are there the figures are there. No amount of smooth talking can remove it. We have seen that agriculture is the Achilles heel of the DLP. Sir, we have seen that agriculture continues to be the nemesis of the DLP or the DLP is the nemesis of agriculture, I am not sure which.

When we say agriculture, Sir, we are talking about sugar and I am in no way going to advance any argument that sugar should be done away with. Senator Mascoll quoted and quoted and I am going to get back to some of the figures which he quoted. Sir, we know the contribution that it has made to the infrastructure of the country. We know the contribution that it makes to the environment of the country. You only have to leave St. Kitts and fly over to Antigua and you leave a very soft pastel landscape to be greeted by a dry and weather-beaten and arid topography.

Sir, we also know of the reciprocity between tourism and agriculture. When you have a country like Barbados in which there is a high foreign exchange input into tourism, quite often you have to draw down upon the receipts of the sugar. The two go hand in hand. Trinidad has oil and its oil by-products and it holds on to tourism. Jamaica has its bauxite, it is developing a better tourism product with time and it also is holding on to its sugar. Sugar still continues to be a major employer in Barbados and it is highly efficient, efficient in terms of if we really define efficiency as the ratio of output over input it is a very efficient earner of foreign exchange.

Sir, we know its contribution to holding the top soil. Only last week after those heavy showers that we had, as a result of some convectional heating, I was able to witness a lot of the top soil running into the sea and we know what has happened to the North of the country in recent months.

Certainly sugar is a commodity item, Sir, and like all other commodity items there are high times and there are low times. Sir, it happens with tin, it happens with bauxite, it happens with coffee and it has to happen with sugar. But, Sir, we had a Ministry, we had performance which was characterised by vacillation, nepotism, ad hocism, ambivalence, to put it mildly. In the mid-seventies the Barbados Labour Party travelled the length and the breadth, from Oistins to Pico Teneriffe, from East Point to the City and they warned the developers and they warned the Government of the time not to interfere, not to cut up, not to subdivide and today the history of Bagatelle and Neils and Rouens and Belle and Sandford and Ruby are there.

So, Sir, if that happened during that period then one would expect that when a DLP Government was returned in 1986, those who did not get through in the first

regnum rushed for some of the sweets in '86. They allowed their lands to lie idle to be subdivided. Speculation. Lots of the owners thought that was the best way to go, but, Sir, the Government of that day is also to blame because they are majority owners in the ADC lands.

For sugar to get back to any where from whence it came we must have sound direction.

6.45 p.m.

We must have a sound policy, we must not have flippant statements and insensitive statements. We have heard today over and over about the infamous cane blade, and when that is said some people rush to the fore to defend it. The man who made the statement did not, and would never, accept any explanation from any earthlings. He said it, he meant what he said and he said what he meant. He was a very firm man. We need positive comments, we do not need former Ministers of Finance coming and speaking in those terms of sugar estate owners, that they send their children to school in England and they buy race horses. Sir, if we follow the history of the sugar industry, we know it is very delicate. It is a delicate sociology, linking and culture which threads right through, so the least we make these attacks the better. We must also caution the unionists not to make such flippant statements as those which I have just alluded to.

Ministerial duplication. Sir, I must remind the Opposition Senators that there was a time when they had two Ministers of Agriculture and they had three within the space of two years. Work out the ratio, one point something per year. Two Ministers simultaneously. I am no economist, but I have here the Economic Report which was laid in 1994 for the year 1993. Senator Mascoll spoke yesterday about the 1980, 1981, 1982 period. If you look here, Sir, the graph slopes downward from 1980 to 1981, 1982 it dips a little further down, but then it started to rise – and this is the part Senator Mascoll conveniently eluded – it levelled off and it rose in 1986 and thereafter it fell and it fell and it fell until it reached some 45 000 to 48 000 tonnes in 1993. It was an opportunity to raise the foreign exchange to which Senator Thompson has been referring this afternoon. No amount of philosophising, no amount of soft and sweet and smooth talk could remove this. If you had given this graph to 11+ students and asked them which years were highest they would tell you 1980 and 1986. Sugar is a commodity item, it has to trade on the world market and I will tell you where we show commitment, where we propped it up in 1984. If you were to ask the students which was the lowest year they would tell you 1993 with respect to tonnage. This is a classic question for 11+ examinations.

Sir, you do not interpret the graph, if you cannot interpret graphs, it read like this: 97.5, 85.5 (82), 82.8 (83), 100.4 (84), 100.2 – listen to the climb – 111.1 (86), then it

starts to fall in (87) 83.4, 80.3, 66.3, 69.3, 65.7, 54.0, 48.5 and that final year was a decline of 10.2 over the previous year. This is what was said in the Economic Report 1992. I know the goodly Senator believes in the Economic Reports. He is doing his thesis and I am sure that this will form part of it. In 1992, following a 5.2 decline in 1991, output fell further by 17.8 to 54.0 thousand tonnes with respect to 65.7 in the year previous. This level was the lowest since 1921 – I do not hold a degree in economics, I am reading – when it was approximately 43.0 thousand tonnes. We thought that was the lowest, but this year we are looking forward for about 28 000 tonnes.

Listen to what it said regionally. During 1993 regional sugar production decreased by approximately 3% from 1992 levels to 730 000 tonnes, except in St. Kitts and Nevis where output grew by 3.9%. All others recorded declines in output. Listen to what they said for Barbados. Barbados recorded the largest percentage fall of 10.2%. It seems as if Barbados was the one which cumulatively brought it down to the 3.9. Sugar production which declined for the third consecutive year – you see, Sir, declined and declined, you thought you were doing Latin verbs. There was no conjugation, nothing to conjugate it with. You could not conjugate it with cotton. Cotton amounted to 48.5 000 tonnes, 10.2% below the output for 1992. A total of 441 000 tonnes were milled, representing a 16.5% decline below the 527.9 thousand milled in the previous year. Decline, decline, decline, Mr. President.

Sir, when you confront them about sugar, they move to cotton, and this is where they spun into an inextricable position. Look at cotton, Sir. A graph again. Put it to the 11+. In 1984 about 7 000, 1985 five times as much, 1986 135 000 tonnes, 1987, 175 000 tonnes. You did not plan in 1986, then it fell in 1988 to 100, 1989 to under 105, 1990 to something like 40 000, 1991 to 35 000, peaked in 1992 to 37 000. It almost went back from whence it came, and if you want it in figures, Sir, 7 000 in 1984, 37 000 in 1985, 127 000 in 1986, 172.9 thousand in 1987, then it comes to 119.4, 95.8 the next year, 49.4 the next year, 34.7 the next year, 45.9 the next year, 29.1 the next year, which was a fall of minus 36.6%. That is the foreign exchange you were asking about. If we ever were to draw a graph to show how these two compound, the negative amplitude, it is so tightly ratified we would run out of this Chamber were to superimpose one upon the other.

Sir, if you were to continue in this mould, one would never have thought that they supervised and – I almost said managed – the economy eight years earlier on.

6.55 p.m.

Sir, there is a term that you use when you get a positive flux and it holds for a period of time and then you bring a negative force and it falls off and it continues to fall off until that negative force is removed. There

is a looping kind of graph we could draw. That is what electrical engineers refer to as an hysteresis, a loss of energy. The people had lost energy. The people had lost money.

CARSICOT which had a Government input of almost \$10 million can never ever justify the position in which it ended. Both CARSICOT I and II.

When it comes to markets, which is now the qualitative part of agriculture, we saw the Democratic Labour Party allow our markets to decline again. We had a spanking new facility in Oistins and I have been to Oistins many an evening and seen people, after the fisherfolk begin to wash down, starting to make up their beds in Oistins. Had it not been for the return of this Party, the Barbados Labour Party, and Sir Harold making such a strong position for Oistins, it would have gone the same way as Fairchild Street. Fairchild Street, we know when the Barbados Labour Party demitted office, was ready for the other phase. I am of the opinion that what is now the back should have been the front. At least, it was in keeping with the development. It seems that they have something against markets but the markets off Fairchild Street, off Eagle Hall, off Bay Street and off Cheapside are like the Billingsgate, the Papines, the Stabroeks of Guyana. They allowed them to go to shambles.

A market plays a very important and pivotal role in the lives of Barbadians. Barbadians like to go to the markets and haggle for their fish and their vegetables, to see it fresh. It serves as a meeting place to see friends. It serves as a meeting place to discuss current affairs. Nobody who is into catering goes into a supermarket to buy their vegetables. You cannot, unless you are fairly wealthy. Those who do guava jelly go to the markets. Markets are known – the demographics. You hear people say they will go to Cheapside for fresh seasoning, to Eagle Hall for shaddocks, to Fairchild and Tweedside Road for sweet potatoes – which leads me, Sir, to some sort of little plug for that.

Sir, I say the nemesis of the Democratic Labour Party. Never ever since the mid-70s has the price of sweet potatoes risen to such an astronomical price.

Aside.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: You mean there was drought for cotton, drought for sweet potatoes, drought for sugar? When you get them there, Sir, they switch back to the livestock industry and we see how people just ran out of the dairy industry.

Sir, let us look at the citrus they talk about. I would like to ask them what happened with the citrus project at Bawden and the River.

Sugar and molasses. We had to import molasses. Sir, that is a shame. Have you ever heard of France importing grapes from San Francisco and then bottling it and saying it is from the Beaujolais region? What madness that would be, Sir. We had to import molasses for the first time ever. Look at what has happened in the short 6 months. The first thing the Honourable Prime Minister did was the relaxation of duties to agriculture and manufacturing. It continues to haunt them. They are trying to derail the Government by talking about the 30 000 jobs and it should be done in such a short space of time. We call that in school, in pitching terms, "chirping". You chirp the individual. You go around with a big goochie. Senator Workman nods his head. He knows that pitching was part of the extra-curricular activities at the College.

Sir, you must show commitment and the mere fact that we came in this Chamber earlier on to agree to the passage of an Act of Parliament, the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited (Sugar Bonds Guarantee) 1994. The mere fact that we have honoured an earlier commitment of the previous Administration to guarantee the purchase of bonds for payment of interest and repayment of capital to the tune of \$45 million is evidence of a Party with commitment to agriculture.

We have shown commitment by way of saying that Bulkeley must remain open, and I am not sure that it would have remained open had they the opportunity to continue to manage an earlier commitment as I had alluded to earlier. In 1982, when the price of sugar fell on the European market the Barbados Labour Party offered a price support to the tune of some \$40 million. This is as the ECU fell *vis-a-vis* the U.S. dollar.

Sir, if you talk with some old farmers as I moved around in the campaign, they told you about the subsidies and they spoke of the gentleman in friendly terms, in a real pally tone. They said "Grantley, God bless him in his grave" – subsidies. So you see it goes from way back then to now. That is why they have such great difficulty in maintaining their seats in rural Barbados.

Sir, a further commitment if you look at page 62(7)(13), we are coming to the assistance of those farmers who were affected by the drought. Senator Mascoll scoffed at that \$3 million. I know that it is smaller than some campaign funds but it can go a long way. You do not have to be dealing with tranches, currencies, devaluations. You do not have to be dealing with the convertibility of currency. I know that is the media that the goodly Senator enjoys, but he cannot understand how you can spend \$3 million when one of his Finance Ministers said he would lose no sleep over \$71 million. It is this kind of trimming and pruning that is going to form a major plank of these Estimates. Cut out the wastage.

Some weeks ago, Sir, the owner of a tractor came to me and he said, "Mr. Gill, after the decline in the economy I could not find any work for my tractor." He said the pump had burst and he showed me the letter where they were about to seize his tractor. He said, "All I need is \$3 000. There is work there for me to do." Sir, had the rural development fund been in high gear, who knows? A person like the gentleman to whom I have referred would be a recipient of those kinds of funds.

Sir, they do not understand how young people are experimenting and moving on. Hydroponics. A chap may only need sometimes maybe another \$1 000 for the pipe, the nutrient broth with setting up the actual box structure. It may just need \$1 000 to push off or maybe \$1 500 to repair a van to market products. You may just probably need a little bit of bitumen from the main road to where you are set up so that when you have heavy rains as you did over the last few days you would still be able to market your produce.

Sir, I have assisted a gentleman who had gone into the type of project which this rural development is underpinning, and this gentleman was using all indigenous ingredients. He was making a cream based liqueur – milk and rum. In the attempt, Sir, to improve the quality of his product he had to get hold of a water distilling piece of equipment which removes a lot of the extraneous matter and at the same time demineralises it. He brought me the booklet and asked me which one would I prefer. When I looked at the cost it was not anything more than U.S. \$1 500 to \$2 000.
7.05 p.m.

Sir, I have already alluded to markets. We have heard about the ice situation at Oistins but before I go on. I know that they do not live up to their Manifesto. Listen to the fun of their Manifesto:-

"A Democratic Labour Government will implement its plan to refurbish and upgrade the market facilities at the Cheapside, Fairchild Street, and Eagle Hall Markets as a matter of urgency."

Eight years did not do it. Would they have done it in the next term? Listen to their manifesto:-

"An area has already been chosen to locate a facility in Bridgetown to permit vendors access to first class accommodation, and provide for easy access between clients and vendors without causing traffic congestion and breaches of the law".

Fisheries continue to be an important and vibrant part"...

They had no respect for fishermen, Sir.

"Not only is it a source of food but it provides employment."

It goes on to say, Sir:

"Farmer organisations will be invited to participate in the equity financing of the project, and it will be established as a company run on strictly commercial lines".

This is talking about livestock.

On Fisheries, they will:

"carry out renovation including instillation of a chill room, freezer, repair of the ice machine, lighting and repairing the jetty fendering at Oistins.

This is why the Democratic Labour Party is committed to modernising the industry."

Sir, they spoke about rum and the facilities, *et cetera*.

Sir, I know time is against me now and before I come home it would be remiss of me not to touch on the Barbados Drug Service. It will be 15 years on the 1st. I think the whole contract needs to be revisited. It has put too much strain on the private owners of pharmacies. Senator Odle this morning told us about the 90 days, the 120 days and private pharmacies having to carry a load after the public pharmacies have closed at 4:35 p.m. They have to be there on holidays. They have to be there on weekends.

The private participating pharmacies continue to be the centrepiece of the Barbados Drug Service. They do not have a contract with an expiring date. Just as we have spoken about zoning students, it is high time to zone patients to pharmacies. It is no problem. It has been done in bigger countries. It can be done here. It is unfair that when you have a pharmacy close to a bus stand or a terminal that it bears that heavy brunt and especially if they have to wait 90 days. Name another business that carries Government's overdraft for that period of time. Just give them because in the Act it says that you can submit your claims within 15 days so you could submit today, tomorrow, 10 days or 14 days down the week. The Act says that.

Another way in which we could save the Treasury money is by having the patients use their Medical Insurance Plan. Lots of people have and subscribe

to medical plans on a monthly basis and they do not make full use of them. They throw the full weight on the Barbados Drug Service. Before the Drug Service was available people used to claim and this has to be done again. It has to be looked at.

I do not want to see again under this regime as we did some months ago under the old one where people turned up at the polyclinics and could not get a Panadol or a Paracetamol. They could not get a little Histal Elixir. When it comes to the actual wards there was a time you could not get Heparin. The goodly nurse would tell us this, the importance of Heparin and Dextran. You just could not get it. We want to see a more reasonable trading between the Drug Service and the private participating pharmacies.

Sir, I heard someone mention about fluorides in the water. I cannot let that one go by. Fluorides, as Senator Rickinson said, are already in oral wash form. It is already in the toothpaste. To put it in the water now we would be triplicating the whole campaign of fluoridation.

Sir, in closing, I know it is a difficult job to do after Senator Workman, after that sombre baritone voice but I must quote from Attlee for the goodly Senators of the Opposition:

"Nothing was quite so dangerous as a policy of weakness, drift and uncertainty."

Mr. President, with those words I support this Bill providing for the grant of a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and the appropriation of the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1996. I am most obliged, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise simply to thank Senators for their contribution to the debate.

I now ask that this Appropriation Bill, 1995 be read a second time.

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

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to ask that this Appropriation Bill, 1995 be read a third time and also to certify that it is a money Bill.

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

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Appropriation Bill, 1995.

The question that the Bill do now pass and be so cited 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. I would like to remind Senators that dinner is prepared for them downstairs.

I would like on behalf of the Senators to thank the staff of Parliament, Clerks, Deputies, the recorders and all those involved for their assistance and co-operation during this debate.

On behalf of the lonely representative who is still with us we would ask Him to convey to his colleagues our thanks for their full presence during the two days.

At this point, Sir, I beg to move that this sitting do adjourn *sine die*.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to. Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
7.15 p.m.

CONTENTS

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 240

- 1 The Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.
2. Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A to the following:
 - (a) American National Insurance Corporation.
 - (b) Surewest Insurance Company Ltd.
 - (c) Beach Reinsurance Corp.
 - (d) Compco Insurance Company Inc.
 - (e) Eastbourne Insurance Company Limited.
 - (f) Great Pacific Enterprises Insurance Ltd.
 - (g) Oxford Indemnity Company Limited.
 - (h) Langevin Insurance (Barbados) Limited.
 - (i) Langevin Holdings (Barbados) Limited.
3. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1993.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 240

Suspension of Standing Order 45(2) for the remainder of the Sitting.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 240

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1995 241

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 241, 353; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 246, 247, 248, 250, 252, 254, 258, 260, 262; Senator T. E. Barker, 263, 264, 267, 269; Senator Mrs. V. J. Davis, 270, 273; Senator Miss O. P. Symmonds, 274, 276; Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. Springer, 277, 279; Senator Miss C. Y. Forde, 280, 286; Senator N. A. Lynch, 287, 288, 290, 292.

RESUMPTION (Tuesday, March 28, 1995) ORDER NO. 1 (resumed)

Senator Miss J. C. Odle, 293, 297, 298; Senator C. K. Laurie, 301, 304, 305; His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden, 306, 307, 309, 312, 314; Senator S. P. Bernstein, 314, 315; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 316, 318, 321, 323; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 323, 325, 328, 330; Senator Mrs. A. P. Thompson, 330, 334, 335, 337; Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 338; Senator N. P. Welch, 341, 342; Senator J. A. Workman, 344, 346; Senator D. T. Gill, 349, 351.

SUSPENSIONS 263, 276, 293, 314, 338

ADJOURNMENT 353

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 353.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BARKER, Senator T. E.
BERNSTEIN, Senator S. P.
BOLDEN, His Honour Senator C. L.
DAVIS, Senator Mrs. V. J.
FARLEY, Senator the Hon. R. R.
FORDE, Senator Miss C. Y.
GILL, Senator D. T.
GODDARD, Senator the Hon. P. C.
LAURIE, Senator C. K.
LYNCH, Senator N. A.
MASCOLL, Senator C. A.
MURRAY, Senator the Hon. G. S. H.
ODLE, Senator Miss J. C.
RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P. E.
SPRINGER, Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L.
SYMMONDS, Senator Miss O. P.
THOMPSON, Senator Mrs. A. P.
WELCH, Senator N. P.
WORKMAN, Senator J. A.

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

SENATE

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, May 24, 1995 at 11.20 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 Development) (Leader of the Senate)

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

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

Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE

Senator 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 Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

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

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON

Senator C. A. MASCOLL.

Prayers were led by Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following communication from the office of the Ombudsman.

Your Honour,

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR BARBADOS FOR THE YEAR 1993

Section 13(6) of the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 88 provides that the Ombudsman shall in each calendar year prepare for laying before each House of Parliament a general report of his functions under that Act and Section 13 (9) provides that reports prepared pursuant to section 13(6) shall be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Assembly and to the President of the Senate who shall cause them to be laid before the House of Assembly and the Senate respectively.

In accordance with the provisions of section 13(6) and subsection (9) of Cap. 88 I have the honour to submit my Annual Report of my functions under the Act in respect of the year 1993. I should be most grateful if you would inform me when the Report has been laid.

I now lay the Annual Report of the Ombudsman for Barbados for the year 1993.

PAPERS

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

1. The Exchange Control (Sypher Mueller International Inc.) (Exemption) Order, 1995.

2. The Exchange Control (Authorised Dealers and Depositaries) (Amendment) Order, 1995.
3. The Public Enterprise Investment Fund Receipts and Payments Account for period March 31, 1994 to December 31, 1994.
4. The Betting and Gaming Duties Order, 1995.
5. The National Insurance and Social Security (Non-Contributory Old Age Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.
6. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1995.
7. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4) Order, 1995.
8. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5) Order, 1995.
9. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 6) Order, 1995.
10. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 7) Order, 1995.
11. Annual Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1994.
12. Report on the General Election 1994.
13. Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1992.
14. Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the Financial Year April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1994.
15. Economic Report 1994.
16. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1995.
17. The Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1994.

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

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of this day's 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 introduce the following matters to the Honourable Senate:

1. A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Halls Road, St. Michael for canalisation and road improvement.
2. A Resolution to approve the lease to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association of land at Wildey, St. Michael for the establishment of a swimming centre.
3. The Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

With the leave of the Senate, Sir, I will deal with two matters which have been disposed of by the Other Chamber yesterday.

4. Acquisition of land at Newton, Christ Church for the purposes of community development, and
5. Acquisition of land at Newton, Christ Church for the purpose of industrial development.

I wish to move, Sir, that these be read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, before we attend to today's Public Business, the Honourable Senate would wish to note, with regret, the death of the husband of one of our Members, Senator Peggy Rickinson.

I would like to move, Sir, that this Chamber do note its condolences to Senator Rickinson on the passing of her husband Geoffrey William Rickinson and I would ask, Sir that the record do reflect as such.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I rise on behalf of the Opposition to extend to Senator Rickinson our sincere condolences on the passing of her husband and I would like to, at this time, share with her something which I believe we have in common now, widowhood and what it is all about, and to remind her that only time can take care of this very difficult period and that with time she will regain her full strength and her ability to contribute at the level at which she is accustomed making her contribution to Barbados. I want to tell her that I remember her in my prayers and I hope that she will keep the faith.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with those condolences and on behalf of the Independent Senators I would also like to say to Senator Rickinson that I too can understand what she is probably passing through. I met Mr. Rickinson while I was a tutor at the Community College where Peggy worked. He was always a part of our institution. I saw him pretty frequently around the college and he has always been a gentleman. Of course I have to take the word of his wife who is the best person to know that he was a good husband. This of course would make it a little more difficult for Senator Rickinson to cope with the fact of his death but we all believe that with the necessary amount of faith and given time, because it is going to take time, she will be able to come to terms with the fact of his death. So, on behalf of the Independent Senators, I say again, accept our condolences.
11.30 a.m.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I join with other Senators and express my sincere condolences to Senator Rickinson on the passing of her husband. Unfortunately, I did not know Mr. Rickinson but I attended the funeral service at James Street Methodist Church and, from the eulogy read by his wife, I am sure he would be a very missed person in her life. She expressed her feelings towards him and his feelings towards her, the way they met and the close relationship which existed between them throughout the years. I am sure that it will be a very long time before she is able to overcome the passing of the person she cherished not only as a husband, as she said, but a fine companion and tutor. She could relate how most of her successes were due to the cooperation between her husband and herself and what she has achieved could probably have been caused partly due to her own intention, partly because of her own ability and also with the cooperation of a loving and faithful husband. These are difficult to overcome but one thing is known that everyone of us at sometime or other must pass through this phase of life. I would wish that she calls upon that resolve which she has shown in reading the eulogy, because I can understand how stressful and difficult it would have been for her to read the eulogy of her own husband bearing in mind the relationship which existed between them.

I would, therefore, like to extend to Senator Rickinson my sincere condolences and wish that she can quickly overcome the sorrows which would have befallen upon her with the passing of such a person whom she recognized in such glowing terms at the funeral service. I thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, permit me to express my thanks and gratitude for your condolences and also for the assistance given to me especially when Geoffrey was very ill, in particular by the staff of the Cancer Unit of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I was never aware that they perform such a function until my husband was very sick. They were always there. And,

those nurses in particular would say call me anytime of the day or night, I slept with the phone beside me, and they would check even after hours. This is a function that I never knew that nurses were performing in Barbados and I think that they require special attention and they should be put in a category above which they are functioning in that they are always there. Their work do not finish at 4 o'clock when the Cancer Unit is finished. Not a lot of people you can say this about. I think that when you meet a category of personnel who is performing a very specialized function like that and dealing with death and dying which is very stressful, society needs to reward them for their work.

As you know, I could not really sit down and be comfortable with you during the luncheon period *et cetera* because I had to leave and go home to give my husband the medication. He was in a lot of pain and I am glad that he is in no more pain. But I miss him terribly because I do not know where I will find somebody like that again. He was always there for me. When I returned from work, he would have the dinner prepared and before I could park the kettle was on and he was asking would I like a cup of coffee, sit down and relax. Those types of persons are very rare. Those spouses seem to be very, very rare and I recognize that. I am not praising him but, as you know, this was the second marriage. I did marry an African and I did live in Africa and I know people preach about going back to Africa. But unfortunately my experience in Africa was not like my experience with an Englishman. So, therefore, I think people need to keep their minds open about the various cultures and the various types of marriages.

Again, I would like to thank you for your condolences and I will take everything you said to hand. Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish to associate the Chair with the expressions of condolences on the passing of Mr. Geoffrey Rickinson and let us pause for one minute in silence.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPUL- SORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HALLS ROAD, ST. MICHAEL FOR CANALISATION AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the first item of business relates to the Canalisation Project which really dates back to the 1960's. The parcel of land concerned, property of Ms. Ida Davis, was partly involved in that project. What we are seeking today to do, Sir, is to regularize that particular matter which in part relates to the fact that some 16 pieces of land of some 3400 square feet, which approximately 1600

square feet were used, were apparently used in the canalisation of the Halls Road area and the remaining portion of the land was never really either acquired or utilized. However, it has been waiting for sometime and it is also in a flood prone area of the City and the Government has decided to regularize the situation by not only regularizing the portion of the land that was actually used in the canalisation but maintaining the existing reserve area as well.

11.40 a.m.

Part of the delay in this matter related to the fact that in the sixties when the project was done there was some difficulty in clearly identifying ownership and having certified plans of the area, and the matter has taken from 1992 when attention surfaced on it until now to have it concluded.

The Senate is being asked to approve the formal acquisition of 3 400 sq. ft. of land, the property of Miss Ida Davis at Halls Road, St. Michael, for the purpose of canalisation and road improvement.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, this area is well known to me, and even if it was not over a period of years, it would have during the election campaign. There are problems in the area which arise from more than one source, the poor drainage of household water from off the roofs, showers and kitchens. That puts a lot of stress on one of the two wells existent in the School Lane, Halls Road area.

Since I have been actively involved in the arena, Sir, I have made it my business, practically on a weekly basis, to see that the more easterly of the two wells is pumped off. I do not think the people at Public Works need a call as often as they did three or four months ago. It has fallen into part of their schedule.

What needs to be done, particularly with the well to which I refer, is re-sinking and cleaning, because the compounding of build-up of silt, plastic containers and materials which are not pervious to the flow of the water, have caused great problems in bringing about flooding in the area, particularly after the type of convection at rainfall that we get on the very warm mornings and fairly cool afternoons.

In my opinion the other well serves a fairly good purpose, but since the first one has to take most of the drainage, the other is spared to some extent. I would wish that when the urban development, to which we referred in our Manifesto, is embarked upon, as well as the rejuvenation of the area, that canalisation is not only limited to that immediate area but to another area which

forms a very steep downhill flow, and that is the one referred to as the Marl Hole area. When it rains heavily it takes a matter of three or four days before the area dries out.

Juxtaposed to this area, Sir, is the Bannister Land, Sisnett Land area which is over to the Hospital side. They suffer a problem much the same as the one to which I have alluded. Whereas in the former case the run off is particularly strong from the Welches area, which finds its way down the Alkins Road, Quakers Road area and into Halls Road, the flow in the latter case – this is the one pertaining to the Bannister Land, Sisnett Land area – comes from the high level of Erdiston which flows down to Pine Road through the avenues and into the canal along George Street.

Then there is another water course leading from this canal into a common focal point, and this is found in the Bannister Land, Sisnett Land area. I have drawn this to the attention of the Minister of Public Works, because not only does it cause flooding but it has caused erosion of part of the roads aback of Martindales Road. If one refers to the earlier work which was done in the 70s in that general area, across from the river, although it was met with a lot of cry and remarks that the people were finding it difficult to get in and out, and the noise level and air pollution level, and the various possible pulmonary diseases associated with the dust, you could see that the advantages which the residents of that area now enjoy are far greater than the small hindrances which they suffered in the 60s and 70s. That is to say, there has been no flooding on that side of the Hospital, along the playing field or the other side going further into the river.

In order to handle this problem in one whole package, Sir, I think work has to be done from the higher levels, that is to say, the Pine Road/Government Hill area, Halls Road itself, the clearing and the cleaning of the two canals and the storm gutters and at the same time there is urgent need for the gentle sloping of the land from the Hospital area by the playing field into the river and the clearing of all the conduits. You cannot just tackle one area and feel smug with it, only to discover in a matter of months that a similar problem has resurfaced.

With those few words, Sir, I am pleased to see that the administration is getting ahead with the people's business.

I thank you.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, this is a very interesting situation, because the Halls Road canalisation into the Constitution River no longer has a threat of a huge flood. That gully system which stretches from Castle Grant in St. Joseph, all across draining the

whole of St. Joseph, St. Thomas and coming down through Jack-in-the-Box and Stony Gully, and then pass Applewaites and through Canewood Moor on to the new highway, ends up right now in the Rayside quarry at Green Hill. That acts as a soak away which totally absorbs all the water and, hopefully, for the future will continue to do so. We do not get those terrible floods that we had in the Halls Road/Martindales Road area in the past.

When I lived in St. Kitts they had a system where they had what they call ghauts, canals that ran through the town from the hills to the sea. There were three or four of them, but these were used as roads whenever it was dry and only when they had flash floods were they impassable. It occurred to me that if we are going to do something further with the canalisation in Halls Road, the chances of converting that to a dual purpose canal-cum-road would be very good and would bear looking at. I am not a civil engineer, so I do not know the pros and cons of it, but if it was possible to convert that canal into a road, you could imagine that during the morning you would come into town and after lunch it would be switched and you would go out of town on a one way street through this canal.
11.50 a.m.

It would take people who wanted to get out of Bridgetown since that canal goes through the Belle Gully and would deposit you near the Norman Niles Roundabout on the ABC Highway. It would be a one way very fast-track way of getting out of Bridgetown. If Government could look at that, I think it would be a very good idea.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and in addition I would like to ask for consideration be given to re-instituting the cadre of persons who used to go throughout Barbados to clean all the different drains to prevent over-flooding and backing up of water. I am saying this because I live in a flood prone area. We have not had floods recently because we are in a period of drought but we do not get a lot of rainfall but if you look at all these different drains you will see that they are all backed up with leaves and paper and no one seems to be responsible for cleaning them whereas before like clockwork there was a cadre of people who used to go around and clean from drain to drain.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE BARBADOS SWIMMING ASSOCIATION INC. OF LAND AT WILDEY, ST. MICHAEL FOR A SWIMMING CENTRE

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Senate's approval is being sought for the lease of this land located at Wildey, St. Michael to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association Inc. That area as you know, Sir, forms part of the larger area of some 20 acres devoted to sporting and other recreational development. The particular area of some 11 000 square metres is used by the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association for the provision of an olympic-sized swimming pool as well as a learner's swimming pool. The facilities also in place on the site include stands for observing the swimming exercise and warm up areas and showers and so on. There is some area within the facility which has been used for dormitory purposes by visiting clubs.

What is perhaps significant about this facility and for which the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association must be lauded is the fact that it has been built at their expense and it provides a very valuable and important service to the development of the wider community and particularly, it provides Barbados with the opportunity to make a mark in the whole area of swimming.

Thousands of persons have today made use of the facility. These persons include children and adults learning to swim as well as persons who in their teens and pre-teens who are undergoing specialised training for competitive swimming.

Another significant feature which I would want to note, Sir, is that by virtue of the existence of that facility, Barbados has been able to attract several swimming teams from North America to use the facility during the winter months for purposes of training. There has also been an exchange programme involved with swimming teams from Barbados and teams from overseas with respect to use of the facilities and also the provision of coaching in specialised areas.

The other point I want to make is in terms of the way the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association has structured its business. The Association does not as far as I am aware conduct any of the activities that are run by the Centre other than arrange 1 or 2 competitions and overall provide for management of the facilities. But the swimming activities in Barbados are focussed around the existence of a number of swimming clubs that provide a range of activities and services to meet the needs of their membership.

The Association itself has been in liaison with the National Sports Council to provide the use of the pool for

primary school children in Barbados not themselves members of sports clubs.

Sir, I want the records to reflect my own appreciation of the excellent work which I believe is being done by the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association and to ask the Honourable the Senate to support this Resolution for the lease of land to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association. With that, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and to associate myself with the remarks made by Senator Farley. It is unfortunate that a place like Barbados with so many beautiful beaches and safe waters, safe in relation to the fact that we are not a place like Australia or California which when you go to the beach you have to fear predators like sharks entering the area... It is a pity so few Barbadians can swim.

I congratulate the Association for providing these facilities and encouraging young Barbadians to become more involved in activities like swimming. The advantage of swimming over other sports is that it puts little stress on the spinal cord and it is therefore therapeutic to people who under normal circumstances need to find a form of exercise, but who at the same time cannot take on the rigours of jogging or fast walking and things like that.

I have a concern that there are about 22 secondary schools in Barbados which use the facility and 84 primary schools and I know that some primary schools like Half Moon Fort in St. Lucy in the North still at this point in time because of the distance away from the Centre utilise the sea. There are schools like the Foundation School in Christ Church and the Grantley Adams which have people that look after the swimming programme at the respective schools.

Since 1978 when Lorenzo Best was in charge of swimming in the Sports Council – I think he went home quite a few years ago – there was only one swimming instructor employed by the National Sports Council to look after the needs of so many primary schools. I know there are some who will say to me that within the primary and the secondary school system there are PE teachers who endeavour to take on these responsibilities but swimming is a very serious sport and one in which if the instructors are not properly trained could result in a loss of life.

I think it would be a good thing if the Ministry of Education looks urgently at providing training for the PE instructors in the primary and secondary schools in water safety, first aid and CPR and general instruction in swimming, because I strongly believe that we need to be in a position where the load in that particular area is spread over a greater number of coaches.

12.00 noon

I know there might be restraints in terms of costs but in areas like netball and even cricket where we have 4 and 5 coaches I think that priority at this point in time could be given to swimming. I say that too because we are a poor country and we must take advantage of all the opportunities that present itself to us and we have known that over the years quite a few Barbadians have gained an excellent education through scholarship awards in athletics. I know there were basketballers who have benefitted from the programme and recently the area of volleyball has been an area where Barbadians have benefitted from scholarships in this area.

There is a young Barbadian swimmer who has done quite well for us recently who has recently been awarded a scholarship to Puerto Rico. We know of another person who did pretty well in Argentina in the recent meeting. I am going to urge Government to do all in its power to assist in the development of swimming as a sport in the primary and secondary schools so that we could take full advantage of all the opportunities that present itself to us so that our young people can gain further opportunities to get athletic scholarships in the area of swimming to help us with the development of this country and to come back and make their contribution to the development of this country.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I rise not only to support the Resolution but also I wish to agree with what Senator Welch just said. As he has indicated, and the Leader, the Swimming Centre is playing a very important part in sports in Barbados. Standards in swimming have risen immensely and the number of children participating has also increased considerably.

The Senator mentioned that there was very little weight on the spinal cords and very little weight on the joints, and as Senator Rickinson would know even better than I, swimming also improves breathing, the heart rate and blood pressure activity. It is also good for asthmatics and it is relaxing.

One of the Senators mentioned that there are at least 22 primary schools who make regular use of the facilities and who are coached by the National Sports Council staff, but there are seven others. There are four secondary schools who also take part regularly in the programme. It is noteworthy too that the School for the Deaf also swims there and a group from the Special Olympics who have done very well abroad in the Special Olympics. In addition to the toddlers, I also want to stress that there are classes even for 70-year olds. There is always a lane kept open for adults.

Mr. President, the school at which I taught for 40 years has for over 25 years included swimming in its

programme so I can attest, albeit vicariously, to the benefits of swimming. That is what concerns me because although the picture seems very clear, the fact is, as Senator Welch says, in a place like Barbados everybody should be able to swim, not only for his own personal safety but the safety of others and therefore my contention is that it should be mandatory for every primary school child in Barbados to learn to swim.

In the United Kingdom swimming is compulsory in every school in London at the primary level and in other areas of the United Kingdom as many schools as possible also learn swimming. Admittedly there has been a great improvement in the programme. I cannot help referring to the school where I taught and which is always in my heart but when the programme started there were only 2 children out of 30 who could swim. Today, in every First Form there are about 15 children, about half, who can swim and that is because their parents too take them privately.

I understand there are very many other schools who would be very willing and happy to take part in the programme but transportation is a problem. Therefore, I am asking that the Ministry of Education and Culture and any other relevant Ministries see to it that specific and affordable transportation be arranged so that all the primary schools could participate and more of the secondary schools. I have no doubt that the Minister of Education and Culture and other authorities will do all they can speedily to effect this change. Therefore I stress again that I am very pleased to support the Resolution and I thank you, Sir, for your interest in my contribution.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and to confirm that swimming is a complete exercise. It is even good in the last days of pregnancy and throughout pregnancy. Apart from that I would like to support Senator Welch's call for CPR to be taught to the school children and First Aid which could save the lives of many a Barbadian. As you know, heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in our country and swimming and these areas like CPR and First Aid, would go a long way towards reducing sickness and death from heart disease.

Again, Sir, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution to acquire this parcel of land to assist and advance the cause of swimming in Barbados. I am also aware that the area has been designated as an area for which a number of other sports will be managed and conducted in the wider interest of the society.

I would wish to ask a few questions as to why it appears that the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association is so successful. It appears to me that it has to do

somewhat with the management of the organisation. It is in that context that I would also wish to ask that when that area is fully developed that the kind of skills which are evident in that association can be shared with associations such as the Basketball Association as well as the Volleyball Association because what one is noticing is that these sports are very broad-based in terms of participation but when you look at the management of these particular sports you identify areas of difficulty which can be resolved with better organisation but that the associations need to attract the calibre of individuals who can get things done on the basis of maybe their location, on the basis of maybe their expertise. But it is quite evident that certain organisations in Barbados are able to conduct certain programmes which are particularly costly but can do so very effectively and have done so over the years.

12.10 p.m.

In terms of the gymnasium itself I am aware that both the volleyball and the basketball associations had difficulty in utilising the facility as a result of the cost and if we are saying we are looking to develop sports and develop culture and to give youth an opportunity, then I think we also need to look more caringly at those particular areas of our sporting activity in Barbados.

There is no doubt that having built such a facility which will be utilised to its full extent I have every belief, in time to come, that it was in the interest of the country that we develop such a facility but at this stage, whether they allow those associations to be continued to be pressured and not to be able to utilise those facilities as a result of simply financial and cost considerations that we should be thinking more in terms of giving those kinds of associations some kind of assistance. I do not have the answer as to how it could be done but what I am hopeful for is that once that entire area surrounding the gymnasium can be utilised and we can put in the astra turf hockey field, when we can develop the swimming, when we can put further facilities around the area, there would be other spin offs in terms of providing better and more effective management to all the other associations.

I can only say that it may be possible to do so by way of establishing an umbrella body that looks after the use of the entire area and as a consequence of that maybe we would be in a position where we can give some kind of leadership to these fledgling organisations.

Included in that also would be the Barbados Football Association which has struggled over the years to be an effective organisation and one wonders whether or not our lack of good showing throughout the region is as a consequence more of the inadequacies of the management structures rather than the abilities of the players, because when you look at it in terms of our youth levels and our

talents, *vis-a-vis* Trinidad, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and the other footballing nations in the Caribbean there is no reason why Barbados should not have progressed at a faster rate in terms of a better showing within the regional competitions than what we have done so far.

I am suggesting, that yes, I am fully supportive of the acquisition of the land to develop the sport of swimming which has very wide appeal and which, when you look at it, only requires you to put on a trunk or a bathing suit and therefore does not require the kind of expensive gear that you have in cricket and football and many other sports. Therefore in many respects, if we can develop swimming then we can provide even greater opportunity to those people in the lower echelons of the society who do not have the resources to play some of the other sports.

My greatest concern and my greatest wish is in fact for there to be a kind of spin off effect in terms of emulating what has happened within the swimming association in terms of the ability to organise and to get things done, that can have effect on the other associations.

I am tempted to say that most of the time in such organisations it is more a question of whom you know and the kind of contacts that you have within the society. It strikes me that there are such calibre individuals within the swimming association who can get things done and who seem to have the right connections but that should not be seen as something that cannot be extended to the other associations. On that basis I do fully support the Resolution but look forward to even greater harmony between the other organisations which will utilize that area surrounding the gymnasium.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – THE VAGRANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I rise to move the second reading of the Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 1995. This Vagrancy Bill, Sir, is proposed to be amended by deleting certain sections which are believed to be demeaning and inserting an additional section which relates to modern phenomena which we have primarily relating to harassment and related activities. It also, Sir, increases the penalties for some of the offences.

Sir, I do not at this point propose to go into the long history of evolution of the Vagrancy Act either in Barbados or elsewhere. I propose instead to cut right to the heart of

the matter and look at the amendments that are being proposed to this Honourable Senate.

Now, Sir, you will recall that the visitor satisfaction survey which is conducted on a regular basis to assess the satisfaction of visitors with their stay in Barbados as well as their general assessments of our product has consistently over the last 2 years reported an increase in problems related to harassment.

You will also recall that there has been an increase over time of the number of offences relating to harassment on the streets, harassment of both locals and visitors on the streets of Bridgetown. I want to say, Sir, that the amendment that is being proposed strikes at the actions of those persons who are doing things. No one who is liming or hanging out is implicated in this Act whatsoever. As I will get into a little later in my presentation, the wording of the amendment relates to individuals who take certain specific actions. But, Sir, the Honourable Attorney General has already indicated to the other House and the general public that what is being proposed by way of the amendment to the Vagrancy Act is a temporary measure.

A Law Reform Committee has been established and amongst other major legislative changes the writing of legislation to cover the functions which are currently under the Vagrancy Act will form one of the first activities of the Law Reform Committee. We have the option, Sir, of either taking strong action right away to curb these undesirable practices or taking the easy approach, the easy *laissez-faire* hands off approach and do nothing whilst we wait until the necessarily slow and meticulous process of law reform grinds on.

12.20 p.m.

We have opted, Sir, to take action now. So therefore, Sir, we are proposing to amend this Act in order to give effect to our desire to stamp out certain types of activities.

Let me look at some of the specific features of the Act, Sir, in terms of the amendments that we are proposing. Now first of all, Sir, the offence that is created under the amendment, and I can refer you to the Act, Sir, which I believe there has been an amendment to that amendment. I shall read the amended version, Sir.

In Clause 2(a) of the Bill, Section (g), the offence that is created there is one which reads as follows, Sir. Let me just read the stem of it for you, Sir, to make sure that we are together. Section (g) reads: "In any street, highway or public place including the beach without lawful authority or excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on the person accused, accost, molest, threatens or harasses any person or follows him about".

Sir, that is the offence that has been created in order to allow for situations which have developed with respect

to a number of areas. We have had an example, Sir, where persons who are seeking to catch public transportation find themselves being pulled by either limb and in some cases by both limbs but by two separate people who work for two different vehicles of Public Service vehicles and in two different directions. We find sometimes a couple moving along and both wanted to catch a bus but one person is dragged on to bus one and the spouse is dragged on to bus two. Under the present framework, Sir, there is no proper offence under which that matter can be easily taken care of.

The concept, Sir, of harassment is a relatively new one, the definition of which has been given in other legislation, but it is one to which we cannot turn a blind eye, Sir. Now, Sir, the area which I believe will be one of some contention is the whole question of how this affects persons who do business on the street or on the beach. The offence to which I refer to, Sir, refers to doing things without lawful authority. That is the first thing, Sir, and the second thing is that there is a vast difference between approaching someone with a view to making a sale or some other similar thing. That is extremely different, Sir, from finding yourself when you want to park your car with someone stepping aboard and telling you to park here or park there, or finding yourself before you know it with strings of beads around your neck and you are being told how much it will cost you. But that is certainly not an offer for sale, Sir. You can find yourself in several of these situations and these matters are affecting good order in the society.

Sir, let me focus on the detail, as I said, of the amendments because we all know the long history and so on. Now both the police and the magistracy are in support of the amendments which we propose and we have confirmed that, Sir. The whole question of what constitutes a public place has been probably taken care of in the Act, Sir. The reason why we make reference to the whole question of a public place including the beach is because there has always been some debate amongst the attorneys, Sir, as to whether the beach constitutes a public place given the whole question of ownership up to the high water mark and the legislation has been worded to facilitate that.

The question as to the relative efficacy of altering the National Conservation Commission Act to empower ranges to perform some of the functions that are being catered to under this Act, especially with respect to offences on the beach, has been considered. But we have recognized that even in cases where ranges are given certain powers they appear, Sir, to be reluctant to exercise the power by and large, Sir, because of the real situation that exists out there. Barbadians who are not respectful of the law, Sir, tend to have an even greater disrespect for the quasi-law enforcement officers. Security guards, NCC guards and so on do not have the same level of respect as policemen and

so on. We have decided not to use the National Conservation Commission Act to take care of some of the beach offences because that would not give us the kind of coverage which we believe to have been necessary.

Sir, the penalties have been increased in some cases. I remember on a previous occasion the whole question of the wording of penalty clauses was the subject of some discussion. The new wording in the legislation, Sir, quotes penalties in specific amounts. The Act will say, for example, that the penalty shall be \$2 500 or 2 years imprisonment. The law sets maximum guidelines for the Sentencing Officer and where the law, Sir, says penalty of \$2 500 or 2 years, it means that the Sentencing Officer can fine up to \$2 500 – that is from zero to \$2 500 or a confinement period not exceeding 2 years.

The number of things that we have sought to clear up include the removal of the description as someone as a rogue or vagabond. That, Sir, was part of the earlier amendments and that has remained there. We have taken the opportunity to remove that demeaning description from the legislation.

Another aspect of the amendment, Sir, is that we have sought to standardize the time limit for charges being brought in these offences and we have set that period at 6 months as part of the amendment. Another feature which you will note, Sir, is that in these amendments there may appear to be one or two areas covered under other legislation. One is the whole question of threats which is dealt with under the Magistrates and Jurisdiction Act. The charges tend to relate to family and neighbourhood disputes and the treatment is to place the offender under bond for a particular time which will allow him to get into the whole question of reconciliation.

12.30 p.m.

I want to say, Sir, that this Bill does not infringe on anyone's rights. The rights of the wider Barbadian law-abiding community are being enhanced by this legislation which would seek to provide protection for them against certain unlawful acts. Again, offences in this legislation, as under other legislation, relate to the actual active participation in a matter that is deemed to be an offence under the Act. We are hoping, and we firmly believe, that in the interim between the passage of this amendment and the creation of new legislation by the Law Reform Committee this temporary measure will also bring some sense of orderliness, some sense of lawfulness, some sense of discipline to the society, because we recognise that the whole question of discipline, orderly society is the very foundation on which our economic and social progress has been made.

Like I said earlier, Sir, we have had the choice of adopting the easy approach, which would have been to see

the offences being committed and to turn a blind eye so as not to appear to be engaging in any action that would seem to be unpopular in some quarters, but we have chosen instead to take the action which we believe to be necessary. These measures will not affect the innocent and we do not think it wise to await the complete rewriting of the legislation to cover any or all the offences, we decided to take action now.

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

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. President, I rise to speak on this Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 1995. I would like, of course, to begin by saying that I should commend the Attorney General for saying that he will consider the repeal of this Bill. I am very happy about that. I am also happy to know that there is a Law Reform Committee which is established to deal with this, but I have had some concerns about the whole idea of the Vagrancy Act. Given, if even the Act is repealed, I would hope that some of my concerns would still be addressed, because I could see this, with all the lawyers we have in Government, probably popping up under a different name but certain things still taking place within it.

Let me begin by saying that my real concern is the perception that these laws are for the powerless and my own philosophy about what Government is all about, and when we begin to write laws which seem not to be taking into consideration the fact that there are members of our society who are deviants, they are not the norm... I have seen, like all of us who live here, examples of people whose behaviour could be seen as deviant. It is deviant! It seems to disturb the orderliness of our society. But having said that, my concern is what is the philosophy of Government? What is it that people who govern should be concerned about? I feel that a lot of our concerns should be not simply with the punitive. When I say things like these I am always reminded that the Press talks disparagingly of people as bleeding hearts. Of course, I am one of those people I think would be considered a bleeding heart. I do not think that is a terrible thing to be, despite the fact that it is said disparagingly, because I think it is a very sacred image, that of the bleeding heart.

Anyway, to get back to the point. I feel that Government should be more concerned with protecting the deviant, trying to help the people who are powerless. There is no doubt in my mind that the people who we can classify as harassers, or people who accost and molest, are people who probably need more psychiatric help, who probably our social services should be helping in greater ways. If every time there is something that seems to be wrong in the society we rush for laws – I do not have that great faith in laws, I really think they are there, they have to be there – but if we just use the law in terms of punishing these people, we are probably falling short. I like

to feel that Government is there to be caring, to be concerned, and I am maintaining there is a certain element in the society that is deviant, that their behaviour is disruptive, but if every time we see things like these we rush to a law, which is to punish them, we are probably going to be perceived as people whose interest is not with the people who need the most help in the society. I think this is what creates the cynicism about politics and about Government, because far too often the laws seem to be sending a message that the people who are going to be caught up in the net of this kind of law are people who obviously have no entrance into the power structure, the establishment, they are people who are probably out there thinking that they are going to try to earn a living one way or the other. I am absolutely sure that there are other laws to deal with people who do not have the licences, so that is not the problem.

The other thing I am concerned about is this question of the burden of proof. When the police or whoever stops this person, they have to prove that they have a right to do what they are doing, and I see this as a very unequal sort of confrontation. I see it as a great source of conflict and I see it always that that man or whoever is going to be the loser in that conflict. After all, the police or whoever has the law on his side, has respectability on his side, has establishment on his side, so that person is already lost in that confrontation.

The other thing is, when we create these draconian laws, who are we to say who is going to decide? We are dragging in all sorts of things – accost, molest, threaten, harass. What is draconian about it is not so much sweeping people off the streets, but who is going to decide when I am confronted by this policeman that I am not accosting, I am not molesting, I am not threatening, I am not harassing? I would not like to say in this Honourable Chamber that I do not trust the police, but I would say that because the police are part of our society and they are products of this society, that the police are as vulnerable to all sorts of variables about class and power and where power resides, and all that sort of thing. It is not a question of whether or not I trust the police, it is a question of whether we are putting in the hands of these citizens who happen to be police, trained and all that, too much power. After all, the police know what they are supposed to do, but I must confess that there are times that these very decent citizens probably will be caught up in a confrontation and that they might not exercise the best judgement. I am saying that these are my concerns, these are genuine concerns I have about the Vagrancy Act.

12.40 p.m.

Of course, we always end up with a penalty, and it seems to me that the people that we are thinking about who will be caught in this are people who will definitely not

have any money to pay these fines; so that I think this is a question of having to spend some more money in building more jail room. We will just have to build more space to fill the jails and put these people who cannot and will not be able to pay these fines.

My really deep feeling is that most of the people who will be caught in this are probably people who need psychiatric help, who need to depend greater on our social services and on the good intentions and good heart of a Parliament and a Government that must be seen to care and be concerned about the poor, the powerless, the deviant and the sick in our society.

Those are my concerns, Mr. President. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I would like to make my contribution on this particular amendment. Let me start by saying that the Vagrancy Act offends me a whole lot.

When I look at its origins I am even more offended, Sir. This is 1995 and this is Barbados. I don't want to be caught up in the belief that we are a sovereign country upside-down. That inverse relationship with South Africa. I don't even know how to express it at this stage. I believe this law was enacted at a time when the most suppressed and depressed people in our society were attempting to make themselves felt. They believed that they had no voice. At that time the Church, the schools, the Parliament, were all headed by people who did not necessarily represent their interests. Their leaders at that time believed that in their attempt to keep these people quiet they needed to borrow the Vagrancy Act from Great Britain. This was enacted, I believe, in 1897, in Barbados.

Every time I look at this amendment, ever since it has been around over the past few weeks, I keep asking myself what are the conditions which prevail in Barbados today which are similar to those which prevailed in 1897 and which merit our re-visit to this bit of legislation. I think I need to state from the outset that I am very much in favour of law and order. I am a taxpayer. I would like to feel that I have the full protection of the law. I am also very conscious that in our society we have some brothers and sisters who have fallen by the wayside and we seem to be attempting to categorise those persons as criminals.

I want to say that not all people who wander around and not all of those people in our society who come up and – the subjective thing that we call harass and all this kind of thing – are criminals. I think I need to deal with that from my own personal perspective because people say that I harass them too. That is what I do for a living, so I have to address that matter here today.

My question is, what is vagrancy and how does one become a vagrant? I would like to say to my fellow

Senators that I believe a number of people who happen to fall into this category are in a very confused state of mind. Some of them have fallen prey to the greed of fellow Barbadians who are peddling drugs, some have succumbed to the social pressures, in their day-to-day attempt to keep up with the Joneses in our society.

I believe that such individuals deserve the compassion of the State. I believe that somewhere among this lot you are going to find people, yes, who are criminals and who probably masquerade and try to look like these same people in their attempts to commit crime and I feel that they should be dealt with harshly by the law. But I do not believe that the Vagrancy Act is the legislation which we should be looking at, at this time in order to address these problems.

I listened to the Attorney General last year in the House of Assembly and I believe earlier this year when he gave some statistics on the incidence of crime in Barbados and at that time he indicated that crime was on the decrease. I listened to the Commissioner of Police and he stated that also. I read the Visitors' Satisfaction Survey in the newspapers and I realise that despite the fact that there was still the presence of some of what we call harassment on the beaches that we had also improved in that area.

The question is, what is it that we need to do to deal with our Barbados of today. I intend to say that the law is not the instrument to use to deal with social problems and social evils. When we ask ourselves the question, what is it that makes this very large percentage of our population behave in this way. I read the court cases too and when I look at those people who are on trial for vagrancy, the background to these people says to me that these are not people who are normal – what we would accept is a normal state of mind. I am really still to find a percentage of persons – who seem to be very small – and who are great planners with criminal minds, being brought before the law courts in this area.

I think we really need to look at this serious social problem and deal with it.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: The Honourable Senator is discussing instances where people are mentally disturbed or of an unsound mind and insinuating that this Bill is aimed at them. There is other legislation on the books and there are procedures to take care of individuals who are clearly in the courts' mind suffering from mental illness or some aspect of mental illness and this Bill is aimed strictly at those who have a criminal intent in the area of harassment. We know of the issues of drug pushing and we know of those other issues so I think the Honourable Senator should address the Bill in the context in which it is put.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I don't think, Senator Goddard, that I can regard that as a point of order. Please proceed, Senator.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I don't believe I insinuated that at all. What I was saying is that on the surface one may want to categorise these people as criminals, but I believe we need to look at them more closely to try to find out what are the circumstances which are beating against these people and are contributing to this kind of behaviour.
12.50 p.m.

My submission is that a very close investigation of these situations would reveal, because I have been reading the cases and I do not see the people who are being caught as vagrants...

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, on a point of order, please. I am wondering if the Honourable Senator could tell me when last she read a case in the newspaper where somebody was charged for...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Murray, you are out of order. You cannot ask questions like that. Please proceed Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I can answer. During the time that this debate was going on in the Lower House there were three. I counted them. I read them in the newspapers.

Now, I want to make a point about tourism...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just one second, please. Let me just say that every Senator is going to have an opportunity to speak. Please allow the Senator to be heard in silence.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir. I want to talk about tourism. I have a major concern. My concern is even greater when a member of my Cabinet in attempting to deal with a problem states in the introduction, tourism first, because I believe that any situation in Barbados that we do not agree with, anything we consider discomforting, anything that concerns us about the behaviour of fellow Barbadians, I think we have to address it from the point of view of how it affects Barbadians first and I believe we will deal with tourism after.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. I believe the Honourable Member is attributing what I take to be a quote which I really did not make. The Honourable Member said that in my introduction I stated tourism first. I never listed a rank to tourism. The Honourable Member may want to avoid misleading the House by rather than trying to make a

quotation to approach the matter from another angle. But I would ask that she withdraw that statement, Mr. President, which I believe to be misleading.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I withdraw and I will say that the opening statement said "a visitor satisfaction survey". I believe that we categorise most visitors in Barbados as tourists. I want to say, Sir, that Barbadians are tourists too and I would like to share with my fellow Senators my experiences as I visit the countries of other people.

I am a regular visitor to New York City and when I go down 34th, 42nd or 14th Street, those miles of streets, along those streets I encounter itinerant vendors. They sell all types of ware. Sometimes one is tempted probably to deal with them and not go into the stores because you are so surrounded by them sometimes that you do not even know what to do.

Yes, I have had necklaces placed around my neck too in New York City and I have had four people around me on more than one occasion offering things for sale. The point I want to make is this. I do not recall ever reading in a Barbadian newspaper where a Barbadian on return from a visit to New York has talked about the harassment, the accosting, and all of these things which he or she experienced on that visit. My question is why do we have to do this to our people? That is my question.

I have just returned from a trip to Jamaica. I go there every two years and on my way from the Airport to Ochos Rios, to my hotel, I was able to sample jerk chicken on the street, festivals on the streets and mannish water on the streets. The point I want to make is the visitor to that country comes into contact with the culture of the people even before he or she reaches the hotel. To think about it, I never thought of harassment. There were 75 Barbadians and several other people from other countries and we were enjoying it.

I want to say, Sir, if in Barbados we believe that we need to do certain things to curb certain behaviour, I think we need to wake up to the Barbados of 1995. We are experiencing extreme difficulties in this country. A number of people are under financial stress. As a result, they have resorted to using whatever skills they have in order to survive. I think what we really need to be discussing is how best we can bring good business practices and conduct to these people. How can we teach them to be more organised? What some people categorise as harassment is assertiveness. It is a very subjective word. Sometimes you determine somebody has harassed you after you have had five calls on one subject, then you say you are harassing me. If you had only one call it would not be harassment. It is because the competition is great.

There are several people doing the same thing and in the midst of competition that is what the free market system is all about, but we have to find in there those people who are the criminals. It is a point I want to continue to make because a lot of emphasis is being placed on this and we are ignoring the facts of Barbados, what is happening in our society today. We are behaving as though these people just sit down or lay down at nights and plan and wake up and decide this is what they are going to do. I do not believe that. There is a percentage of people who do that, but I do not believe that we need this broad-base law at this time.

I just want to make another point. I think salaried people really need to have more appreciation for the life of individuals who wake up on the morning and do not know what their first cent is going to be like and where it is going to come from. I believe that the spirit of legislation must take into account a number of factors. It is all right to talk about the law. These are people who when they wake up they come out, they have their beads and they have a whole lot of things they have made, but they do not know if they are going to return with the things they left with in the morning. These are the kinds of factors which would cause them to go up to people more often than people would like them to.

We need to look at the amendment and see the areas which come under the amendment. It is not only harassment. What is that? I believe it means different things for different people. I agree with Senator Viola Davis about this burden of proof. That, I think, is something we also need to look at.

Now, I said that I know what it is like to be referred to as harassing people. For the past 16 years of my life I have had to wake up every day, sit on a telephone, call 25 and 30 people, some of them I have never met in my life. I accosted them – I looked into the dictionary for what accost meant. Some of them referred to me as a harasser. They say all life insurance agents harass people. The only thing is I probably do it in a more sophisticated fashion and that is because I have access to an office, telephone and all of that kind of thing.

I believe we really need to make sure that we understand what we are dealing with and ask a question. Do all these people who go about on the streets and try to pull people to do business with them, or who go on the beaches and try to get people's attention, do they all set out to commit a crime? I think that is the question we have to ask. I understand that we have legislation, the Highway Act and we have the Parks and Beaches Act. Could we not have taken these other Acts and done the same thing that we are attempting to do by way of the Vagrancy Act? The

Vagrancy Act is an offensive piece of legislation, Mr. President.
1.00 p.m.

I heard the Leader of the Senate refer to the behaviour on public service vehicles and that is another matter. When we look in our society and we can identify so many areas in which our people are behaving in ways which we consider to be not the norm we have to ask ourselves questions and we do not do so by changing the law. We have to ask where have we failed? Where did we go wrong? Why is it that such a large percentage of Barbadians no longer respect the values which traditional Barbadians have represented over the years? Is that a question that we could answer by way of the law? Is it something we can address in a Budget?

I intend to say, Mr. President, we have a whole new type of Barbadian out there attempting to be business people. They have the spirit of enterprise residing in them. They cannot afford to be employees because nobody is hiring them. But they have to live. They have utilities to pay. They have children to maintain. They have to cope with the cost of living in the same way that we all have to. I am saying, Mr. President, that as legislators we have to be extremely caring and empathetic but I want to emphasise, I am not asking fellow Senators to condone lawlessness, illegal practices, and to try to cover people who set out to break the law. But at the same time, I am asking that we again take a careful look at our society.

Again we look at the people on whom this legislation would impact and I believe at the end of the day we are going to notice something, a very common factor will come out in our investigation of these situations. I therefore cannot support this amendment to the Vagrancy Act. Although I anticipate its repeal. I hope that in future whenever we are attempting to deal with social problems in our society that we collectively try to arrive at the best solution because sometimes when we introduce the law we worsen those situations. I therefore cannot at this time support the legislation and therefore, Sir, I would like to rest my case.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Sir, I would like to make my small contribution in this vagrancy amendment and to say from the outset, I did hear Senator Thompson's contribution in reference to what might have caused the Act to come about in the nineteenth century. Perhaps if we question that we might want to question why we had capital punishment as well.

I want to say, Sir, I am living in a real world and I have seen Barbados go through tremendous changes. I think we really must look at orderliness in our society. I think we have reached the stage where adults must not only function as adults but they must display very high standards of discipline despite what level of society they may be at. This displaying of these various skills and this kind of well-disciplined person I am sure would serve well for our young people who are growing up. If we really examine ourselves, sometimes we need to ask the question, why are our young people behaving in that manner and the answer says, because our older folk in the society are displaying such measures of behaviour. If we are to be the role models we should be, then we must start displaying those skills in order for our young people to emulate us.

We have serious problems in Barbados where somehow individuals who are involved do not seem to think that some of our laws need to be enforced. Security Guards, rangers and sometimes the police are very fearful to do their tasks and I suppose it stems from living in a small society and knowing each other. Perhaps it stems from the criticisms that individuals may get if they try to carry out a particular law. They may be even reminded of the route they came along and how unreasonable and unfair they are and so on and so forth, as well as the long process that the law takes in order for individuals who do the wrong to be brought to justice. The long periods individuals have to spend from their jobs in the courts of law and the adjournments and so on. I know Sir, that it turns you off. But that is not enough to say that we must not try to enforce our laws to show that we are a serious people in Barbados. I think that this Act, in the areas that are to be amended is very appropriate and I would want to support it today.

Sir, I know that Barbadians come first. I live in this Barbados and I must be comfortable and every Barbadian must be comfortable and must be respected in any part of Barbados he or she has to go. At the same time we are a tourism oriented society as well. We know of the benefits of tourism and I am not saying that we should sell our silver or whatever but I am saying that if visitors come to our country they too must be given the respect that is due. They must not be harassed. They must not be spoken to in all the dirty terms that we hear as we go around.

Mr. President, Sir, I have seen with my two eyes that the Lord has lent me. These people are not mentally ill as

others would want to make us believe. As a matter of fact from seeing them I do not think they are mentally ill people and some of the activities they are involved in, some of them wash cars, some of them as we heard are conducting or driving the ZR vans and so on. Some of them are taxi drivers, some of them I do not know. I know I am a whole Barbadian and some of them see me and they say "taxi" and their fingers are up in your face. The young men come, they put the necklaces around your neck, sometimes it is not even a necklace it is a piece of dirty cord or something. It is amazing that I had some relatives here staying in the St. Lawrence Gap, just a couple weeks ago, and my brother-in-law who has been coming here for many years, sometimes twice a year, became very disillusioned because every time he walked in the area where he was staying up to the Dover beach, he was approached by no less than 10 and 12 people every 15 minutes to buy something. They tell me people are peddling drugs on the street and I am of the opinion that these are the kinds of individuals that are being identified in the Vagrancy Act and not necessarily the fellows that you see down town on the street lying down. I do not see them interfere with anyone. If you are not careful you will probably step on them lying on the pavement.

I am of the opinion and I have recognised from all the discussion that has been going on and from what I have understood here in the amendments that we are referring to individuals who go out there and accost people in the day time and in the night time. For example there is an old man now who is around this Parliament area. Sometimes he just looks at a woman, not even knowing her, and the language he uses and the gestures he makes, pushing his hands in her face and so on, one would feel that he really knows her. From the kind of terrible things that he says to her, one would really feel he knows her from the neighbourhood but, that is just what he lives and does for a whole life time.

I, Sir, want to support this Bill. I want people in Barbados to feel comfortable in the environment where they live. When we come into town to shop I feel we must be given the comfort and at least the respect that is due to us as Barbadians. When visitors come then that respect is due to them also.

I would like, Sir, to lend my support to this Bill and I would like for those individuals who are mentally ill, who display those kinds of actions to be helped. Government should start looking at ways and means of helping us to arrest the kinds of social problems displayed by those who were identified by Senator Thompson. They need to be put in an institution. They need to be put in programmes for rehabilitation purposes and so on. I agree with that 100%, but those individuals who do it for the love of money, who do it because some of them feel proud to see they can put

their hands around a woman's neck and the woman can say or do nothing, I want to say that I am not at all going to be in favour of that kind of behaviour. I feel that these measures would be the kind of measures that would help us to alleviate some of those problems with which we are faced every day especially in the area of Bridgetown, St. Lawrence Gap, sometimes in Holetown. If this instrument is put in place then I feel that individuals will have some kind of better approach towards meeting people and if they want to solicit or sell their goods, I do not see them having to do it in a manner that will make people feel as though they are being accosted.

The final comment I would want to make, Sir, it is unfortunate that in Barbados many people think, I suppose it is to do with our educational system, that we want to change from what we knew in the past. People talk a lot about servility and working the white man's plantation. I think a lot of this attitude towards some kinds of work is really what is affecting our people. I want to say, Sir, that it is about time a lot of Barbadians see working in agriculture and doing crafts and so on as nothing that is demeaning. I think that is the reason for some of the problems. If one cannot get the sales of the necklaces and so on because craft must be developed and I have absolutely no problem with that, then there are alternatives. Every year we have to be hearing on the radio that we need more workers for this plantation, we need more workers to assist with this kind of employment, and nobody wants to go. When you have to say anything to them, they are telling you that they do not want that kind of work. That kind of work is, "not good for me". But that is the kind of work that a lot of us sitting around this Table would have had to do in order for us to be able to reach the stage where we are at.
2.10 p.m.

I think that we need to change our attitudes. Remove that stigma of not wanting to take a certain kind of employment until we can climb up the ladder. Going and getting involved in this kind of activity, or hanging around town selling next to nothing and accosting people is unacceptable. We really need to reorganize our lives and see those areas that I mentioned before as areas where we can make our own dollar bill. We can be able to look after our families. Thousands of Barbadians have been able to raise their families and acquire a little house spot and a property as a result of getting involved with that kind of activity. I think that if we try to remove that stigma and encourage people to come and do that kind of employment, they will still be recognized because at the end of the day they are doing an honest day's work. Then that will help some of those who are knocking around town and getting involved in that kind of activity to get out there and do something useful and wholesome for their development and the development of others.

Sir, without having to say anymore, I would want to give my support to this particular amendment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Springer.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I have the pleasure to speak on this proposed legislation. Let me say, Sir, at the outset that I hope that even though Parliament has already met in the Lower House and even though some believe that this Honourable Chamber serves no particular purpose at this stage, I hope that is not true and that at this stage signals and messages will be sent to the Government particularly through the Independent Senators who are not represented at the other level and who I hope will always speak with an independent voice with no particular allegiance even if there are some connections in terms of the constituencies that are represented by Independent Senators. That is the *raison d'être* for being here. Sir, I hope that sincerely, because I think a lot will be lost on our parliamentary system if somehow or other it is not possible to feed in some of the views or solutions to the questions honestly raised here by all sides concerned. It is with that in mind that I am hoping to make my contribution because I do have some concerns with this proposed legislation. I would have had concerns with it the way it was when it was first proposed in the 18th century.

One of my concerns, Sir, is that it seems difficult to make a distinction between the real vagrant and the astute but aggressive small businessman. I am not sure that that distinction is made and that it will be easy to determine which one is the vagrant under the Act or which one should be permitted to pursue his craft because he means no ill to those he approaches. My experience has been somewhat similar to that of Senator Thompson and that is perhaps part of my confusion here, in that, having gone to the United States, I too was accosted, and I think that many of us here have had that experience of being accosted, by people on the sidewalk and some coming out to grab you and take you into their store rather than the other door, and some putting watches in your hand and saying – "Feel it. Look at it." – and then trying to sell it to you. I have no doubt that a lot of it is legal. But that is how they behave and I am not aware that there is any legislation that prevents it as I did not see any wardens or anybody around. They somehow seem to manage with that system. I have seen the same thing in Curacao and Aruba. I have seen the same thing in Venezuela in the Old City where people in my view and according to my interpretation "harass" you and yet I do not think they would call it harassment. So one has a difficulty in interpreting this.

Sir, going up to people and trying to sell items is part of our culture. It is not new. I am well aware of the knock on the door and there is somebody trying to sell something. I am well aware and I am sure you are too, Sir, of the

person driving up in a particular district or village or whatever and the car horn being blown. I myself regarded that as harassment too, but I am not sure how you would deal with that. And I do not think that anything is in the Act to deal with this particular form of harassment. So what I am asking is – Who is going to determine or is there a way to determine how far one is allowed to go in this regard? I am sure that there is nobody around this Table, Sir, who would object to putting in place the kind of arrangements to make sure that we have law and order observed in this country. I am quite sure that no one would object to that. So that there is a need to put controls in place whether on our beaches or on our streets. I have seen people who appear to be unfairly treated by persons who have either accosted or harassed them, whichever one applies in the particular situation. So I am sure that there is a need for some controls where this is concerned. I wonder, since I am not in the area of the law, whether there is any legislation that at present provides for that which needs to be enforced and which, if it had been enforced would not have necessitated the implementation of this particular legislation.

While saying that, Sir, on the other hand one has to be concerned about what it is that makes people appear to be so urgently in need of attention with their particular ware whether on the beach or on the streets. I am sure that all of us here, Sir, are aware that in 1991 when we ran into our national economic difficulties that all of those who were leaders started telling the young people that they have got to learn to be self-employed. And I too am guilty of that, Sir, and I have no apologies for it; because a number of people operated around me in my own particular sphere and I had to tell them not to look to Government in the near future because things are looking bad and things could get worse, and the best thing to do is to see how you can be self-employed. I did that whether I was talking to groups around the church, or individuals, wherever I met young people or in the school system. One of the things suggested to some of them was that they should consider, – when they asked how do we do this and you gave all kinds of suggestions, – that they should go on the beaches and search for sea shells and make things and use their hands and then try and sell them. Of course, some of them tried it and the obvious ready market was tourists on the beaches.

2.20 p.m.

I have no doubt that some of these are the ones that are being designated or categorised as vagrants, because, you see, it is a matter of interpretation. It is not a matter of the tourists saying so necessarily: it is not a matter of the person being prepared to declare that he or she is a vagrant. It might rest with a particular officer who is placed on the beach to observe the scene and then to determine that in his view that person was harassing the other, when in fact that person might only have been trying

to sell his or her ware to some tourist person. I am not saying, Sir, that there are not others. I started by recognising that there is unlawful behaviour and that that has got to be controlled.

I am raising questions about these things because I think that in the long run Government will have to deal with them and provide the answers, but that is the situation that I have outlined. There are two kinds of persons who could be affected by the Act and who might well be: one group might well be deserving of the penalties of the Act, whereas the other group, not necessarily so, but could come under the punitive measures of the particular Act. What I am asking in this regard is how does one determine? Look at it carefully and make sure, if it is not too late now to make some kind of adjustment, that we do not treat all of those, the ones who are serious-minded, in the same way as the others. There is that threat of vagrancy that is there which threatens to envelop us and we have to deal with that.

Sir, to sum up all I have said so far, there is a very thin and delicate line between accosting and offering one's goods. Touching, for example, is a very Bajan thing. People come up to you and touch you to attract your attention. Bajans like to hold hands with people they do not even know, and, Sir, Members of this Honourable Chamber from time to time come up behind me and hold my arm. To tell you the truth, in some instances I like it. You grow to like that kind of thing. If you like it you do not call it accosting.

Aside.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Particularly if it is female. Senator Bolden knows all about this. His likes and his dislikes are similar to mine. What I am saying, Sir, is that one has to be careful that one does not misinterpret that friendliness which makes one a little forward – because I too react if I am in town and somebody comes up and does that, especially if I do not know the person. It is a natural reaction – but we need to be sure that we know what kind of touching or what kind of nearness, what kind of approach it really is before we can determine what should be done with the particular person. The question then is who determines what is accosting or molestation or the threat of harassment.

Then there is that other part of the proposed Bill which speaks of following one about. I find that funny, Sir. When I was a young fellow I used to follow about a lot of young ladies, and I am sure Senator Bolden also knew of those days. I am not going to accuse him of anything, but to determine that following one about is a misdemeanour is a dangerous thing. It is a terrible thing.

Aside.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: We no longer have to follow around. But then the other thing is you do not know whether someone is following another about or if somebody is leading someone somewhere. That is the other half of the equation. How can you penalise a person who is simply going where he is led? Take, for example, Sir, I myself was walking through Broad Street – and these comments, though funny and light hearted, have some application where this proposed Bill is concerned to determine what category a person finds himself in. If I am walking through Broad Street heading in a certain direction and I see in front of me a certain lady, and she turns on to High Street and I go in the same direction, then she turns on to Swan Street and I go in the same direction, and we stop looking at the same stores and then suddenly she decides that I am following her around, because we have been together for some time, that kind of thing can be dangerous for the fellow who is following – for me. I now have to prove to the particular officer that I was not following her around, and I would not be able to do that.

What is the problem, is that if it came to that, I would state my case and some reasonable officer, whether he be warden or policeman, would believe me because he would see a person dressed in a certain way, who perhaps is a Senator, who perhaps is a clergyman, and whose word he would take and therefore instruct the lady that she had it wrong. But if that person happened to be a man who had come out of his mechanic shop, or from some field working and made it into town for a short while to pick up some things, and he appeared to be following and she got scared and started to run, and the same officer came, this other man would find it extremely difficult to prove that he was not following her around. I am saying that while the legislation is necessary to control some of these activities we are concerned about, it is necessary to so fine tune it that we do not hurt those we have no intention of hurting at all.

I think what we need on the beaches is a kind of deterrent presence there, whether they be wardens, island constables, policemen, members of the Defence Force. I am not sure that we need the legislation, I think we need a presence, so that when the people who have evil intentions observe the presence they will not pursue what they had in mind; whereas if the presence was not there, then they would get away with it. Also, the kind of presence which, though there, will not deter the people with good intentions, because if you are simply selling and you have a right to be there and you are there selling your ware, then the uniform is not going to deter you, because you expect that he is reasonable enough to permit you to sell what you intend to sell. I am making that distinction all the time between the treatment of those who have a right to be there and the treatment of those who do not have the right to be there.

The way it is at the moment, Sir, it will become a kind of law that will be very difficult to administer and we have to be careful not to impose unnecessary penalties on people who mean well. We have to be careful not to obstruct honest vendors, we have to be careful not to make our people feel that they are second rate citizens on our beaches.

What I would like to see is that this matter was so handled that each one of us could in conscience take a position on it, rather than feeling that we are constrained, by virtue of any attachment, to make a decision. When we come to legal matters and legislative matters of this importance, I do not think it is a matter of partisanship at all. It is a matter of what we all believe to be the best thing for our society.
2.30 p.m.

I hope, Sir, that it is still not too late for some kind of further look. I congratulate the Attorney General on his decision to revise the whole thing ultimately and I have been one who have constantly made the point from the time I joined this Honourable Chamber that I would rather see bad legislation in place than no legislation at all, because having put it in place, then you give teeth to it along the way. You will have something to work on and develop. So I congratulate the Attorney General for going in that direction. That still does not deny the fact that there might be some other things necessary with the legislation as it is to ensure that those fears that I have outlined are not realised.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill and to say that there is a definite distinction between harassment and social interaction and particularly between friendliness and aggressiveness. The law seeks to protect everyone in Barbados.

I go to town quite often. I also have travelled enough in New York and other cities to encounter people selling on pavements and sidewalks and I have never felt any sense of unease, but certainly in recent years here in Barbados I have seen stark fear on the faces of visitors and some locals, and nowadays we are constantly bemoaning the fact that the society has become indisciplined. This Act will help to do something about that.

Vagrancy is an area where people show a great deal of indiscipline. There are the unwanted approaches and not just touching but embraces. I have seen that quite often – kissing and hugging and people recoiling. It is annoying to say the least and at times it is even frightening. There is no constitutional intrusion here, Mr. President. Everyone here respects the fundamental rights and freedoms of people

which are granted to us by the Constitution; but the law must protect every individual: the harassee as well as the harasser.

If you look at Article 11 in the Constitution it says that every person in Barbados is entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others in the public interest for the public interest. That is very important.

The amendment affects 2 categories and Senator Forde referred to one of those categories, where persons engage in lawful activity but pursue the activity in an unlawful manner, people who may have a licence to sell on the beach and when the tourists refuse to buy from them they follow them and often abuse them. The same thing applies to car washers where they will wash without being solicited and sometimes people may not have the money to pay them for it and then they curse them. Some carry out illegal activities selling drugs and others make people buy cockroaches saying they are "mahogany birds". Those things cannot be called anything but harassment.

I want to stress, furthermore, that this position does not militate against the principle that an accused is innocent until proven guilty because the prosecution will still have to prove the guilt of the accused. For instance, if you are driving with your tail lights off and you don't realise it, you are still held responsible. So the Vagrancy (Amendment) Act imposes a similar obligation where the person charged is in pursuit of legal activity and he must show it.

Let us be realistic. This Act is to protect everyone, as I said, locals and tourists alike because this is a caring Government. We have to realise that Barbados is heavily reliant on repeat tourism and the harassment of tourists and crime against tourists will result in much negative publicity for Barbados. We have seen that and, as our Leader said, strong measures must be taken and they must be taken now. The protection of the tourism industry is critical to Barbados in relation to employment.

Other Honourable Senators have spoken about self-employment and certainly the protection of the tourism industry is vital in that respect and in revenue earning, and the general decline in standards and behaviour will damage the image of Barbados as having well-mannered and friendly people.

I also want to refer to Section 7 about the time limit for prosecution which is in keeping with the Government's modern legislative approach not to delay justice. So I just wish to end by saying that the amendment Act is innocuous and necessary. I congratulate the Attorney General and the Government on bringing it at this time and again I am pleased to support it.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, I join this debate hopefully to assuage some of what I consider to be the misguided but understandable fears and anxieties expressed by some Members who have preceded me in speaking.

Sir, when one strips this whole debate of all its emotionalism and historical antecedents, when one removes it from the realm of slavery and things of that nature, one then begins to see that all it really does and is intended to do, is to modify the behaviour, control and manage the behaviour of a segment of our society that does not operate according to the norms that we think they should be operating against.

This is a temporary and interim measure as indicated by the Attorney General. It is merely to hold strain until the entire Vagrancy Act is repealed. While one might by today's standards and today's environment express all kinds of abhorrence about the Vagrancy Act of 1895, the point is that one cannot allow – what I like to call "retroactive logic", whereby you judge the standards operating in society in the past by what we know and believe in today. 2.40 p.m.

One cannot allow that kind of thinking to make us lose sight of the fact that what we are seeking here to do is to bring on track a certain level of behaviour which we find to be anti-social and anti-economic.

Sir, in saying so, I think we also need to be aware of the fact that we do not live in a police state and therefore this legislation is not intended to, and I am sure will not result in, any images of vans going along the street and just sweeping people off the streets because somebody in their mind think that they have become a vagrant, just by being there.

It does not relate to people who are liming on the street corner, hanging out or sitting down. There has been a lot of mention of people in Bridgetown but like Senator Forde says, one who frequents Bridgetown would see that those people are very docile persons and scarcely humbug anybody but themselves, except that they rummage through garbage cans and things of that nature.

On the other hand, I myself have witnessed several instances where visitors are coming, obviously from the Bridgetown Harbour off a cruise ship and strolling into Bridgetown. Suddenly, you see a character who dashes out, grabs the man and throws his hands around his neck. He says "Hello buddy, friend" shakes his hand, kisses his wife and throws this chain around his neck and says "buy this for your lovely lady" and if they resist they follow them, and follow them, takes it off and puts it on again. That is the kind of "following" we are talking about, as specified

in section 2 of the Act which talks about "in any street, highway or public place, including a beach without lawful authority or excuse accosts, annoys, threatens or harasses any person or follows him about or offers to sell him goods or services of any kind." Therefore, it is quite specific in what it seeks to treat.

While I am also speaking of visitors, I am also conscious of the fact that we also have local tourists in the sense that when a Barbadian who lives in Christ Church goes to bathe down at Heywood's or something like that, or goes to the East Coast Road, or whatever, or if it is somewhere on the South Coast, he or she, and particularly she, often encounters similar behaviour and we do have our versions of harassment of Barbadians too by these characters.

Let us not fool ourselves that it only applies to visitors which, in many people's mind, connotes white and therefore there is this feeling that one is seeking to harass black people for white people. That is pure ignorance and I feel a further attempt to mislead people.

Sir, like it or not, harassment is a modern phenomenon. While every era has had its people, its hobos, its bums, we are not talking about characters like Scottie, or Beansley, or somebody like that who are harmless. We are talking about people who very often want to endanger people's lives. This is not meant to prevent people from exercising their individual peculiarities and quirks to the detriment of nobody, but these measures are intended for people who are endangering other people, Barbadians and otherwise and also endangering the social norms and the economy of our society.

As we look at it, Sir, it seems to me that one has to put this attempt in the same realm of the kind of thinking that has informed the attempt to bring order to disorder in the ZR and other public service vehicles sector. We have a problem. What do we do? Do we say, like has been said by a previous administration, that there were no gangs while all around us gangs were shooting, maiming, killing and creating mayhem? Do we say there are no vagrants? Do we make an attempt to deal with the social problem?

This is a social problem. People are saying that one should not use legislation to deal with social issues but what else do you do? Do you just pray for the Lord to intercede and save people from their wickedness or do you use the devices that are at man's disposal, namely the law. Law regulates and controls behaviour of various types so that kind of thinking does not hold much water. If you have a problem and you are attempting to deal with it, you have to bite the bullet and face the issue as has been done with this case, as has been done with the ZR operators. And it would be fruitless and you would be failing in your duty towards yourself and our society if you were to back

off from your responsibility and duty, for fear of being accused of damaging or being detrimental to the "small man", the "poor man" or the "poor, barefoot, black masses", *et cetera*. That kind of emotionalism and emotive language merely encourages people to mask the evidence of the social issues that are there to be dealt with and postpones the inevitable whereby things get worse rather than better.

This, Sir, therefore, is an attempt to deal with a very serious social issue and it is not meant to be exclusive of the type of activity and social policies that are intended to, and that should be devised to, deal with genuine social cases of people who through either their own fault, illness or hard economic times fall on tough times and become street characters, sleeping on the streets. It is not meant to deal with that.

We cannot be accused, Sir, of being insensitive to the poor or the blacks. We cannot be accused of being insensitive, where this legislation is concerned, to the past and to our respect for heritage because, while we are seeking to increase the penalties for harassment, while we are seeking to extend the powers of arrest to special constables and security guards under the existing Act, and while, like Senator Symmonds said, we are also seeking to reinforce the 6 months' limitation subject to these offences, we are also repealing that dreaded and hated 19th Century notion of rogue and vagabond and people being deemed idol and disorderly, or incorrigible rogues.

So we are paying our dues to both sides of the fence, but we cannot be guided by what is popular, or we cannot be guided by what is purely superficially good. Rather, we must be guided by what is best for the overall good of society.

That is why, Sir, one of the first acts of this Government, as exemplified in its 1995-1996 Estimates, was to reinvest money in the social services that had been so drastically cut in more stringent economic times, because we realise that we had a duty to look after the disadvantaged, the dispossessed and the downtrodden in society. So we cannot be accused of only being interested in dollars and cents and being only interested in the economy, and we are only interested in tourists, *et cetera*. For a while the social services were decimated and devastated by the previous Government. Like I said, we have re-established them by giving them the resources, both financial and otherwise, to make them play the role that they should in the lives of Barbadians.

I would like to caution the other Honourable Senators not to be misled by the antics, fanatics and rhetoric of the two Opposition parties who now have suddenly become kissing cousins. They have always been cousins but now on this Act and a few more they have now become kissing

cousins. They, Sir, particularly the older cousin, who is now celebrating its 40th Anniversary, have a history of appealing to the lowest common denominator. There is no doubt to me that in this whole debate when one has been talking about the abhorrence of the legislation of 1895, *et cetera*, that there is an underlying and subtle substratum of racism and race that people are playing to because we all know that those people who would have been affected by those laws would have been largely black people.

So therefore to me that is the most disappointing aspect of the debate whereby people, rather than trying to look realistically, practically, rationally and logically at what obtains in society and what needs to be done, would prefer to spend their time trying to resurrect cases that had been long dead and buried.

There is no doubt in the fact that neither of the Government that have been running the affairs of Barbados over the last 40 to nearly 50 years now, can be accused fairly and squarely, despite when we are fighting our political battles, of not doing the best for the majority in the society, not seeking to enhance the livelihood of the vast majority of Barbadian people, namely the black people. Nobody could fairly accuse either the Democratic Labour Party or the Barbados Labour Party of that because the programmes we have put in place over those years are testimony to the very opposite. Therefore, I think it is idle, futile and really failing in your duty and responsibility to guiding, leading and enlightening the society by pursuing this aspect rather than trying to put the wider case in its proper perspective to the larger society.

Sir, there have been protestations about what people have experienced in other parts of the world as they venture about the street. People have said that they have been subjected to similar activity and those countries have not felt the need for it. But I would like to put that against the background of Barbados' case. Because we might go to societies where there is a lower standard of health education, one where there may be lower standards of literacy, are we supposed to say, because they have it and nobody seems to be concerned about it that we are going to adopt it and if it is good enough for them it is good enough for us.
2.50 p.m.

We have to be guided by our own standards. We have to decide what is best for us by all the best considered thinking of the day, by the best information. Sir, this Act has come under the aegis of an Attorney General who has a feel for humanity in his observation of the law and his attempts to amend the law and as he guides legislation through Parliament. Nobody can accuse him therefore of not being conscious of the responsibilities, the needs, the wants, the failings, *et cetera*, of various segments of the

society and not seeking to cater to them. He does not believe and neither does this Government, in just locking up people. Therefore, this legislation is a manifestation of the fruit of that same kind of thinking. Therefore, as I support this legislation I often wonder where, if it is true that this legislation is such a big threat to people's rights as human beings, as some people would try to make us believe, where is Amnesty International, where is Caribbean Rights? Do not they respect the rights of people to be free to go about their daily business and their social and commercial life free of harassment, even from the state and not just from other people. It seems to me that if they are only interested then in executions and hangings *et cetera*, that they are failing in their duty. I think, from what I know of them, that had not they, particularly how Amnesty International came into being, its historical origins, that they would have been the first to have protested and demonstrated against this attempt to deprive people of their lawful rights and I am sure we would have heard a lot about it.

I therefore willingly and with a sense of ease give my support to this legislation and call on my fellow Senators to do the same. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Odle.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I just want to add a few words to this debate because as usual when you speak quite significantly lower down the Table most of the material prepared has already been presented and it would be a waste of time to be repetitive, but I could not sit here today and not rise to give support to this amendment, particularly something that I myself have come into contact with, some of the situations which we are seeking to raise and to increase the penalties for those who seek to molest, threaten, etc., and my experience has been right on home ground as well as abroad.

The first instance was abroad. In the USA as Senator Thompson pointed out and the reaction that it had on me as that I have never since that day walked alone on the streets of New York. I think I am a fairly fearless woman and I will just about go anywhere but I am not going to put myself in that position again. But when it comes home on my door step I have to do something about it and this is why I definitely will vote for these amendments. The situation here which I had, I heard a knock on my work place, I go to the door and the individual requested \$5.00. I said I am sorry I cannot help you today. He refused to budge out of the door jamb and talking and words flowing, bad words needless to say, and what is more then raised his hand to me. Well I stepped back. Fortunately I am a law abiding citizen or I might have felt that I had to react a little differently, but that was right there on my door step and I feel that the penalties definitely need the increase that we are seeking to make in this amendment. If we do not do

something about it at this time, until such time as the Act can be repealed where does the law abiding citizen stand other than try and take the law into our own hands and end up heaven knows where. In that forbidden place called Glendairy Prison perhaps, where I would never want to be a resident, having visited there with a group of young persons a very short time ago?

I still feel it is incumbent on us to do this particularly as there are those elements in the society which have already been alluded to, those who put the necklaces around your neck and seek to sell you wares *et cetera*. They have to learn to take "no" for an answer or "No thank you", without then continuing to harass and distress and almost put fear, both in the locals and most definitely in the tourists as Senator Symmonds referred to where you can almost see the fear on the faces of those individuals.

Senator Murray just made the point that this Act also removes the section which resulted in people being convicted under this Act being deemed a rogue and vagabond. Of course this would have been on their records for life and those individuals then would be stigmatised, therefore preventing them from getting decent jobs, visas and certificates of character.

I have to smile when I hear our Opposition Senator say that she could not support this and this Act was repulsive to her. It makes me wonder why a previous administration did not seek to do something about it, either repeal it or seek to amend it so that it cast a different light on the whole situation as stands today. So I really have to commend this administration and the Attorney General for strides being made.

Mr. President, I want to say that we really have to take strides to protect our nation. After all this is the only piece of rock in this hemisphere where we can have some say, where we can stand up and say we do not like this, we want to have a change for our betterment.

I am happy that this administration, even in these early days, is making steps which is quite a turn around from previous administrations, which is still fresh in our minds. We are preaching the whole business of being involved, people having some say, which is not the feeling we got in not so distant history.

I must therefore lend my support to this Bill. Before I sit I just want to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to beseech this Honourable House to see what can be done in the provision of copies of the Laws of Barbados, because several of us have to take a little read up here in the Library or borrow copies *et cetera*, and it would make the job so much easier and more effective if we could be equipped with full copies of the laws of Barbados. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I would like to support the request of Senator Odle. I would also rise to give my contribution to this Act. I must accept that the Act is frightening but so are the behaviour patterns of some of these persons that we have to deal with and something has to be done. I am not sure what is the best thing to be done but hopefully within the year one could monitor the implementation of the Act because the time has come in Barbados when people like myself, females, are afraid to go certain places alone and are being widely accosted and abused. At present there does not seem to be a solution.

In connection with this Bill, I would like to suggest that a massive education programme be mounted with the assistance of the Government Information Service in the form of very short promos which can be aired at peak times like Days of our Lives, the Bold and the Beautiful, the Young and the Restless and other times when there are peak viewing times to educate the public, not only about the Act, but what to expect if they do not adhere to the laws of Barbados.
3.00 p.m.

I would also like to suggest that we get back to basics and we start from the nursery school by teaching people a code of behaviour. It seems as though a lot of us even though some of us have degrees do not seem to know what is right from what is wrong. I do not know what has happened and it is very frightening and all I can say is that we need to get back to the churches, primary schools, nursery schools and to start educating persons who are pregnant about how to bring up children.

I would also like to suggest that assistance be given in addition to imprisonment or a fine or both to those persons who need help with behavioural problems and I have mentioned it already in this Honourable House that we need to use the psychiatric trained nurses in specialist areas such as these. It is a fact, Mr. President, that the admission to the Psychiatric Hospital has been changed drastically over the years and the majority of people that are being admitted now are admitted for drug abuse and misuse. Some of these people might accost people and smack them on their bottom and they go to tourists saying they want this and they rub things on their bodies *et cetera* and they really need counselling and education. If they do not respond to that, then I would suggest heavier punishment because we have to bring some sense of decency, law and order to our society. We all live here and we want to be comfortable.

We know that every society has a percentage of deviant behaviour. But, Mr. President, I must admit that the percentage is too high at the moment. I do not know if it is because of unemployment or what. Therefore, something has to be done. Even though I think that the Act is

draconian, I am afraid that I have to support it in the absence of nothing else.

Another thing that I would like to see and I would like to bring it in here is that our psychiatric nurses should be trained as specialist so that they can be used in all of these areas adequately. Because the mental health system seems as though it is functioning back into the 1920's and it has not been brought forward into this century in order to support the development of the country and much more could be done. What could be done? We could have nursing assistants who could free up the highly trained psychiatric nurses in order that they can give counselling, advice and therapy. That is what they are trained to do, not to do menial tasks. These are areas that we need to look at in order to complement our development and to help deal with the behavioural patterns that are undesirable. Thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, quite a lot has been said both in the Lower House on this issue of the Vagrancy Act. Not much has been said I suppose in the Senate because there has been quite a long lapse between the two debates and people are afraid to be repetitive. I wish really to ask – how big is the problem of vagrancy in Barbados? I also wish to know if the problem is gender specific. Can we say that only males fall into this category of vagrants because almost on a nightly basis on driving pass the Garrison encounter individuals who one can classify? But I do not get the impression that this legislation is designed in any way to address those individuals. Are the individuals affected by the Act belonging to any specific class of people in Barbados? In that context, one therefore would see that it is a social problem that we can identify apparently that is mainly associated with males, mainly associated with people who are deprived and who are looking for opportunities to lift themselves from that level of deprivation. We have to therefore be careful that we are not introducing measures in order to make life even more difficult for individuals who by their very definition find it difficult to make ends meet.

It was particularly interesting to note that Senator Farley in his preamble to the Resolution identified the Visitors Satisfaction Survey as a point of departure in bringing the Resolution to the Senate. I got the distinct impression from that even though it might have been an innocent act that the Act is designed merely to ensure that the tourists visiting Barbados exist in an atmosphere of comfort. I would wish for anyone to tell me the extent to which they recognize Barbadians to be effected by the actions of so-called vagrants in the society.

It is pleasing to note that the measure which is being introduced is being considered as a temporary measure and that there will be some repeal of this Act and I will not be

caught in the trap of being asked whether I belong to any particular or previous administration. The issue is not merely a question of politics here. I think we all recognize that the Act itself might not have been dealt with over the years as expeditiously as it should have been and, therefore, we now recognize that it is an Act that requires our close attention and that appropriate measures should be taken in the future. In that, Sir, I am therefore suspicious as to how soon or how long is temporary. If it is the case that we cannot identify a host of individuals that we can regard as vagrants, then to my mind the problem does not seem at this point to be a major problem or a problem for which we accord the kind of priority that it has been accorded by the two Houses. But I can understand that the Government might have been playing for time and therefore had to bring something to be debated in both the Lower and Upper Houses.

3.10 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order, Mr. President. The Honourable Senator is casting aspersions on the motives of the Government both in terms of this legislation as well as its general approach to the seriousness of these parliamentary chambers. I wish that the Honourable Member would withdraw those aspersions which he has cast on the conduct of the Government in bringing this or any bit of legislation before this or the other chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senator has raised a valid point of order. The Standing Orders are fairly clear in so far as imputation of improper motives are concerned. The relevant Standing Order is 34. In the circumstances, Senator Mascoll, I think it would be in order for you to withdraw the reference.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I have no hesitation in withdrawing those remarks. I just query the priority that has been assigned to this Bill.

In his opening comments as well Senator Farley alluded to the public service vehicles. I did not even find it strange that he did, because to a large extent the recent measures to impose additional fees on the ZRs seem to be a direct result of the belief that the operators, the conductors, the general workers on those ZR vehicles are vagrants. In fact, I got that impression from listening to a Senator who tried to explain, and the Senator did say it, that you can have a situation in which the spouse is pulled to one ZR and the wife goes into another ZR. I am of the view, as a result of the example cited, that there is some kind of behaviour which one can classify as belonging to vagrants, because one can see that there is some correlation between the actions of those individuals on the beaches who are seeking merely to ply their trade and the actions of the operators, or in fact the conductors on the ZR vans. Again, I was not surprised in the Preamble to the Bill that

- (1) the visitor satisfaction survey was identified as a means of elevating tourism way beyond anything else, or tourists beyond locals; and
- (2) that the public service vehicles example was used in fact to demonstrate the kind of people, in this case class specific, who are to be addressed as a result of the Vagrancy Act.

I do not think I am unfair in making the connection between the Preamble and possibly the intentions of the Bill in terms of whom the legislation wishes to address.

Just let me explain, now that I have made the connection between the public service vehicles and this Bill, that you cannot merely use laws to bring about the kind of social engineering which is required in Barbados. I think we have to look at the heart of the issues which we are confronted by. There are many other social problems in relation to health, education and of course the biggest social problem of all, unemployment. Therefore, you must try to put in place legislation that appreciates both the social components and the economic components which are required for us to effectively address the whole question of unemployment. By that I am saying that we have to be careful that the kind of legislation which we are seeking to introduce is not legislation that is going to make it even more challenging and difficult for individuals who are finding difficulty in getting a job from being aggressive in terms of improving or enhancing their capacity to earn.

I get the distinct impression that this Bill is really designed in some way to curb the enterprising instincts of the people who reside predominantly in the lower echelons of the society. It is noteworthy that as a result of some of the things pointed out in the Lower House that some amendment was made to the original amendment to the Act and that there is some deletion of the words from the original amendment "offers to sell him goods or services of any kind" apparently have been amended in the more recent amendment which has come to the Upper House. If you were to look at the two sets of legislation you will see the original Section 2 of Cap. 156.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Yes, there was a change. You have not even read your legislation. Therefore, I think there was some consideration that the Act itself has been further amended because there is some recognition that the issues which I am addressing are not idle, that they are real issues.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The amendment is to repeal the Act. That is the further proposal which we intend to do. I will not be trapped by you into talking nonsense.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I am demonstrating here that as innocent as the Bill appears to be, it addresses to my mind a specific gender, because we associate vagrants with predominantly the male, even though we can dispute that. We have a situation in which there is also a sort of class specific individual who is being targeted by this particular Bill, because we do not expect that those who are – though we can argue otherwise – would not be caught in this type of action and we expect that this kind of action comes predominantly from those who are deprived and the under-privileged within the society. But there may be other forms of vagrancy which are rather more difficult to identify but that should be identified and treated in a serious way, that we are not treating. The same way in which we view blue collar versus white collar criminals.

3.20 p.m.

We seem to think that some are reserved for special mention and special treatment even when they are incarcerated and we treat them differently. I would hope that we understand that there are other areas in which we can have individuals seeking to ply their trade but doing it in a rather more sophisticated way than the ordinary man would do it.

In terms of enterprise, and this is why I think it is necessary to address this, we are talking about small business and enhancing small business and yet still we are not endeavoring to ensure that we put systems in place which can assist those people who do not necessarily act on the basis of cruelty but on the basis of not having an appropriate structure within which to function. I made reference to it this morning in relation to swimming that here we have an association which is better managed.

Within the small business community, part of the problem is not a question of just bad personalities being attracted to business, it is that the fellows need some kind of training and framework within which they can function and that applies to the public transport system as well as businessmen who ply their trade along the streets and along the beaches of Barbados.

I don't think that they have any desire to be unruly or to just go and approach tourists to give Barbados a bad name. They have not been trained in the whole art of marketing and it is a question of trying to get the best that they can for the products which they have to sell. They cannot sit idly by and let other strategies of marketing bring the tourists closer to them. They have to be aggressive. So I am saying that we have to find a way in Barbados in which we can as best we can, train the

individual to understand that there are techniques which they can employ with the necessary financial assistance, such that they can sell their commodities with just as great effectiveness as others do, but that they need the kind of skills and training in order to be able to do that.

There is a problem there but if we are saying that we are seeking to enhance small business and every time we are making efforts we then come and counter on the basis of the fact that the people attracted to these areas are unruly and are not well trained individuals, then we are actually being counter productive in the efforts which we are making to enhance the small business community.

I don't think that anyone on that side is convinced that the imposition of a higher penalty is going to arrest the problem. I would like those on the other side to explain to me how merely imposing a stiffer penalty in this area is going to enhance the policing of the problems which we encounter on the beaches and on the streets of Barbados. How many addressing that can do that? I am saying that there will always be a need for a greater police presence or some other kind of presence or you will have to give greater teeth to other security individuals within Barbados in order to effectively manage the difficulties which we apparently are trying to address by way of this Act.

To impose a further fine does not mean that the individual will not similarly approach the visitor or whoever in order to ply his trade. There is no great expectation from this measure that we can hope for by the imposition of further penalties. What needs to happen is that we have to address it from the other side. Could we not find a way of giving private security men the teeth to be able to apprehend individuals who are committing such so-called crimes or any other security?

This does not address the issue of enhancing or policing the difficulties which we encounter in this particular respect. So we need to find other ways. If it is a simple issue, could not we try to elevate the powers of different security firms which are along the beaches or within Broad Street utilising the whole framework within which the island constables operate in Barbados and therefore trying in some way to provide more effectively greater policing?

This Act cannot mean that more vagrants will be caught as a result. It is like suggesting without recognising that the imposition of a further \$5 000 in permits for ZRs, when you multiply the 283 ZRs, is going effectively to mean that there are 189 000 additional passengers which they have to collect as a fleet over the course of a year. Now where will you get additional passengers of that magnitude over the course of a year in order to ensure that these fellows are no less financially viable?

What you have effectively done by the imposition of greater fees is to increase the capacity to harass within the transport system rather than address the problem which you wanted to address and that is one of insuring that there is greater order within the transport system. The measures therefore, I am saying, do not address the problems which you have identified as problems within this Act or even within that Act. Since both can be regarded as matters dealing with vagrants.

There is no way in which I expect as a result of this that there is going to be any enhancing of the policing of vagrants across the country. The most cruel part, of course, is the whole question of proof. How do you justify in any act that an individual who is accused has to demonstrate that he is innocent? I find that part to be extremely difficult to digest even without legal training. How do you ask an individual whom you have arrested to demonstrate that he or she is innocent? This goes further. It says that the proof shall lie on the person accused and it states that explicitly in the Act.

"The proof whereof shall lie on the person accused."

Do you know what I can do? I can decide that Ninja Man who walks about Broad Street in all his leotards is a vagrant and therefore as a consequence to that I can simply arrest him and say, "Listen you have to prove that you have not harassed."

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: The issue at hand really is precisely what I am trying to demonstrate that we can identify particular individuals in this country whom we regard as vagrants on the basis of their mode of dress, their so-called mode of conduct, their methods of approaching tourists either at the sea port or along the coastal areas or on Broad Street. We can go there and identify whom we regard as vagrants and on the basis of that we can then seek to set up systems in order to take them off the streets because we consider them to be individuals regarded as vagrants or who fall within the definitions outlined under the Vagrancy Act.

I have difficulty with understanding whether the amendment can be of any use to the law enforcing agents within Barbados and especially since we are saying that it is only a temporary measure. What is it that is going to occur between now and the next year or two that requires us to treat this amendment with such urgency and priority? I have already identified other major social problems which we have not addressed and even though we have recently presented a budget we have not even attempted having

given it such prominence within the recent campaign to address the major social problem of unemployment. Job No. 1 is Jobs.

I am saying, Sir, that these kinds of measures which we are seeking here to utilise by imposing what others regard as punitive measures in order to bring order within the public service and these other kinds of measures that they cannot be the issue. My other answer is a more long-term measure and that addresses everything in life, the whole question of education. These kinds of measures are not going to deter anybody from being deviants or vagrants. What is required is a greater appreciation and understanding by the people of Barbados as to the kinds of roles they are expected to play within the respective sectors or components of the society in the areas of education, health and even economics where they are now talking about introducing value added tax and we have not even sought as yet to introduce any such educational programme to tell the people of Barbados where we are going but yet still we are talking about next year to introduce it. It is now for such educational tools to be utilised in many different aspects in the areas of the society and not think that law or legal methods alone are going to address the major problems which we have.

3.30 p.m.

Let me just sum by saying – because I know I will run out of time. You know I bat my full innings all the time – that the whole question that should have been addressed is, is it big enough a problem to have warranted the kinds of measures and attention that we have placed on it in terms of the priority that we have assigned to it? Have we done the kind of research to estimate the problem? Is it a problem that is specific as most of us think but would not say? Is it a problem that is gender specific, and most of us know but would not even address it? Is it a problem of one trying to mix the social and the economic realities and encountering difficulties in doing so because I am saying that if we are talking about small business, especially in these areas, they may have a lot to offer but if every time there is an opportunity for a small businessman to make a contribution in Barbados then we implement measures on the basis of law to hinder the progress of that individual or that sector, we are going to be undermining the confidence which is necessary for individuals to be able to make investment into areas that they should be making investment in.

In that area the transport sector of Barbados has always been and will always be the perfect example of small people being able to indulge in enterprises in such a way that they have proven to be successful over the years. It is the greatest example of economic enfranchisement that you could want in this society. The greatest example of widening of ownership of the resources of Barbados and if we are saying that, Sir, it means that we have also to understand that a number of females are the persons who

go on the beaches and ply their trade with respect to tourists and that if they are putting these kinds of measures in place, we may very well be able to accuse them of being involved in other endeavours, so I am a little wary as to whether we have thought this thing through sufficiently, or if we understand some of the implications because we do not even understand financial implications of a measure such as the one we put on the ZRs and I will finish on that note. The imposition is all a social problem.

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

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: But you never hinted, Sir. You should have hinted to me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You gave the earliest indication of that.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, you must let me wrap up. I do not think you can do this to me. I am saying, Sir, that there is an even greater financial implication as a result of the measure on the ZRs and that what it does is that it undermines...

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, on a point of order. This is not a Bill of finance, or ZRs, or financial impositions so I would wish the Honourable Member to stick to the Bill at hand.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think the Honourable Member has concluded his speech.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, all that remains for me to do is to thank the Honourable Senators for their contributions to the debate and 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.

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 - 7 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. Chairman reported to HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee. Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY the Bill was read a third time.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Bill do now pass and be cited as the Vagrancy (Amendment) Act, 1995.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Before putting the question, Senator Odle did mention in the course of her speech the fact that she was at some disadvantage owing to the unavailability of copies of Laws of Barbados. I am aware that there is a problem in that the Laws are out of print but the Senator has raised a genuine concern and I propose to refer the matter to the relevant committee to see whether anything can be done.

The question that the Bill do now pass and be so cited was put to the Senate and agreed to.
3.40 p.m.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
GALL HILL, CHRIST CHURCH FOR
THE PROVISION OF A COM-
MUNITY CENTRE

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, Senate's approval is being sought for the acquisition of some 1 209.8 square metres of land at Gall Hill, Christ Church. Sir, this location is the location of the once popular Club Randall at Gall Hill, Christ Church. As you would be aware, I am sure, Sir, Club Randall used to be a very popular dance spot many years ago. I have not had the privilege unlike some Senators, like Senator Murray, to dance in that spot but by virtue of attending school nearby I was aware of its existence even though I was not permitted to darken its doors. Sir, that popular night spot has ceased operation for many years. In fact it is now in a pretty bad state of disrepair but this measure aims to acquire the property which right now, as I passed there a few days ago, has no windows or doors and so on. It has now become somewhat of a cool out or a hide out spot. It is being proposed to be used as a community centre in the Gall Hill area in Christ Church. I am therefore asking the Senate's approval for the acquisition of this property, 1 209.8 square metres, the former Club Randall at Gall Hill, for the purposes of converting its use to that of a community centre. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I rise to support this Resolution for the acquisition of land in Gall Hill but equally importantly to recognise that the former Member for Christ Church East Central initiated this move because he had the vision to understand that that centre at Gall Hill could be very effectively used to deal with some of the social ills within the community.

Sir, I rise in recognition of that and hope that the vision which the former Christ Church East Central Member had for the area will be pursued with the same kind of diligence and fervour that he would have pursued these activities in this area because we are well aware of some of the difficulties associated with that community.

There is no doubt in my mind that whatever we can do to enhance community development across the Board, we should be doing. But let it also be noted that it does not make sense to acquire a property of this magnitude and to pass it on to individuals within the area without first respecting and recognising that the same way you can provide the physical environment you can provide other kinds of environments especially the managerial to assist the guys and the community. Government and the Private Sector individuals have a way of believing that the mere provision of a sponsorship or a shirt or a short pants can go a long way towards effecting change within these kinds of communities. I wish to hold a completely different view and especially when we are in the business of seeking to get political mileage I wish to hold a completely different view that the other kinds of requirements to uplift these kinds of communities, the major kinds, because I, myself, have participated unlike the other Senator in the Deacons Area Community.

I respect fully that it is the other kinds of things which we need to do such as making sure that they have a proper club structured place, making sure that they clearly identify what is the purpose of the community centre, that they fully identify who will be the target and that they also identify people within the community supported by others outside who can give them the kinds of input which their require to advance their cause. So the mere acquisition will not help. I support it but there is need for further assistance to be granted in these kinds of communities.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, the admonitions of the last Member who spoke are sincere but a little too late. Because I am sure what he is going to see in the acquisition of this property and the uses to which it is put will be part of the realisation of the new community development thrust. One will recall that over the last two years community development in Barbados became a misnomer because the whole department was dormant, was dead, it was bedraggled and all the negatives you can think. It really had no purpose, no focus and if you are familiar with our Manifesto, you will see that we talk a lot about youth.

We have a brand new Chief Community Development Officer, Mr. Layne, and already he is hard at work with a reconstituted department, bringing new life and new meaning to community development.

In addition, we not only have community development we also have a new Director of Youth Affairs,

a highly respected ex-member of your Cave Hill Community, a well known sociologist. I should have mentioned him when you were talking about management of sports. He, by identifying with volleyball, has been able to make volleyball a success that has surpassed a lot of our older sports in Barbados. So he is going to bring some of those same skills to his role as Director of Youth Affairs.

In addition, there is going to be a stream of Youth Commissioners, Senior and Junior, around Barbados so there is going to be a cohesive, integrated effort at community development that will make sure that your fears are not realised. For we will not just be acquiring structures and then leaving them to the whims and fancies of the occupants or residents or even the elements, but they will be put to productive use.

Sir, I also want to speak on this issue because as has been hinted, I have been associated with Club Randall and I am hoping, Sir, that when it becomes a community centre that the name "Club Randall" will be retained because Club Randall has become a local social institution. It has become a landmark of some renown in that district, if you associate it with the name of Aberdeen Jones. People who know their social history in Barbados would know about Club Randall and Aberdeen Jones, and that he also belonged to the right party, the BLP, were institutions in that district.

I would like to see the name retained because there are very few structures and such institutions left in Barbados today, except for the Liberty and Bajan Pub and few others. We have lost a lot like the Chaperita, the Hamilton, and while they are associated in the people's mind in Barbadian social context with "brams", they have performed a very useful and social role in Barbados. In fact, they have withstood the test of time, they have lasted much longer than many of the older more glamorous institutions like the YMPC, Drill Hall and many places like the Liberty have survived as well as the Three-Fives Disco, while others have come and gone. So I am saying that when you look at the social history of these institutions and the fact that they are more than just dance halls, they are social gathering places for a certain level of the Barbadian society, despite the fact they were probably called "brams" and in a lot of people's mind had connotations of bad behaviour.

3.50 p.m.

If one were to go to "brams" like I do from time to time, and I have been to several, you will see that the level of behaviour and in fact the level of dancing in these places is much higher than what obtains in the more popular spots that operate today. There is little of the "wukking up" and so on, culture below the waist. There is a lot of ballroom dancing, mambo, square dancing, *et cetera* where people's artistic efforts and people's sense of identity are enhanced because they are able to dance well.

Therefore, Sir, for the benefit of the younger members, these so called "grand dances" used to be known as "singings" and then they were called "social hops". So their names have changed over the years but the role that they have performed has endured and I will be very glad if in retaining this as a social centre, like I said, that Government will seek to retain the name of the Club Randall and therefore help to preserve a very important part of Barbadian social history. I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to make a brief intervention on this matter here and I will mention Youth Commissioners. One of the reasons that I am concerned about this is because I recognize that we are talking about people who will be leading our young people. I hope that our Youth Commissioners are drawn from the very community in which they are going to be operating, because we recognize the types of problems which we can present to the society, when we bring people in who have no class or cultural commonality with the people whom they seek to lead and also that we can create further problems when we are intending to alleviate the situation.

I, too, want to support the Resolution, because I believe that once the state can afford to put in place these types of measures to assist in our community development and to assist in reversing some of the evil behaviour and misconduct, the Vagrancy Act and matters of that nature will not be necessary. I think we recognize the importance of helping to re-socialize, if I may say that, our people. We have some sub-cultures developing in Barbados and it is alarming. I believe in resolving some situations by sometimes passive methods. It is always good at times when you can sit with somebody and say look, I understand what is happening. You know I walked that road before instead of saying, "Why are you doing it? This is how you should do it." I think that community development is one of the ways we can bring about this change.

I also hope that these individuals who are being identified for these leadership positions are going to be trained in inter-personal relationships, conflict resolution and motivation, we also need to recognize the little shift in the behaviour of our youth. Our youth tend now to be able to more readily identify with peers than superiors. That our Youth Commissioners in addition to being members of the very communities will be peers of the communities – persons who can identify with these things – we may yet be able to assist in reversing our negative trends.

So, Mr. President, once this is the direction in which we are heading and since this is a matter which has

originated in the camp of the Democratic Labour Party, I have no difficulty in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Welch.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: Mr. President, I do not intend to speak for any length of time on this topic. But I am one who have been able to observe the area of Gall Hill for quite a long time and despite the fact that Gall Hill has in recent times had its share of the social problems that beset the housing areas in Barbados, that coming out of that community have been some very talented young people who have been able over the years to pilot a team like Bayer Pride of Gall Hill over the last 10 or 15 years to a position in football in Barbados that cannot be rivalled by any other team. Recently, there has been some development also in the area of netball where for the first time a first division club from the same district has successfully been able to compete in the Division I of the Barbados Netball Association Competition.

Sir, it is in my view fitting then that Government acted speedily to provide for the people of this area a community centre in what Senator Murray described as an institution that they have over the years become associated with. If you pass Gall Hill anytime, you will see that the youth still congregate around the Randall and there is quite a lot of commercial activity going on there and I am hoping that provisions will be made not just for a community centre to be there but outlets for the sort of small business activity that I see people in the area getting involved with, be integrated into this facility.

We are very conscious of the need to provide employment opportunities for the people in this area and we believe that self help can be further generated in this direction by providing areas where people perhaps who can repair shoes, sell fruits and who can do small things to put some money in their pockets. I also hope that this same swiftness of action will be evident as I am sure that the Government will move to alleviate some of the problems that the sporting community in the area has had over the years where they have had to rely quite heavily on the use of the playing facilities at Foundation School. I am pleased with the recent clean-up campaign of the Ministry of Health that what used to be the metal dump at the back of the Foundation School has been identified as an area which will be reclaimed and in the not too distant future will be a decent facility for the playing of football and perhaps the development of a hard court will be made there for the youth of Gall Hill.

Aside.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: That was not Bobby's idea. Of course, not. So that the youth of the area can have an outlet for the further development of sports in that area of Christ Church.

That is all I want to say, Mr. President. Thank you for your indulgence.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. President. I too shall be very brief but I am happy to know that Senator Mascoll has mentioned that the idea probably come from one of the other representatives of the past administration. I am happy to know that, Sir, so that Barbadians will see that we are working towards the interest and the benefit of all Barbadians. Whether that were the case or not, I do not think in a country where people are benefitting that any government should want to postpone projects and to push things on the back burner because another individual in a past administration said that.

I am happy to know, Sir, that this particular land is being acquired for such a very important purpose and I would want to give it my wholehearted support. Mr. President, Sir, it seems to me as though the Barbados Labour Party Administration always is on the ball when it comes to the development of communities. For many years we have been building pavilions and playing fields and upgrading our community centres. During the last administration I am saddened to see that a lot of our community centres were closed in the main hours when young people in particular would want to be able to go there and to participate in positive activities.
4.00 p.m.

I am happy, Sir, to say that the whole thing is now being turned around where Community Development Division has been given that latitude to expand on the various programmes they are doing, due to the fact that Senator Murray has mentioned it, I would like to say that the Youth Service and the Youth Affairs Department will be working in close association in our communities where individuals will be going into the communities to meet with the young people. I agree that they should be people from the various communities. That has been identified and individuals who live in those communities will be involved in helping to co-ordinate the various activities and channeling those persons who have problems or interests, through the social agencies and otherwise, that would be able to give them the kind of guidance and support to help them to continue to be people who would want to promote wholesome lives and to be assets to this country, Barbados.

I think the construction or development of this community centre will help our young people to find avenues in which they can vent their energies in positive ways, and it would greatly help to reduce what we perceive as being negative activity that goes on around us.

I am a hurt person today, Sir, because the community centre in that district where I live, which has been there for

many years, has been closed down under the last administration simply because there was need for a court. While I agree that the court was necessary, since the District "D" Police Station and the court there was in shambles, I strongly feel that to remove that community centre has really caused community life in the constituency where I live to be diminished. The District "D" community centre is now a court. I would like to recommend that when we are going to do forward planning, rather than disrupt something that is actually going on, something that holds history for us, something that helps us to develop and promote our culture, that we look for another facility or property that we can acquire to construct something of that nature. A really very important part of the lives of the people in that area has been taken away from them and we have absolutely nowhere to have our community life continued.

I want to say that this step forward for me would be a good way, and I am going to recommend this, Sir, that the individuals in that community be given latitude to be a part of the planning and the designing of that new community centre. That they be given the kind of recognition that they can see themselves as shareholders or partners in whatever is happening, so that it will minimise the vandalism of the facility. For too long we have been building lovely structures and closing them off at a certain time and the people cannot get the opportunities to remain in that environment and to carry out the various interests as they would want. If these individuals in the neighbourhood are given an opportunity to be a part of that decision making on the structure, or maintaining it, it will greatly reduce the vandalism in any area at all, because they see it as belonging to them, they are responsible for maintaining the facility in a proper manner.

Finally, Sir, I want to say that we in Barbados need to look back more at community life. While these individuals in the Gall Hill area, and perhaps many other areas, are lacking in a facility to vent their energies, I know that over the past couple of years – and I have no problem with it where people want to rise a little higher in the class position, let me call it upward social mobility – they had to resort to neighbourhood watches and so on, but what is going to happen to the individuals who remain in those communities and have all these interests but no facility in which they can meet together as a group and socialise? People leave their homes on mornings and go to the community centre just to sit to old talk, to play, but if there is no facility of that nature they must build a little hut, they must get involved in some kind of activity perhaps that we might consider to be unwholesome, but for them it might be the most productive thing to help to keep them thinking and motivated with what is happening. Therefore, I want to commend this effort of the Government, because it is okay to have the thought and to have the vision, but to put it into practice is another story. So whoever created the idea,

if it did not come from this administration, we want to laud that individual, but to let them know it is not enough to just have the idea but to put that idea into practice, because I know of the dying need of the residents of that Gall Hill area and the surrounding areas for some sort of community centre where they can go and discuss, communicate, participate in whatever activities that help to make what we term as community life that we really need to get back to in this society so that each and every individual could be his brother's keeper.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I will be very brief. I just wanted to make a short statement and support this Resolution about the community centre and to agree with Senator Forde that we need to involve people in the planning, if not they will not see that the community belongs to them. In addition, I think we need to go back to the old time days when training courses used to be offered, in crochet and agriculture, *et cetera*, at community centres in order to involve all the people so that they could find ways and means of making money.

More importantly, what I wanted to say here is that we have to be very careful what messages we are sending to the youth. We must make it very clear to them that it is unacceptable for them to use people's property without their permission and they must not feel that the Government is there to provide everything. I wanted the opportunity to say in this Chamber, as opposed to writing an article to the newspaper about it, I was very disturbed about what appeared to be happening regarding that community centre, and young people must know that they must get permission in writing in particular to use persons' lands, and we must not make them feel that . . .

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Pardon?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair and do not be distracted, Senator.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: What I am trying to say is that we have to be careful what messages and signals we are sending not only to the youth but to the population in general.

In connection with the land use policy, I would also like a quick opportunity to say that we need to look at the responsibilities both of the Government and of the persons who own the land, particularly the taxpayers, the land tax bills *et cetera* and let them know where the deadline is. If they must keep their receipts for ten years, we need to start a massive education programme. The old people used to

keep one coat hanger and a piece of wood and every single receipt used to go on that and it used to be hanging in the top of the house and you could go there for ever and evermore and take up that receipt and show it. Obviously we have lost the way and we need to instil in people that they have to keep their receipts. They seem to have forgotten that these are things that they must do, and I think it is our responsibility to educate them so that they would not feel that they are disadvantaged.

Thank you.

4.10 p.m.

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. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
NEWTON PLANTATION, CHRIST CHURCH
FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the Resolution deals with the acquisition of approximately 25 acres of land at Newton for the purpose of industrial development. The area in question – and plans are here for those Senators who may want to view them – is bounded by the Newton Roundabout, the ABC Highway, the existing Newton Industrial Park and the Newton Road which will lead from the Newton Roundabout of the ABC Highway going in the direction of Oistins.

The acquisition is being pursued in accordance with the appropriate Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, and I am asking the Senate's approval for this Resolution. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I am dissatisfied with the presentation of the Resolution and I would like to know a few things. Have we identified any firms or enterprises to utilise this land? What is the amount of land which we are acquiring? The value? Do you owe any taxes on the land? I can ask a whole range of questions and I am thinking that you cannot just bring a Resolution to the Senate where it is devoid and you don't have an idea as to what you intend to do with the property. I don't think I am being unreasonable in this regard. I am disappointed Senator Farley that I have not heard any such information. I know that you are anxious to generate your...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would suggest that you address the Chair and you can make your speech on that basis.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I would like to know – and I think I am within my rights – to know what is the purpose to which you intend to put the land?

We have just heard of a set of initiatives to create some jobs and I think that we would also need to understand that we have been following a strategy where the BIDC has for a number of years been renting property to foreign investors at fairly reasonable rates and is it intended that this acquisition of this land will go towards that kind of endeavour? What is the vision for developing this particular property?

We have heard a lot about getting Government out of particular kinds of enterprises. Do you intend to privatise or to transfer this mandate into the hands of private individuals? You have within the Estimates \$7 million for the purchase of land and the selling off of lands. Do these lands constitute part of that parcel which you intend to privatise or for the purposes of advancing the cause?

I need to know the kinds of initiatives which the Government intends to put in place to utilise this property. If I recall, it is close to Durants, opposite the cooperative on the other side and it should be fairly prime land. All of those things I need because I am very ignorant as to where the location is, what kind of value we intend to give to this land. I would just hope that before the debate is finished that we will get these kinds of answers.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, to conclude debate on this Resolution, I just want to respond to some of the questions raised by the Honourable Senator.

As with lands acquired by the Government, the land will be acquired by the Crown and invested in the Barbados Investment Development Corporation. The plan there is for the provision of a new industrial estate under 25 acres. The drawings in terms of location are there but, as I indicated, the location is bounded by the ABC Highway at the Newton/Balls Roundabout and is bounded as well by the Newton to Oistins Road and part of it is opposite Newton Terrace. The other area which bounds it is the existing Newton Industrial Park. There are 1 or 2 houses on the perimeter of the land at the entrance to Newton Industrial Park. So it is really on the right side of the Newton Industrial Park after you make your entrance from the Newton to Oistins Road.

The plan for that particular area which is rally part of a long-term plan – it is not a next-year plan – is to provide for a new wave of industrial development. The existing space which is available for the informatics and what we hope to be able to attract out of the electronics industry is basically pretty much used up at present. We have to make provision if we are to continue to be able to satisfy that aspect of our investment promotion programme to be able to provide the kind of facilities and environment which would be required.

The plans as they are currently put together envisage constructing a number of buildings on that facility as the need arises. Throughout the existing use of the 25 acres there will be parcels of reserve land. What we have found is that we have been able to obtain quite a bit of benefit over the years from developing around the industrial parks concept as opposed to using smaller pockets of individual buildings.

I will give an example. There are several examples of companies that have started by renting 2 000 or 3 000 square feet and their expansion plans over a 5 or 7-year period have taken them sometimes to 20, 25 to 50 000 square feet. The fact that they were able to expand incrementally and with minimal dislocation was due to the fact that there was available space in close proximity.

The other feature of note, particularly in the case of the information service companies, is that because of the clustering of those operations it was possible for them to be able to benefit from a higher quality connection with the telecommunications network than would have been possible if they were diffused around the island, because the basic, everyday, telephone network that we use really is not in a position to provide the kind of quality and the kind of speed which they require but, in the Harbour Industrial Park, for example, the telephone company has recently completed the subterranean fibre optic connection which completely rings the Harbour Fontabelle area through some exchange near the Kensington Oval area so that businesses in that area are able to have a solid fibre optic link directly from their offices to their offices overseas which would allow for the kind of high speed high-tech type of connection that we need, the ISDN and the other various protocols that are used.

Getting back to the plans for Newton what is envisaged is the construction by the IDC over the longer term of a new industrial part on a phased basis. What is also being envisaged is that joint ventures would be entered into with private sector companies who are interested in leasing land to construct their own facilities within the industrial park complex. As a matter of fact, one of the contacts we are talking to in the information industry is looking at, as part of a longer term programme, constructing their own facilities to their own specifications but they would like to have it within a particular industrial information type park framework. That is basically what is being envisaged. The actual cost of the facilities to be constructed will depend very much on the configuration and the level of demand. These are features that are variable.

4.20 p.m.

The one important characteristic of industrial development that we have observed over the years is that

part of the attractiveness of Barbados as an investment location for actual productive activities lies in the ready availability of facilities. Investors who are looking to relocate, particularly those looking to relocate existing operations from overseas, for example, are not usually willing to wait for a 18-month or 2-year period for you to construct facilities for them. They very much prefer to be in a position when they make their exploratory visits to actually see, touch and feel what is there. That particular programme will continue.

Mention was made in the Senator's remarks that the IDC has provided reasonable cost facilities to foreign investors but I would want to just point out for the record that a rather substantial part of IDC's tenant base is really local industry and that it would be incorrect to suggest that they only offer facilities to foreign investors. The specific detail plans, the architectural models and so on would, of course, be developed on the basis of the property in hand having a better feeling for the method of financing for the project as well as the particular skill on which each of the various phases will develop.

With that, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question that the 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 the Senate. In moving the adjournment I would want to advise Senators that having cleared the debt, so to speak, in terms of adding these two Resolutions today on the Order Paper, we have been able to deal with all the matters which have come up from the House of Assembly. The House of Assembly has been adjourned until June 13, 1995, which means that the earliest possible meeting date for us would be June 21. I trust that bit of information would allow Senators to plan their business accordingly.

I thank you for cooperation in having these two matters added to the agenda and concluded.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Senate be adjourned *sine die*.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to. Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
4.25 p.m.

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT 355

Receipt of Annual Report of the Ombudsman
for the year 1993.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 355

1. The Exchange Control (Sypher Mueller International Inc.) (Exemption) Order, 1995.
2. The Exchange Control (Authorised Dealers and Depositories) (Amendment) Order, 1995.
3. Public Enterprise Investment Fund Receipts and Payments Account for period March 31, 1994 to December 31, 1994.
4. The Betting and Gaming Duties Order, 1995.
5. National Insurance and Social Security (Non-Contributory Old Age Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.
6. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1995.
7. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4) Order, 1995.
8. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 5) Order, 1995.
9. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 6) Order, 1995.
10. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 7) Order, 1995.
11. Annual Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1994.

12. Report on the General Election 1994.

13. Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1992.

14. Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the Financial Year April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1994.

15. Economic Report 1994.

16. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1995.

17. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1994.

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

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 356

Suspension of Standing Order 45(2) for the remainder of the Sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 356

- (a) Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Halls Road, St. Michael for canalisation and road improvement.
- (b) Resolution to approve the lease to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association Inc. of land at Wildey, St. Michael for the establishment of a swimming centre.
- (c) Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Gall Hill, Christ Church for the provision of a Community Centre.
- (d) Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Newton Plantation, Christ Church for industrial development.
- (e) The Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 356

The Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 356

Expression of condolence to Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson on the death of her husband, the late Mr. Geoffrey Rickinson.

Senator Mrs. A. P. Thompson, 356; Senator Mrs. V. J. Davis, 357; His Honour Senator C. L. Bolden, 357; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 357.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HALLS ROAD, ST. MICHAEL 357

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 357; Senator D. T. Gill, 358; Senator C. K. Laurie, 358; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 359.

ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT WILDEY, ST. MICHAEL TO THE BARBADOS AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION 359

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 359; Senator N. P. Welch, 360; Senator Miss O. P. Symmonds, 360; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 361; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 361.

ORDER NO. 3 - THE VAGRANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995 362

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 362, 379; Senator Mrs. V. J. Davis, 364; Senator Mrs. A. P. Thompson, 365, 366; Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 365.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 3 (resumed)

Senator Miss C. Y. Forde, 367; Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. Springer, 369; Senator Miss O. P. Symmonds, 371; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 372; Senator Miss J. C. Odle, 374; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 375; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 376.

ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GALL HILL, CHRIST CHURCH 380

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 380; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 380; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 380; Senator Mrs. A. P. Thompson, 381; Senator N. P. Welch, 382; Senator Miss C. Y. Forde, 382; Senator Mrs. P. E. Rickinson, 383.

ORDER NO. 5 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT NEWTON PLANTATION, CHRIST CHURCH 384

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 384; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 384.

SUSPENSION 367

ADJOURNMENT 385

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 385.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BOLDEN, His Honour Senator C. L.
DAVIS, Senator Mrs. V. J.
FARLEY, Senator the Hon. R. R.
FORDE, Senator Miss C. Y.
GILL, Senator D. T.
GODDARD, Senator the Hon. P. C.
LAURIE, Senator C. K.
MASCOLL, Senator C. A.
MURRAY, Senator the Hon. G. S. H.
ODLE, Senator Miss J. C.
RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P. E.
SPRINGER, Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L.
SYMMONDS, Senator Miss O. P.
THOMPSON, Senator Mrs. A. P.
WELCH, Senator N. P.